



Wednesday, 27 November 2024

Dear Member

South Lanarkshire Community Planning Partnership Board

You are requested to attend a meeting of the above Board to be held as follows:-

Date: Wednesday, 04 December 2024
Time: 13:00
Venue: By Microsoft Teams,

The business to be considered at the meeting is listed overleaf.

Members

Councillor Joe Fagan

Paul Manning, Chief Executive

John Binning, Principal Policy Officer, **Strathclyde Partnership for Transport**

Cheryl Burnett, Representative, **Cambuslang and Rutherglen Community Partnership**

Stephen Dolan, Chief Superintendent, **Police Scotland**

Stephen Frew, Partnerships (West), Place Directorate, Scottish Economic Development,
Scottish Enterprise

Jann Gardner, Chief Executive, **NHS Lanarkshire**

Clare Hicks, Director of Education Reform, **Scottish Government**

Martin Hill, Chair, **NHS Lanarkshire Board**

Thomas Keay, Group Commander, **Scottish Fire and Rescue Service**

Jennifer Kerr, Community Engagement Manager, Finance and Corporate Resources

Hisashi Kuboyama, Development Manager, West of Scotland, **Federation of Small Businesses**

Tom Little, Head of Communications and Strategy

Christine Calder, Manager, **Seniors Together**

Catriona Mason, Chairperson, **Seniors Together**

Stella McManus, Principal and Chief Executive, **South Lanarkshire College**

Julie Coyle, Area Manager, **Skills Development Scotland**

Kay Morrison, General Manager, **South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture**

Elizabeth O'Reilly, Head of Campus Services, **University of the West of Scotland**

Josephine Pravinkumar, Director of Public Health, **NHS Lanarkshire**

Jim Quinn, Area Commander, **Scottish Fire and Rescue Service**

Soumen Sengupta, Director, **South Lanarkshire University Health and Social Care Partnership**

Jimmy Wilson, Interim Chief Executive, **VASLan**

Andrew Thomson, Superintendent (Partnerships), **Police Scotland**

BUSINESS

- 1 **Declaration of Interests**
- 2 **Note of the Previous Meeting** 5 - 14
Note of the meeting of the Community Planning Partnership Board held on 18 September 2024 submitted for approval as a correct record.

Monitoring Item(s)

- 3 **Cambuslang and Rutherglen Community Partnership Update** 15 - 20
Report dated 13 November 2024 by the Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council. (Copy attached)

Item(s) for Decision

- 4 **Community Planning Partnership Budget and Expenditure Report** 21 - 26
Report dated 13 November 2024 by the Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council. (Copy attached)
- 5 **Volunteering Strategy Update** 27 - 34
Report dated 13 November 2024 by the Operations and Strategic Manager, VASLan. (Copy attached)
- 6 **Keep The Beat Alive Third Sector Campaign Update/Fair Funding** 35 - 42
Report dated 13 November 2024 by the Development Lead for the Third Sector Chief Officers Group, VASLan. (Copy attached)
- 7 **South Lanarkshire Integration Joint Board Annual Performance Report 2023/2024** 43 - 66
Report dated 13 November 2024 by the Director, Health and Social Care, South Lanarkshire University Health and Social Care Partnership. (Copy attached)
- 8 **Community Learning and Development - Outcomes of His Majesty's Inspectors of Education (HMIE) Progress Visit** 67 - 70
Report dated 13 November 2024 by the Executive Director (Education Resources), South Lanarkshire Council. (Copy attached)
- 9 **Independent Review of Community Learning and Development** 71 - 82
Report dated 13 November 2024 by the Executive Director (Education Resources), South Lanarkshire Council. (Copy attached)
- 10 **South Lanarkshire Employability Partnership:Employability Performance Report** 83 - 102
Report dated 13 November 2024 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources), South Lanarkshire Council. (Copy attached)
- 11 **State of the Environment Report 2023** 103 - 116
Report dated 13 November 2024 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources), South Lanarkshire Council. (Copy attached)

12 Marmot Proposal

Verbal update by the Community Engagement Manager, South Lanarkshire Council on the Marmot Proposal.

Item(s) for Noting

13 Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan Annual Review 2023/2024 and Homeless Pressures Update 117 - 182

Report dated 13 November 2024 by the Executive Director (Housing and Technical Resources), South Lanarkshire Council. (Copy attached)

14 Local Child Poverty Action Report 183 - 228

Joint report dated 13 November 2024 by the Director, Health and Social Care, South Lanarkshire University Health and Social Care Partnership and the Executive Director (Education Resources), South Lanarkshire Council. (Copy attached)

15 Community Planning Bulletin 229 - 242

- South Lanarkshire Adult Protection Committee Biennial Report 2022-2024
- Strathclyde Regional Bus Strategy and Rural Bus Study Update

16 South Lanarkshire Register of Information 243 - 250

Report dated 13 November 2024 by the Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council. (Copy attached)

17 Date of next meeting - Wednesday, 5 March 2025

Any Other Competent Business

18 Any Other Competent Business

Any other items of business which the Chair decides are competent.

For further information, please contact:-

Clerk Name:	Lynne Hamilton
Clerk Telephone:	07385370044
Clerk Email:	lynn.hamilton2@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

SOUTH LANARKSHIRE COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Note of meeting held via Microsoft Teams on 18 September 2024

Chair:

Councillor Joe Fagan, Leader, South Lanarkshire Council

Partners Present:

C Burnett, Representative, Cambuslang and Rutherglen Community Partnership
C Calder, Manager, Seniors Together
S Dolan, Chief Superintendent, Police Scotland
S Frew, Partnership (West), Place Directorate, Scottish Economic Development, Scottish Enterprise
G Hoey, Station Commander, Scottish Fire and Rescue
J Kerr, Community Engagement Manager, Chief Executive's Office, South Lanarkshire Council
T Little, Head of Communications and Strategy, Chief Executive's Office, South Lanarkshire Council
P Manning, Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council
C Mason, Representative, Seniors Together
S Mitchell, Head of Operations South West, Skills Development Scotland
K Morrison, Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture
A Murray, Community Planning Adviser, Chief Executive's Office, South Lanarkshire Council
J Pravinkumar, Director of Public Health, NHS Lanarkshire
J Quinn, Area Commander, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
S Sweeney, Chief Executive Officer, VASLan

Also Attending:

T Boyle, Project Manager (Public Services Improvement Framework), Improvement Service
S Dunsmore, Insurance and Risk Manager, South Lanarkshire Council
C Fergusson, Head of Finance (Transactions)
L Hamilton, Administration Officer, Finance and Corporate Resources, South Lanarkshire Council
E Paterson, Community Planning Officer, Chief Executive's Office, South Lanarkshire Council
G Reilly, Development Office (Education Resources), South Lanarkshire Council
L Wyllie, Administration Assistant, Finance and Corporate Resources, South Lanarkshire Council

Apologies:

J Binning, Principal Policy Officer, Strathclyde Partnership for Transport
J Gardner, Chief Executive, NHS Lanarkshire
C Hicks, Director of Education Reform, Scottish Government
M Hill, Chair, NHS Lanarkshire Board
H Kuboyama, Development Manager, West of Scotland, Federation of Small Businesses
S McManus, Principal and Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire College
S Sengupta, Director, Health and Social Care, South Lanarkshire University Health and Social Care Partnership
A Thomson, Superintendent (Partnerships), Police Scotland

1 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

2 Note of Previous Meeting

The note of the meeting of the South Lanarkshire Community Planning Partnership Board held on 5 June 2024 was submitted for approval as a correct record.

Outcome(s): Note of meeting approved as a correct record.

3 Cambuslang and Rutherglen Community Partnership Update

A report dated 28 August 2024 by the Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council was submitted providing an update on the progress of the Cambuslang and Rutherglen Community Partnership, details of which were attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

The Partnership had met twice since the last Board meeting and another meeting was planned for today. It had been successful, busy time for the Partnership, with work ongoing to narrow down the Partnership's priorities and offset them against the neighbourhood plans. Focus had also been placed on reviewing the structure of the Partnership and moving towards a constituted model.

Information was also provided on:-

- ◆ the Partnership's intention to undertake a self-assessment with the support of the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Development officer and the Improvement Service
- ◆ the Lived Experience Fund 2024/2025 awards

The CPP Development Officer, with support from the Progress Group, would work with the Partnership to progress any actions outline in Appendix 1.

- Outcome(s):**
- (1) CPP Development Officer, with support from the Progress Group, to work with the partnership to progress any actions outlined in Appendix 1.
 - (2) Intention of the Partnership to undertake a self-assessment, supported by the CPP Development Officer and the Improvement Service noted.
 - (3) Update on the approved Lived Experience fund applications noted.

[Reference: Note of 5 June 2024 (Paragraph 4)]

4 Clydesdale Community Partnership Update

A report dated 28 August 2024 by the Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council was submitted providing an update on the progress of the Clydesdale Community Partnership, details of which were attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

The Partnership had met twice since the last Board meeting and information was provided on:-

- ◆ discussion that had taken place regarding the update of the Local Development Plan and the Partnership's role in supporting the engagement and consultation work
- ◆ proactive discussions that were taking place in relation to rural transport in the locality with input from the Council
- ◆ the Partnership's intention to undertake a self-assessment with the support of the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Development Officer and the Improvement Service

It was noted that the Partnership's Chair had stepped down and work was being undertaken to appoint a new Chair.

The Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Development Officer, with support from the Progress Group, would work with the Partnership to progress any actions outline in Appendix 1.

- Outcome(s):**
- (1) Partnership progress update, as outlined in Appendix 1, and intention to continue to progress these areas with the support of the Partnership's Community Development Officer and Progress Group, noted.
 - (2) Intention to undertake a self-assessment, supported by the CPP Development Officer and the Improvement Service, noted.

[Reference: Note of 5 June 2024 (Paragraph 5)]

5 Community Partnerships Update

A report dated 28 August 2024 by the Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council was submitted providing an update on the progress of East Kilbride and Strathaven and Hamilton Community Partnerships and the supports provided by the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Development Officer, details of which were provided in Appendix 1 to the report.

Cross Partnership discussions were taking place, and these were proving to be beneficial. The Community Engagement Manager gave an overview of role of the Locality Partnerships as follows:-

- ◆ were set up as independent organisations with their own objectives
- ◆ operated at a whole locality level and incorporated smaller neighbourhood planning areas
- ◆ acted as intermediate between the CPP Board and Neighbourhood Planning Working Groups
- ◆ liaised with Third Sector organisations

East Kilbride and Strathaven Community Partnership had met twice since the last Board meeting. The Partnership concept was new to the locality and work was ongoing on the development of the Partnership and enhancing the benefits to the local community. The CPP Development Officer continued to provide dedicated support to develop this Partnership in terms of membership and building capacity.

Hamilton Community Partnership had met 3 times since the last Board meeting. Low attendance was an issue and there had been constructive discussions at the meetings regarding the future of the Partnership. The CPP Development Officer was mapping local groups to ensure that this new Partnership would be representative of the local communities.

Information was provided on the workplan of the CPP Development Officer which included 37 high-level actions relating to the governance and sustainability of the Partnerships.

Outcome(s): (1) Progress and support of the CPP Development Office noted.

[Reference: Note of 5 June 2024 (Paragraph 3)]

6 Community Planning Partnership Budget and Expenditure Report

A report dated 28 August 2024 by the Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council was submitted providing an update on the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) budget and expenditure for 2024/2025 as at 9 August 2024 (Period 5).

The Chair asked the Board to note that the report contained information on the sustainability of the CPP Development Officer post.

As outlined in Appendix 1 to the report, the total available budget for 2024/2025 was £87,342. The actual expenditure at the end of Period 5 was £11,951.76. The projected spend for the year was approximately £87.342, as set out in the spending plan approved by the Board on 5 June 2024.

An update was provided on the CPP Development Officer post, with the position funded until March 2025 and the current secondment expected to end in September 2024. The following options were provided for the role to continue, with option 2 recommended as the preferred option:-

1. a full-time post offered annually, on a temporary basis, to a maximum of 23 months, should budget be approved for the subsequent year. The anticipated cost of the role for 2024/2025 was £48,000. The annual CPP income was £48,350 and it was likely that the salary costs would increase annually due to pay awards. A full-time post would leave no budget for other activities
2. a part-time post offered annually, on a temporary basis, to a maximum of 23 months, should the budget be approved for the subsequent year. This would cost £24,000 (which would increase annually with pay awards) with £24,350 remaining in the budget to be spent on other expenditure
3. The role would cease at the end of March 2025 and the impact of this assessed and alternative options investigated and proposed to ensure a degree of support remained in place for the Community Partnerships and the volunteers who participated in them

The work of the CPP Development Officer during the term of his appointment was commended.

An update was also provided on the Lived Experience Fund. Both Cambuslang and Rutherglen, and Clydesdale Community Partnerships advised that they did not wish to use their allocations this year, leaving a total of £10,540 available. It was proposed that a South Lanarkshire-wide grant funding campaign be organised to take place in early Spring 2025.

During extensive discussion regarding the options for consideration in relation to the future of the CPP Development Officer post:-

- ◆ the representative for the Cambuslang and Rutherglen Community Partnership provided a statement on behalf of her own and the other Community Partnerships thanking the Development Officer for the support and in-depth work he did to support the localities and emphasising the importance of this role and the need for it to be a full-time role
- ◆ officers explained the rationale and budget constraints which led to the recommendation of option 2
- ◆ the Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council proposed that decision on the future of the Development Officer role be continued to the next meeting of the Board to allow further consideration of the options available

The Chair asked that the Board agree recommendations 1 and 3 of the report and, given that the current funding would be in place until the end of the current financial year, a report come back to the next meeting of the Board in relation to the Development Officer post options. The Chair also highlighted the role of all partners in looking for a funding solution which would likely mean an increase to the income that the Partnership received.

- Outcome(s):**
- (1) South Lanarkshire wide Lived Experience Fund campaign to be organised for Spring 2025.
 - (2) CPP Development Officer role to be internally advertised within South Lanarkshire Council as a temporary secondment opportunity until the end of March 2025.
 - (3) Report to be submitted to the December meeting of the Board for consideration of the Development Officer post options.

[Reference: Note of 5 June 2024 (Paragraph 6)]

J Quinn joined the meeting during this item of business.

7 Community Planning Partnership Risk Management – Annual Review of Risk Cards and Risk Register

A report dated 28 August 2024 by the Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council was submitted on the: -

- ◆ updated Community Planning Risk Register following the annual review
- ◆ end of year update on the 2023/2024 Risk Control Plan

A Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Risk Register and Risk Control Plan was maintained to formally record, assess, and aid management of strategic risks faced by the Partnership.

The annual review of the Risk Register and Risk Control Plan was completed by the Community Planning Progress Group with support from South Lanarkshire Council’s Risk Management Team on 16 April 2024. The report set out the draft Risks and Risk Control Plan for 2024/2025 and provided an end of year update on the 2023/2024 Risk Control Plan. The Risk Matrix which was used for assigning risk scores was attached as Appendix 3 to the report.

The results of the review were provided at section 4 of the report, and all risks on the Register from last year were still deemed to be valid.

Appendix 1 to the report provided the Risk Control Plan for 2024/2025 which had been updated to reflect progress. Appendix 2 to the report provided an update on progress on the 2023/2024 Risk Control Plan.

The next planned review of the full Risk Register and Control Plan would take place during April 2025.

- Outcome(s):**
- (1) CPP Risks, as set out at Section 5 of the report and the Risk Control Plan for 2024/2025 approved.
 - (2) End of year update on the 2023/2024 Risk Control Plan noted.

[Reference: Note of 6 September 2023 (Paragraph 14)]

8 National Community Planning Partnership Board Self-Assessment Programme

A report dated 28 August 2024 by the Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council was submitted advising of the National Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Self-Assessment Programme. T Boyle, Project Manager (Public Services Improvement Framework), Improvement Service gave a presentation on the programme.

The Public Service Improvement Framework (PSIF) was a self-assessment approach managed by the Improvement Service (IS). The key aim of self-assessment was to support the CPP Boards to ensure that areas such as governance, accountability, leadership and performance management were fit for purpose to achieve the outcomes of the Community Plan. It was noted, as highlighted in earlier reports on this agenda, that Cambuslang and Rutherglen, and Clydesdale Community Partnerships intended to complete their own self-assessment and provide updates to the Board in their quarterly reports.

T Boyle, having responded to members’ questions, was thanked for his presentation.

- Outcome(s):**
- (1) Board to participate in the national Community Planning Partnership Self-Assessment Programme.
 - (2) Process to be facilitated by the Improvement Service noted.
 - (3) Intention of the Cambuslang and Rutherglen, and Clydesdale Community Partnerships to complete their own self-assessments and provide updates to the Board in their quarterly reports noted.

9 Welfare Services Support for Households (to 31 March 2024)

A report dated 28 August 2024 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources), South Lanarkshire Council was submitted providing an update on the support that had been

provided to households in South Lanarkshire up to 31 March 2024 from a range of Council Services and organisations.

Information was provided on how Council Services (Money Matters Advice Service (MMAS), Benefits and Revenues, Housing and Community Participation), Citizen's Advice Bureaus, the Scottish Social Security Agency and NHS Lanarkshire continued to respond to the increased need to provide vital welfare support to households.

Outcome(s): Welfare support provided by a wide range of Council services and organisations in helping households manage their financial position noted.

[Reference: Note of 14 September 2022 (Paragraph 12)]

10 Community Plan Quarter 4 Progress Report 2023/2024 and Annual Outcomes Improvement Report

A report dated 28 August 2024 by the Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council was submitted advising of the progress made against the outcomes within the Community Plan 2022 to 2032 as at the end of March 2024.

The South Lanarkshire Community Plan 2022 to 2032, approved in June 2022, set out the priorities and outcomes for the Partnership over a 10-year period. The Quarter 4 Progress Report, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, detailed progress against all outcomes and the related interventions contained within the Community Plan to March 2024. A draft Annual Outcomes Improvement Report for 2023/2024 was attached as Appendix 2 to the report.

The report provided a summary of progress against the outcomes of the Community Plan using a traffic light system of red, amber, green and blue, the latter of which indicated that the action to achieve change had been completed.

The report also detailed the key Partnership actions for 2023/2024 in relation to the priority themes.

Outcome(s):

- (1) Progress made to date against the outcomes within the Community Plan 2022 to 2032 noted.
- (2) Annual Outcomes Improvement Report 2023/2024 approved for publication by 30 September 2024.

[Reference: Note of 6 September 2023 (Paragraph 6)]

11 Marmot Place for South Lanarkshire

A report dated 28 August 2024 by the Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council was submitted advising of the Marmot approach to place and establishing a rationale for a South Lanarkshire application for support to have a local Marmot Place.

Marmot Places was an evidence based, place approach where partners collaborated to reduce inequalities in a defined 'place'. The 'place' could be a town, a neighbourhood, or a whole authority. Public Health Scotland and 3 local areas in Scotland had an opportunity to collaborate with the University College London Institute of Health Equity (IHE) led by Professor Sir Michael Marmot. The IHE had worked with local authorities, NHS, businesses and the community and voluntary sector to improve health and reduce inequalities.

A Marmot Place recognised that health and health inequalities were mostly shaped by the conditions in which people were born, lived, worked and their age bracket. A Marmot Place took action to improve health and reduce health inequalities and could demonstrate success in reducing health inequalities.

This long-term, whole-system approach to improving health equity, was based on the following 8 principles which aligned with the South Lanarkshire Community Plan:-

- ◆ early years: give every child the best start in life
- ◆ education: enable all children, young people, and adults to maximise their capabilities and control their lives
- ◆ work: create fair employment and good work for all
- ◆ living standards: ensure a healthy standard of living for all
- ◆ places: create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities
- ◆ ill health prevention: strengthen the role and impact of ill health prevention
- ◆ discrimination: tackle discrimination, racism, and their outcomes
- ◆ just transition: pursue environmental sustainability and health equity together

The Chair advised that a meeting had taken place in relation to the application and, following feedback received at that meeting, it was proposed that recommendation 2 of the report be amended to make South Lanarkshire as a whole the Marmot Place area, with a focus on the Hamilton area due to the work already undertaken within that area.

- Outcome(s):**
- (1) South Lanarkshire Council, in partnership with NHS Lanarkshire, to submit an application to participate in the Scottish Marmot Place Pilot on behalf of the Partnership.
 - (2) South Lanarkshire as a whole to be the Marmot Place area with a focus on the Hamilton area due to the work already undertaken within that area
 - (3) CPP whole systems working project to be incorporated into the Marmot project.

12 Hamilton South Neighbourhood Plan

A report dated 28 August 2024 by the Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council was submitted on the new Hamilton South Neighbourhood Plan, attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 placed a statutory duty on Community Planning Partnerships (CPP) to identify smaller areas within local authority areas which experienced the poorest outcomes and to prepare and publish locality plans that improved outcomes on agreed priorities for these communities. These plans were required to set out clear priorities for improving local outcomes and tackling inequalities which were agreed by the CPP and the community.

At the meeting on 3 March 2021, the Board agreed to develop new neighbourhood planning arrangements within the Hamilton South ward and the Council's Community Engagement Team was asked to consider the areas of inequality that should be included.

Information was provided on:-

- ◆ the areas covered by the Hamilton South Out Place Our Plan
- ◆ the engagement process undertaken when developing the Plan
- ◆ an Action Plan for 2024 to 2026, attached as Appendix 2 to the report
- ◆ the Participatory Budgeting processes that had and were being undertaken
- ◆ the future work that would be undertaken to continue the momentum in delivering the Action Plan

Outcome(s): the content of the report was noted.

[Reference: Note of 3 March 2021 (Paragraph 5)]

13 Community Planning Partnership Board Development Session Proposal – 23 October 2024

Report dated 28 August 2024 by the Executive Director (Education Resources), South Lanarkshire Council, was submitted advising of the planned development session to progress and develop ongoing dialogue between young people and the Board.

At its meeting on 5 June 2024, the Board agreed to add an additional development session, to take place on a yearly basis, with members of South Lanarkshire Schools Youth Forum on Climate Change and Sustainability. This had followed on from the successful Board development Session that took place at Holy Cross High School, Hamilton on 10 October 2023, where the session was led by members of the South Lanarkshire Youth Council and the South Lanarkshire Youth forum on Climate Change and Sustainability.

The development session was planned for 23 October 2024, from 4.30pm to 6.30pm, at Holy Cross High School, Hamilton.

The South Lanarkshire Schools Youth Forum had identified a plan of work for 2024/2025 and this was attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

- Outcome(s):**
- (1) That the date, time, and location of the session be noted.
 - (2) That the planned content of the session outlined in this report be noted.

[Reference: Note of 5 June 2024 (Paragraph 8)]

14 Update on Neighbourhood Planning Across South Lanarkshire

A report dated 28 August 2024 by the Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council was submitted providing an update on the Neighbourhood Planning activity across South Lanarkshire. The individual Neighbourhood Plans were attached as an Appendix to the report.

Outcome(s): Noted.

[Reference: Note of 7 June 2023 (Paragraph 10)]

15 Community Planning Board Bulletin

The Community Planning Board Bulletin of 18 September 2024 was submitted providing information on: -

- ◆ South Lanarkshire Alcohol and Drug Partnership 2024 Update
- ◆ Community Planning Partnership Impact Performance Framework Update

Outcome(s): Noted.

[Reference: Note of 5 June 2024 (Paragraph 13)]

16 Community Planning Partnership Board 2025 Meeting and Development Session Dates

Report dated 28 August 2024 by the Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council was submitted providing proposed dates for the Board meetings and the development sessions for 2025.

The proposed Partnership Board/Development Session dates for 2025 were as follows:-

- ◆ Wednesday, 5 March 2025 (Board Meeting)
- ◆ Wednesday, 14 May 2025 (Board Development Session)
- ◆ Wednesday, 18 June 2025 (Board Meeting)
- ◆ Wednesday, 17 September 2025 (Board Meeting)
- ◆ Wednesday, 22 October 2025 (Board Development Session)
- ◆ Tuesday, 9 December 2025 (Board Meeting)

Outcome(s): Noted.

[Reference: Note of 6 September 2023 (Paragraph 17)]

17 South Lanarkshire Register of Information Report

Report dated 28 August 2024 by the Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council was submitted providing a summary of information which had been circulated to Community Planning Partners between 14 May and 23 August 2024, as outlined in Appendix 1 to the report.

Outcome(s): Noted.

[Reference: Note of 5 June 2024 (Paragraph 14)]

18 Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Board would be held on Wednesday, 4 December 2024 at 1.00pm.

19 Any Other Competent Business

The Director of Public Health, NHS Lanarkshire, advised that the Population Health Framework had been in development over the past few months, led by the Scottish Government, Population Health Directorate. The Framework was being developed in conjunction with Public Health Scotland and Directors of Public Health and the Whole Public Health System. The engagement document had been published, and feedback was now being sought. The aim was to publish the final document by the end of the 2024. The Director of Public Health committed to sharing the draft engagement document with the Board and welcomed any feedback. In due course, a paper would be brought back to the Board to reflect on how Public Health strategic priorities were looked at as a whole system.

The Representative for Cambuslang and Rutherglen Community Partnership raised issues that the Partnerships had experienced in relation to the Participatory Budget (PB) Funding process. A South Lanarkshire wide Prosperity Fund had been opened up to all localities in the area, and the issue was the timescales associated with the process.

The Representative for Cambuslang and Rutherglen Community Partnership also raised concerns regarding the Lived Experience Fund and the bureaucracy and challenges faced by Partnerships when they applied for the Funding. Some funding was not paid until after the date of the events for which the funding was purposed and, therefore, the events had not taken place.

The Community Engagement Manager responded, and advised that further discussions were ongoing out with the Board meeting to discuss these issues.

Outcome(s): Noted

Community Planning Partnership Board Executive Summary

Date of Meeting:	4 December 2024
Subject:	Cambuslang and Rutherglen Community Partnership Update
Report by:	Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council
Contact for Further Information:	Jen Kerr, Community Engagement Manager, South Lanarkshire Council Tel: 0303 123 1017 Email: jennifer.kerr1@southlanarkshire.gov.uk
Purpose of the Report:	♦ to provide the Partnership Board with an update on the progress of the Cambuslang and Rutherglen Community Partnership.
Community Planning Delivery Partners:	All partners
Key Recommendations/ Decisions/Action Required from Partners:	The Board is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):- (1) that the Partnership's Community Development Officer, with support from the Progress Group, works with the partnership to progress any actions outlined in Appendix 1, be noted.
Risks/Challenges:	Section 8 provides a summary of the risks and challenges as set out in the Partnership Risk Register relating to community participation and engagement.
Links to Community Plan Ambitions/Principles:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Ambition 1 - We will invest in people by finding ways to share power and resources. ♦ Ambition 2 - We will make progress by investing in learning together and how we can do things better. ♦ Ambition 3 - We will invest in our planet by putting local areas at the centre of our work. ♦ Principles: Communication and Empowerment; Embracing Change; and Openness and Trust.
Summary of Report:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Section 3, paragraph 3.3 sets out details of the most recent meeting of the partnership. ♦ Appendix 1 contains the progress update for Cambuslang and Rutherglen Community Partnership.

Report

Report to:	Partnership Board
Date of Meeting:	4 December 2024
Report by:	Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council

Subject:	Cambuslang and Rutherglen Community Partnership Update
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ provide the Partnership Board with an update on the progress of the Cambuslang and Rutherglen Community Partnership

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Partnership Board is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the Partnership's Community Development Officer, with support from the Progress Group, works with the Partnership to progress any actions outlined in Appendix 1, be noted.

3. Background

3.1. Cambuslang and Rutherglen Partnership is one of the 4 locality partnerships where community representatives from Community Councils and other community bodies come together to discuss common issues and report to the Community Planning Partnership on the discussions and look at improvement actions or options. An update on activity is attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

3.2. Cambuslang and Rutherglen Community Partnership has met once since the last Board meeting. The focus of the meeting in September 2024 was a presentation from the Improvement Service on the process of the Community Partnership's Self-Assessment.

3.3. The Development Officer who supports all Community Partnership's across South Lanarkshire left the post on 30 September 2024. The process has started to recruit a temporary full-time Development Officer up until the end of March 2025 as agreed by the Board at their meeting on 18 September 2024.

4. Employee Implications

4.1. Community Partnership activity is delivered by the Partnership's Community Development Officer.

5. Financial Implications

5.1. Delivery costs associated with the recruitment of the Partnership's Community Development Officer. This is funded through the Community Planning budget.

6. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

- 6.1. There are no implications for climate change, sustainability, or the environment in terms of the information contained within this report.

7. Other Implications

- 7.1. The main risks and challenges as set out in the Partnership Risk Register and Risk Control Plan relating to Community Engagement and Participation are set out in the table below. The Board is asked to note that this activity aligns with partnership mitigation actions and the Risk Control Plan. The information provided is an extract from the Risk Cards and more information is available from the Community Planning Team on request:-

Risk Card Reference	Risk Classification	Risk Summary
CPP/2018/001	Very High	Failure to achieve the outcomes of the Community Plan 2022-2032
CPP/2018/002	Very High	The Community Planning Partnership (CPP) fail to engage effectively with communities (as required in the Community Empowerment Act and as a requirement to deliver the new Community Plan) in the planning, design and delivery of improved outcomes and inequalities

8. Integrated Impact Assessment and Consultation Requirements

- 8.1. There are no Equality Impact Assessment implications associated with this report. This report is produced by the Community Partnership in consultation with its members.

Paul Manning
Chief Executive
South Lanarkshire Council

13 November 2024

Contact for Further Information:

If you would like further information, please contact:-

Jen Kerr, Community Engagement Manager, South Lanarkshire Council

Tel: 0303 123 1017

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Cambuslang and Rutherglen Community Partnership Update Report

Current Activity:

Discussions at the last meeting of the partnership included the following:

Community Partnership Self-evaluation

Representatives from the Improvement Service delivered a presentation on the Community Partnership Self-evaluation. Each member of the group has been asked to complete a checklist (this is anonymous). The closing date has been extended to allow more time for completion. After the checklist survey closes, the Improvement Service will hold a discussion with members to consider the responses received, and an Improvement Plan for delivery will be created.

Community Partnership's Development Officer

The Partnership was advised that the Development Officers secondment was coming to an end in September 2024, with the possibility of funding for the role being continued until March 2025.

Partner Update:

As agreed by the CPP Board on 18 September 2024, the role of the Community Development Officer will continue to be funded as a full-time temporary secondment until the end of March 2025. Arrangements have been made with the council's Personnel Service to advertise this post internally. The Board is considering options for after March 2025 and the Partnership Chair will be involved in these discussions. A further report, outlining these options, will be presented to the Board at their meeting in December 2024.

Cambuslang Community Council

A representative from Cambuslang Community Council advised that a Steering Group was being created for the Community Hub in Cambuslang. The specification for the feasibility study has been prepared, and there are 4 potential consultants. There are also plans for comprehensive engagement with local communities which the Community Partnership can support.

Updates from Partners who attended the meeting are as follows:

Voluntary Action South Lanarkshire (VASLan)

The Localities Lead Officer from VASLan advised that the Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund would be launched on 30 September 2024 with the deadline of 11 November 2024 for applications and confirmed that there will be funding for existing projects: www.vaslan.org.uk/cmhwf

The shortlist of the Third Sector awards will be announced at the VASLan Annual General Meeting with the awards event taking place on 28 November 2024 at the Parkville Hotel, Blantyre.

Other areas of progress

South Lanarkshire Council Planning Services : Local Development Plan

A discussion has taken place between the Community Partnership Chair and the Council's Planning and Building Standards Manager regarding the Local Development Plan communications being simplified for young people and other key demographic groups.

Partner update:

The Council's Planning and Building Standards Manager recently met with the Chair of the Cambuslang and Rutherglen Community Partnership and discussed simplifying the material which is being used regarding the Local Development Plan communications and also about carrying out further face to face engagement with community groups in the Cambuslang/Rutherglen locality. The details of this are currently being developed.

Community Partnership Communications

The Community Partnership Chair requested that the Community Partnership has a single email address or an email address for every member (currently 16 members). It was agreed that content for a page(s) on the Community Planning Partnership website for the partnership will be drafted for further discussion.

Partner update

123Reg Webmail who currently provide the email platform for Community Planning have advised that the cost every year for an email address for each member would be £71.88. This cost is based on all members sharing a single mailbox. The total cost each year would be £1,150.

Chair Update : Climate and Nature Community Planning Board Development Session

As part of the Community Planning Partnership's commitment to young people to lead conversations on climate and nature in the Community Plan 2022-2032, the Chair of the partnership attended the Board's latest Development Session which focussed on Climate and Nature. Young people from the South Lanarkshire Council Youth Forum on Climate Change and Sustainability hosted the session. They gave an overview of their agreed programme of work focussing on their top targets for 2024-2025.

The Board were then invited to discuss how they would support the delivery of three key topics: the Walk to School Campaign (development of a walk to school campaign for students and staff); Uniform Recycling (a council wide initiative to recycle school uniforms); and Community Litter Pick (community events that include litter picking and community clean ups). Further discussions will be held with all relevant parties on how to support the delivery of these priorities with our young people.

Next steps

The date of the next meeting of the Partnership has still to be agreed and will include discussions on the Partnership's plans for constitution, the Community Partnership Self-Assessment, the Training Needs Analysis, and an update on Community Asset Transfers

Community Planning Partnership Board Executive Summary

Date of Meeting:	4 December 2024
Subject:	Community Planning Partnership Budget and Expenditure Report
Report by:	Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council
Contact for Further Information:	Jen Kerr, Community Engagement Manager, South Lanarkshire Council Tel: 0303 123 1017 Email: Jennifer.Kerr1@southlanarkshire.gov.uk
Purpose of the Report:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ to provide the Partnership Board with an update on the Community Planning Partnership Budget and Expenditure as of 4 October 2024 (Period 7).
Community Planning Delivery Partners:	All partners
Key Recommendations/ Decisions/Action Required from Partners:	<p>The Board is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) that the content of the report be noted. (2) that the proposal set out at section 7.2. for the continuation of the Partnership's Community Development Officer post until 31 March 2026 be approved.
Risks/Challenges:	There are no risks/challenges associated with this report.
Links to Community Plan Ambitions/Principles:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ All ambitions/principles.
Summary of Report:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Section 4 details the budget for the year, projected spend, and actual expenditure as of 4 October 2024 (also see Appendix 1); and ◆ Section 6 provides an update on the salary costs for the Partnership's Community Development Officer post for 2024/25. ◆ Section 7 sets out a proposal with the indicative costs to continue the Partnership's Community Development Officer post up to 31 March 2026.

Report

Report to:	Partnership Board
Date of Meeting:	4 December 2024
Report by:	Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council

Subject:	Community Planning Partnership Budget and Expenditure Report
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ provide the Partnership Board with an update on the Community Planning Partnership Budget and Expenditure as of 4 October 2024 (Period 7)

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Partnership Board is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the content of the report, be noted; and
- (2) that the proposal set out at section 7.2. for the continuation of the Partnership's Community Development Officer post until 31 March 2026 is approved.

3. Background

3.1. Details of the South Lanarkshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Budget and Expenditure are reported to every Partnership Board meeting. This provides Partners with an opportunity to seek clarification on the budget and sums spent during the relevant period.

4. Budget and Expenditure

4.1. The total available budget for 2024/2025 is £87,342. This consists of a funding balance carried forward of £38,992 and the annual income of £48,350.

4.2. The actual expenditure at the end of Period 7 is £15,211.76. Appendix 1 provides a breakdown.

4.3. The Board is asked to note that the projected spend for the year has been revised from an anticipated full spend to £72,000. This relates to an underspend in salary costs as a result of the current vacancy.

5. Income and Expenditure during 2024/2025

5.1. Specific spend within this period relates to Learning and Development and the Lived Experience Fund.

6. Salary Costs: Community Partnership Development Officer 2024/2025

6.1. At the meeting on 24 June 2024, the CPP Board approved to fund the Partnership's Community Development Officer post until 31 March 2025.

6.2. Due to the end of the current post holder's secondment in September 2024, the CPP Board agreed at their meeting on 18 September 2024, that South Lanarkshire Council

would internally advertise the role as a temporary secondment opportunity within the council until the end of March 2025.

- 6.3. A new officer has been temporarily seconded to the role until 31 March 2025 and will commence on 1 December 2024.

7. Salary Costs: Community Partnership Development Officer Proposal for 2025/26

- 7.1. At its meeting 18 September 2024, the CPP Board asked to defer a decision on the operation and funding of the post for the 2025/2026 financial year in order to hold further discussions on the requirements of the post prior to coming to a decision.

- 7.2. To continue with the work to develop the Community Partnerships across South Lanarkshire, the Board is asked to consider the following proposal for the Partnership's Community Development Officer post beyond 31 March 2025:-

Dates	Contract Type	Indicative cost
1 April 2025 to 30 September 2025	Temporary, full time (1 FTE)	£0.024m
1 October to 31 March 2026	Temporary, part time (0.5 FTE)	£0.012m

- 7.3. The total cost of extending the contract from 1 April 2025 until 31 March 2026 as per the terms set out above would be £0.036m. These costs include an assumed level of pay award for 2025/2026 and can be met within the existing budget.

8. CPP Budget 2024/2025

- 8.1. A further update will be provided at the next meeting of the Partnership Board on 5 March 2025.

9. Employee Implications

- 9.1. Employee implications associated with this report are detailed at section 6 above.

10. Financial Implications

- 10.1. The financial implications are detailed in Sections 4 and 5 of this report.

11. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

- 11.1. There are no implications for climate change, sustainability, or the environment in terms of the information contained in this report.

12. Other Implications

- 12.1. There are no risk issues associated with this report.

13. Integrated Impact Assessment and Consultation Requirements

- 13.1. There are no Equality Impact Assessment or Consultation implications associated with this report.

Paul Manning
Chief Executive
South Lanarkshire Council

13 November 2024

Contact for Further Information:

If you would like further information, please contact:-

Jen Kerr, Community Engagement Manager, South Lanarkshire Council

Tel: 0303 123 1017

Email: Jennifer.Kerr1@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Community Planning Budget 2024-25			
Opening Balance April 2024		£38,992	£38,992
Income			
Partner Contributions		Budget	Actual to Date
NHS Lanarkshire		18,350	18,350
South Lanarkshire Council		22,000	22,000
Police Scotland		5,000	5,000
Fire Scotland		3,000	3,000
Total Income		£48,350	£48,350
Total Available Funding		£87,342	£87,342
		£	£
Expenditure 2024/25		Proposed Expenditure	Expenditure
Community Plan Delivery		11,696	0.00
Community Planning Events		3,000	754.65
Learning and Development		5,000	300.00
Lived Experience Fund		13,500	2,960.00
Printing/Stationery/General		2,000	17.76
Salaries		51,963	11,179.35
Travel		183	0.00
Total Expenditure		£87,342	£15,211.76

Community Planning Partnership Board Executive Summary

Date of Meeting:	4 December 2024
Subject:	Volunteering Strategy Update
Report by:	Operations and Strategic Manager, VASLan
Contact for Further Information:	Charlie Duffin, Operations and Strategic Manager, VASLan Tel: 01698 300390 Email: Charlie.Duffin@VASLan.org.uk
Purpose of the Report:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ to provide the Partnership Board with an update on progress in the delivery of the Volunteering Strategy; and ◆ advise the Partnership Board that the funding supporting the Volunteering Strategy is now completed.
Community Planning Delivery Partners:	All partners
Key Recommendations/ Decisions/Action Required from Partners:	<p>The Board is asked to approve the following recommendations:-</p> <p>(1) that the content of the report be noted; and</p> <p>(2) that VASLan continue to support third sector organisations around volunteer management and advice be noted.</p>
Risks/Challenges:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ There are no risks or challenges associated with this report.
Links to Community Plan Ambitions/Principles:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ All ambitions/principles
Summary of Report:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Update on progress in the delivery of the Volunteering Strategy including data of the current operating context and of the progress of the strategic outcomes and next steps.

Report

Report to:	Partnership Board
Date of Meeting:	4 December 2024
Report by:	Operations and Strategic Manager, VASLan

Subject:	Volunteering Strategy Update
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ provide the Partnership Board with an update on progress in the delivery of the Volunteering Strategy
- ◆ advise the Partnership Board that the funding supporting the Volunteering Strategy is now completed

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Partnership Board is asked to approve the following recommendations:-

- (1) that the content of the report be noted; and
- (2) that VASLan continue to support third sector organisations around volunteer management and advice be noted.

3. Background

3.1. On 22 June 2022, the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board approved the following recommendations:

- that all CPP partners commit and agree to the signing and delivery of the CPP Volunteering Pledge
- that the CPP Volunteering Strategy is approved
- that all CPP partners commit to working through the Investing in Volunteers accreditation process
- that CPP partners discuss the barriers and enablers to a successful Volunteer Passport Scheme in South Lanarkshire, and approve the approach
- delegate governance and financial management of the Valuing Volunteers funding to the CPP Outcome Leads Group

3.2. All CPP partners signed the Volunteering Pledge on 3 October 2022, a copy of which can be found here: [CPP Pledge](#). All partners committed to a positive volunteering ethos, specifically the following:-

- to connect to a South Lanarkshire-wide network of support, opportunities and recognition increasing the number and diversity of volunteering opportunities available within our organisations
- to positively engage with stakeholders across a range of provision, sharing resources and developing shared practice to enhance community recovery

- to enable volunteering across all sections of our organisations and the wider community through increased accessibility and a flexible approach to volunteering, bringing diversity to our collective team and sharing wider perspectives from which we can all learn and improve
- cultivate a sense of community, championing our collective activities within our community and celebrating volunteers for their contribution to our collective cause in a meaningful way

3.3. The Volunteering Strategy was also released on 3 October 2022, at the same event to launch the new CPP Community Plan. Volunteering is a key component in realising our ambitions and principles in the new plan. The Volunteering Strategy can be found here: [CPP Volunteering Strategy \(vaslan.org.uk\)](https://vaslan.org.uk).

3.4. VASLAN received a grant of £210,000 from South Lanarkshire Council for 2022/23 to 2023/24 to implement the Community Planning Partnership Volunteering strategy for South Lanarkshire. The grant funded the work and outputs outlined in sections 4, 5.

4. Current Context

4.1. The funding timeline for the Volunteering Strategy concluded at the end of September 2024. The content of this report details the progress over the funding period: October 2023–September 2024.

4.2. The following data provides the current operating context of volunteering in South Lanarkshire:-

- ◆ Throughout the course of the strategy, volunteering trends covered a range of areas of interest, including: Administration Work, Advice and Information, Advocacy, Animal Care, Befriending, Care Work, Charity Trustees, Community Radio, Conversation, Driving, Gardening, Hospital support, Mentoring and Charity Shops
- ◆ 345 volunteers were supported over the reporting period October–September 2024.

4.3. In relation to engagement in the development and delivery of South Lanarkshire wide recognition events, the CPP Sub-Group was keen to plan and deliver CPP recognition events. In support, due to the timeframe VASLAN delivered a Volunteer thank you event at Rutherglen Town Hall during Volunteers week in June 2024. The event was attended by 73 people representing a range of organisations and volunteers to celebrate the impact of volunteering.

5. Progress - Strategic Objectives

5.1 Promote

- ◆ since the launch of the strategy, we have supported a range of organisations to achieve a quality standard. By the end of the funding Period 17, organisations have achieved or are in the process of achieving the 'Investors in Volunteers (IiV)' accreditation, with an additional 5 remaining interested in moving towards the accreditation
- ◆ 16 have achieved or are working towards achieving Volunteer Friendly accreditation during the same period

- ◆ it should be noted that at the time of writing, the Volunteer Friendly (VF) license agreement ended on 31 May 2024 after 3 years, and that Volunteer Scotland (VS) is reviewing the VF award's effectiveness and its alignment with the organisation's strategic goals to explore detailed options for the future of VF or an alternative support structure for Volunteer Involving Organisations (VIOs)
- ◆ VASLan will continue to provide support during this period of transition
- ◆ delivered a cross-sector communications message to staff and volunteers
- ◆ progress was made on increasing liV and VF outcomes, the Community
- ◆ Planning Partners were also targeted and were keen to progress this
- ◆ inclusive volunteering opportunities were discussed at monthly CPP
- ◆ Volunteering Sub-Group meetings and were promoted via the SLC website
Financial Inclusion Network Newsletter, and VASLan platforms

<u>Achieved</u>	<u>Renewing</u>	<u>Working Towards</u>	<u>Pending Registration</u>
Agape Wellness Centre (VF)	Trust Jack Foundation (VF)	Loaves and Fishes (VF)	EK and District Talking Newspaper (VF)
Hamilton Foodbank (VF)	Lanark Community Development Trust (VF)	Calderwood Baptist Church (VF)	Carstairs Junction Welcome All Hub (VF)
National Autistic Society (VF)		Dress for Success (VF)	Waist Not Want Not (VF)
Machan Trust (VF)		WATIF (liV)	East Kilbride Community Foodbank (VF)
East Kilbride Foodbank (VF)			
Healthy Valleys (liV)		Skills Exchange SCIO (liV)	Clydesdale Community Activities Group (VF)
Guide Dogs Scotland: SL (liV)		Wiston Lodge (liV)	Hamilton Citizens Advice Bureau (liV)
Sporting Memories Foundation Scotland: SL (liV)		Larkhall & District Volunteers Group (liV)	Community Links SL (liV)
Healthy & Active (liV)		New Lanark Trust (liV)	Community Links SL (liV)
Kilbryde Hospice (liV)		David Livingstone Trust (liV)	Lanarkshire Rape Crisis Centre (liV)

East Kilbride Foodbank (VF)		Coalburn Miners Welfare (liV)	Lesmahagow Development Trust
Lanark Community Development Trust (VF)		Community Links SL (liV)	Lanark and District Archaeological Society
Forth Community Resource Centre (VF)		Citizens Advice Bureau Hamilton (liV)	Claremont Parish Church
St Mary For All (VF)		Citizens Advice Bureau Rutherglen and Cambuslang (liV)	Biggar Rugby Football Club (liV)
COVEY Befriending (VF)		Covey Befriending (liV)	
Revolve Recycle (VF)			
MorphFit Gentle Movement Project Ltd (VF)			
Larkhall & District Volunteers Group (liV)			
Hamilton Judo Club (VF)			

VF = Volunteer Friendly Award

liV = Investing in Volunteers

5.2. Enable

- ◆ 996 Volunteers registered to volunteer during this period;
- ◆ Redesigned volunteer support records are in place to take into account volunteer assessment and support records. To date we have offered support to 345 individuals related to barriers to volunteering;
- ◆ Community organisations have been supported to offer inclusive volunteering opportunities that are more flexible in their approach and there are currently 90 open opportunities on offer to volunteers that provide either support and supervision, supported volunteering, expenses, flexible hours or one-off ad hoc volunteering;
- ◆ An Employer Supported Volunteering (ESV) Consultation was sent to CPP members before wider distribution, however, this has yielded little response; and
- ◆ An ESV Policy Template was created for implementation and distribution to CPP Volunteering Sub-Group members, although the sub-group have engaged with the initiative, there has been a reluctance to implement.

5.3. **Build**

- ◆ Training platform handover complete, following the internal development and testing phase, we have 10 pilot users for volunteering support utilising the platform; and.
- ◆ PVG process barriers have halted any significant progress around a functional volunteer passport scheme at this time.

5.4. **Contribute**

- ◆ The previous trend analysis of volunteering in South Lanarkshire has shown a doubling of the volunteer opportunities being advertised by community organisations. This trend has remained high across the area. It also shows significant increases in individuals being proactively placed and brokered into volunteering, with a significant number of non-South Lanarkshire residents registering to volunteer within the area.

5.5. **Reward**

- ◆ A VASLan driven celebration event took place during Volunteers week June 2024, details of which can be viewed here: [Volunteers Week Thank You Event - June 2024 | Voluntary Action South Lanarkshire](#)

6. **Next Steps**

6.1. To build on progress to date, VASLan will continue to progress the below areas to promote and further develop volunteering in South Lanarkshire:-

- ◆ Cross-sector comms messaging to promote the benefits of volunteering to individuals and communities;
- ◆ Continue to build learning pathways on the training platform; and
- ◆ Continue to build the quality and quantity of opportunities to reward and say thank you to volunteers in our communities.

7. **Employee Implications**

7.1. VASLan will continue to support necessary actions around liV and Volunteer friendly processes until March 2025 when this will be reviewed

8. **Financial Implications**

8.1. Any necessary actions will be supported within VASLan existing infrastructure until March 2025.

9. **Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications**

9.1. There are no implications for climate change, sustainability, or the environment in terms of the information contained in this report.

10. **Other Implications**

10.1. There are no issues in terms of risk associated with this report.

11. **Integrated Impact Assessment and Consultation Requirements**

11.1. There are no Equality Impact Assessment or Consultation implications associated with this report.

Charlie Duffin
Operations and Strategic Manager
VASLan

13 November 2024

Contact for Further Information

If you would like further information, please contact:-

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Email: Charlie.Duffin@VASLan.org.uk

Community Planning Partnership Board Executive Summary

Date of Meeting:	4 December 2024
Subject:	Keep The Beat Alive Third Sector Campaign Update/Fair Funding
Report by:	Development Lead, Third Sector Chief Officers Group (TSCOG), VASLan
Contact for Further Information:	Wendy Johnstone, Development Lead, TSCOG, VASLan Tel: 01698 300390/07761041609 Email: wendy.johnstone@vaslan.org.uk
Purpose of the Report:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ to provide an update on the 'Keep the Beat Alive' (KBTA) campaign with a particular focus on the learning and experiences of the Third Sector Chief Officers Group (TSCOG); ◆ to introduce the Community Planning Improvement Board (CPIB) Fair Funding principles; and ◆ to request partner engagement in a Fair Funding Charter benchmarking exercise.
Community Planning Delivery Partners:	All partners
Key Recommendations/Decisions/Action Required from Partners:	<p>The Board is asked to approve the following recommendations: -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) that each community planning partner endorses the CPIB Fair Funding guidance; and (2) that each community planning partner complete a benchmarking exercise to show to what extent they are able to adhere to the local Fair Funding Charter principles.
Risks/Challenges:	Challenges – current budgetary restraints; and Risks – Sustainability of some South Lanarkshire Third Sector Organisations.
Links to Community Plan Ambitions/Principles:	◆ Ambition 2 - We will make progress by investing in learning together and how we can do things better.
Summary of Report:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Update on the Keep the Beat Alive Campaign. ◆ Update on South Lanarkshire's Third Sector Chief Officers Group (TSCOG). ◆ Information on the local Fair Funding Charter. ◆ Key asks of the Partnership Board.

Report

Report to:	Partnership Board
Date of Meeting:	4 December 2024
Report by:	Development Lead for the Third Sector Chief Officers Group, VASLan

Subject:	Keep The Beat Alive Third Sector Campaign Update/Fair Funding
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ to provide an update on the 'Keep the Beat Alive' campaign with a particular focus on the learning and experiences of the Third Sector Chief Officers Group (TSCOG);
- ◆ to introduce the Community Planning Improvement Board (CPIB) Fair Funding principles; and
- ◆ to request partner engagement in a Fair Funding Charter benchmarking exercise.

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Partnership Board is asked to approve the following recommendations:-

- (1) that each community planning partner endorses the CPIB Fair Funding guidance; and
- (2) that each community planning partner complete a benchmarking exercise to show to what extent they are able to adhere to the local Fair Funding Charter principles.

3. Background

3.1. Since 23 March 2020, when the first pandemic lockdown began, 319 third sector organisations in South Lanarkshire have ceased operations. Coupled with the ongoing cost-of-living crisis and challenges affecting all sectors and industries, ensuring the survival and growth of the third sector in South Lanarkshire has become a shared priority for local organisations. One of VASLan's four core functions is to amplify the diverse voices within the sector. In November 2023, VASLan began co-producing a campaign with over 100 local third sector organisations. The campaign aims to influence policymakers at both local and national levels, highlighting the value and impact of volunteers, community organisations, charities, and social enterprises across South Lanarkshire.

3.2. The TSCOG is a sector-led membership body, which brings together lead officers from across South Lanarkshire's charitable, voluntary, community and social enterprise sector to inform, inspire and influence. Founded in 2016 during a period of significant challenge, the group brings together a wealth of combined knowledge, skill, experience and passion for local, community-led solutions, working in close partnership with VASLan and with the four Locality Networks. As a grouping of community-led third sector organisations the TSCOG aims to build stronger strategic relationships through mutual support, sharing of knowledge and expertise, and to

provide an effective, collective voice for the sector, supporting engagement in policy development at a strategic level. Key priorities of the TSCOG includes Strategic Engagement, being collaborative, and Income and Strategic Commissioning.

4. **Keep The Beat Alive Campaign Update**

4.1. KTBA has three big asks of our local, but especially national, policy shapers and decision makers:-

- ◆ to recognise our value;
- ◆ be smarter with funding; and
- ◆ meaningfully engage with us.

4.2. The campaign website can be found here:

[Keep The Beat Alive - South Lanarkshire - Keep The Beat Alive](#)

4.3. An explainer animation of the campaign can be found here:

[Introducing Keep The Beat Alive \(youtube.com\)](#)

4.4. The KTBA Impact Report can be found here: [Keep-The-Beat-Alive-Impact-Report.pdf \(keepthebeatalive.org.uk\)](#). Our impact report has stories and data from 73 organisations and is a tool to help policy shapers and decision makers recognise our value.

4.5. We have a series of four short films which can be found here:

- ◆ [Improving wellbeing - Keep The Beat Alive \(youtube.com\)](#)
- ◆ [Supporting people in rural South Lanarkshire - Keep The Beat Alive \(youtube.com\)](#)
- ◆ [Making South Lanarkshire Home - Keep The Beat Alive \(youtube.com\)](#)
- ◆ [Supporting people's futures - Keep The Beat Alive \(youtube.com\)](#)

They are designed to celebrate the sector, whilst also demonstrating the vulnerability organisations currently face. The short films are intended to create cultural conversations around how the public sector and third sectors need to better understand each other's worlds. Partners who recognise the value of the sector locally, and who wish the sector in South Lanarkshire to be heard at a national level, are encouraged to convene conversations with your stakeholders at regional and national levels, standing shoulder to shoulder with your local third sector communities.

4.6. KTBA follows on from the initial [Essential Sector](#) national campaign which celebrates the third sector. A blog can be found here: ([The beating heart of our essential sector - TFN](#)) which details the relationship between the two: It is anticipated that this will evolve into a national campaign, starting in our own patch of the world in South Lanarkshire.

4.7. Our Keep the Beat Alive campaign has now entered the 'storytelling phase' where we are engaging with individuals and community organisations across South Lanarkshire in a variety of different ways to capture their voices, and their experiences, and the importance of the support they receive from South Lanarkshire's third sector organisations. Examples include:

- ◆ The September launch of the KTBA podcast. The first episode, '[Lending Voices](#)', features work undertaken by South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture;
- ◆ Publication of a new [Case Studies Report](#) on the Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund, featuring people with lived and living experience, telling their

incredible stories and raising awareness and understanding of how the third sector is enabling them to improve and at times save lives;

- ◆ Completion of a detailed Third Sector Leaders' survey, which explores the impact of the recent financial and funding squeeze on local voluntary sector organisations. Findings will be included in the presentation to the Board.

- 4.8. Our TSCOG continues to strengthen partnerships across South Lanarkshire and is evolving a consortia approach for service design and delivery.
- 4.9. Finally, we are looking forward to our KTBA campaign event which is taking place at Holyrood on 15 January 2025. The aim of this event is to influence national policy shapers and decision makers, enabling them to integrate Fair Funding principles into the 2025-26 Scottish budget.

5. VASLan/TSCOG Ask – A Commitment to Fair Funding principles and practice

- 5.1. Working alongside other partners across the TSI Scotland Network, we have co-produced a [Local Fair Funding Charter](#). This is to support local, and national, public-sector decision-makers and commissioners and consists of four key principles: -
 - 1) A Strategic Investment Approach;
 - 2) Accessible, Proportionate, Transparent Funding and Commissioning Processes;
 - 3) Adequate and Secure Funding; and
 - 4) Proportionate Evaluation and Reporting to Funders.

Further details can be found in Appendix 1.

- 5.2. In addition, in September 2024, the National Community Planning Improvement Board published new '[Guidance for Fair Funding of the Voluntary Sector](#)', sharing this with members via their newsletter. The 'asks' are similar to those of the KTBA campaign and the Local Fair Funding Charter. See Appendix 2.

6. Key Considerations: Our Ask of Community Planning Partners

- 6.1. Community Planning partners are requested to complete a benchmarking exercise to explore to what extent they currently adhere to the local Fair Funding principles laid out in the charter. This will provide a baseline against which future progress can be measured. Support from VASLan and SLC partners who have already completed this exercise can be provided. Proposed completion by the end of January 2025.
- 6.2. Community Planning partners are also asked to endorse the CPIB guidance.

7. Employee Implications

- 7.1. There are no employee implications associated with this report.

8. Financial Implications

- 8.1. There are no financial implications associated with this report.

9. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

- 9.1. There are no implications for climate change, sustainability or the environment in terms of the information contained within this report.

10. Other Implications

- 10.1. There are no issues in terms of risk associated with this report.

11. Integrated Impact Assessment and Consultation Requirements

- 11.1. There are no Equality Impact Assessment or consultation arrangement implications associated with this report.

Wendy Johnstone
Development Lead (TSCOG)
VASLan

13 November 2024

Contact for Further Information:

If you would like further information, please contact:-

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Fair Funding Charter

The principles of [Fair Funding](#) laid out in the charter include:

- **Principle One: A Strategic Investment Approach:**
Public sector organisations operating at a local level should take a “strategic investment” approach to the local area in recognition of the third sector’s significant and cost-effective contribution to supporting community wealth building, the prevention agenda and delivery of shared goals for people, communities and the natural environment. This will reflect what is set out in key local documents and strategies.
- **Principle Two: Accessible, Proportionate and Transparent Funding and Commissioning Processes:**
Public sector and independent funders should provide accessible, proportionate, and transparent funding and commissioning processes.
- **Principle Three: Adequate and Secure Funding:**
Public sector and independent funders - whether they are delivering grant or ‘fee for service’ funding - should provide adequate and secure funding.
- **Principle Four: Proportionate Evaluation and Reporting to Funders:**
Public sector and independent funders should help the third sector organisations they fund to assess and report on the reach and impact of the work they are funded to do, in a proportionate and supportive way.

Guidance from the Community Planning Improvement Board

In September 2024, the National Community Planning Improvement Board published new '[Guidance for Fair Funding of the Voluntary Sector](#)' and shared this in their newsletter.

The guidance includes seven recommended principles:

- 1) **A positive working relationship, based on mutual trust and respect.** Community Planning Partnerships recognise the significant contribution the voluntary sector makes to public services, including in prevention and early intervention. They recognise that a strategic investment approach is better for everyone than short-term, transactional relationships.
- 2) **A focus on the achievement of better outcomes for individuals and communities, with jointly developed, simple structures for assurance and accountability that recognise context and reduce burdensome reporting.** CPPs recognise that an outcomes-based approach, where the individuals and communities who engage with the activities of the voluntary organisations are at the heart of the process and there is a trusting relationship works best for everyone. Funding arrangements should be proportionate and streamlined, not a “one size fits all” contract.
- 3) **Councils and their Community Planning Partners will work together with local representatives of the voluntary sector to consult and collaborate as early as possible in all matters where the voluntary sector has a key interest and/or is the key delivery mechanism.** CPP partners recognise that they are working with voluntary organisations because they have the right expertise and connections, not because they are a cheap option. They should be involved in planning at as early a stage as possible. This may be with individual organisations engaged with particular people or issues, or with representative organisations such as the third sector interfaces where there is a more strategic/broader interest.
- 4) **Activities and funding of voluntary organisations will be reviewed regularly to ensure adequacy and alignment with effective delivery of outcomes.** It is important that investment in, and collaboration with, the voluntary sector is an active relationship that is focused on effective delivery for the people and communities in local areas. Following the Principles of Positive Partnership will help.
- 5) **In relation to funding, the default position will be minimal restriction or direction of funding, unless there is a clear, joint understanding that it is necessary.** The funded organisations are best placed to make best use of the allocated funding. They should be trusted to use the money effectively to achieve the agreed outcomes. It is not appropriate for the funder to micro-manage or direct the activities. The funder recognises that core costs are legitimate expenditure as, just like councils or health boards, organisations can't deliver frontline activities without the infrastructure to underpin it.
- 6) **Community Planning Partnerships, as the key partnership delivering shared local priorities, will recognise the voluntary sector as an equal partner. This should normally be through the third sector interface.** A key role of the TSI is to engage in Community Planning. They receive some funding from the Scottish Government to enable this work, but it doesn't cover the increasingly wide range of activities they are called on to participate in. For example, Regional Economic

Partnerships, IJBs or climate hubs. They can only do this effectively if CPPs respect their role and include them as equal partners. It is to the benefit of the CPP as a whole as it makes for a more strategic approach and minimises the chances of problems arising that could easily have been avoided.

- 7) When funding voluntary organisations, Community Planning Partners will seek to ensure better strategic alignment on workforce issues, including fair work.** When commissioning voluntary organisations, the CPP partners should take account of Fair Work Principles and ensure that their arrangements accommodate the payment of the Living Wage, as well as the other principles such as job security. Decision-making, communication and timescales for grants must enable organisations to meet their obligations as an employer.

They also explored what Fair Funding looks like in practice?

- ◆ Longer-term funding of three years or more.
- ◆ Flexible, unrestricted core funding, which enables organisations to provide security, plan effectively, and fulfil good governance requirements.
- ◆ Sustainable funding that includes inflation-based uplifts and core operating costs.
- ◆ Funding that accommodates paying staff at least the Real Living Wage and other Fair Work principles and supporting volunteers; and
- ◆ Accessible, streamlined, proportionate, and consistent approaches to applications and reporting, timely process and payments, and partnership between the funder and funded organisation.

Community Planning Partnership Board Executive Summary

Date of Meeting:	4 December 2024
Subject:	South Lanarkshire Integration Joint Board Annual Performance Report 2023/2024
Report by:	Director, Health and Social Care, South Lanarkshire University Health and Social Care Partnership
Contact for Further Information:	Martin Kane, Service Manager, Performance and Support, South Lanarkshire University Health and Social Care Partnership Tel: 01698 453743 Email: martin.kane@southlanarkshire.gov.uk
Purpose of the Report:	♦ to provide the Partnership Board with an update on the South Lanarkshire Integration Joint Board's (IJB) Annual Performance Report 2023/2024.
Community Planning Delivery Partners:	All partners
Key Recommendations/ Decisions/Action Required from Partners:	The Board is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):- (1) that the content of the report be noted.
Risks/Challenges:	The Annual Performance Report (APR) presents progress in a range of areas that contribute to the mitigation of a number of risks within the IJB Risk Register, notably: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial sustainability – very high • Workforce availability and capacity – very high • Performance delivery – very high • Failure to meet public protection and legislative requirements – high • Failure to fulfil emergency response commitments befitting the IJB's status as a Category One (emergency) responder – low • Performance Reporting does not capture performance across the whole health and social care system – medium • Winter pressures – medium
Links to Community Plan Ambitions/Principles:	♦ All ambitions/principles
Summary of Report:	Highlighting the South Lanarkshire Annual Integration Joint Board Annual Performance Report 2023-2024. This report is aligned to the second year reporting progress against the intentions outlined in the Strategic Commissioning Plan 2022-2025.

Report

Report to:	Partnership Board
Date of Meeting:	4 December 2024
Report by:	Director, Health and Social Care, South Lanarkshire University Health and Social Care Partnership

Subject:	South Lanarkshire Integration Joint Board Annual Performance Report 2023/2024
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ provide the Partnership Board with an update on the South Lanarkshire Integration Joint Board's (IJB) Annual Performance Report 2023/2024

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Partnership Board is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the content of the report be noted.

3. Background

- 3.1. Section 42 of the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 requires that Annual Performance Reports (APR) are prepared by an Integration Authority – i.e. the Integration Joint Board (IJB) in a South Lanarkshire context. The 2014 Act obliges that the APR should cover the preceding year's activity and be published four months after the end of that reporting year.
- 3.2. The purpose of the APR is to ensure that performance is open and accountable, whilst at the same time providing an overall assessment of performance in relation to planning and carrying out integration functions. The APR is also of interest to the Health Board and South Lanarkshire Council in monitoring the success of the integration arrangements they have put in place, as per the Integration Scheme.
- 3.3. The Scottish Government issued Guidance for APRs in March 2016, with recommended areas for inclusion, including:
- a summary of progress against the 9 National Health outcomes using as a minimum the 23 core national performance indicators; and
 - financial performance and best value.
- 3.4. As with previous years, the APR is aligned to reporting progress against the intentions outlined in the current Strategic Commissioning Plan. For this particular APR, it covers the second year of the 2022-2025 Strategic Commissioning Plan.

3.5. By way of summary, some of the main achievements within 2023/2024 are as summarised below:

- ◆ the Blantyre Life Care Campus, which forms part of the IJB's Intermediate Care Strategy provides reablement/rehabilitation support to people aged 50 and over who are clinically fit for discharge. The bed based intermediate care service on the campus is resourced to provide support for up to 42 days for each person but is operating at an average of 27 days to return people home safely. 90% of people who have received a service thus far rated the service as very good or excellent
- ◆ the Home First Care at Home Service which is also part of the Intermediate Care Strategy, provides home based reablement and rehabilitation to people in South Lanarkshire. Work to date shows that when a person successfully completes a reablement intervention they require 35% less care at home hours for their ongoing care requirements. This exceeds the 25% target for the service.
- ◆ the Primary Care Out of Hours Services provides critical support to people who require access to urgent GP services in the out of hours period. Over an average week, the service provides 118 hours of support and responds to approximately 80,000 contacts per annum
- ◆ the use of technology to support people with their care continues to be a real success story for the Health and Social Care Partnership. In a supported discharge context, 24% of all discharges were supported with an assistive technology solution as part of the care package
- ◆ build on and maintain how we support and protect vulnerable adults as highlighted in the positive inspection report by the Care Inspectorate with regards to Adult Support and Protection
- ◆ the contribution of the Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) to Operation Flow as part of stabilising pressures across the Health and Social Care System. Initiatives like this will form part of the response to forthcoming seasonal winter pressures
- ◆ the successful implementation of the 'Home First' approach in supporting the Discharge without Delay programme. Moreover, the newly opened 'Blantyre Life' facility forms a key part of the options available to support discharge planning and ultimately, the goal to support people to return home
- ◆ the expansion of assisted technology in supporting people to remain independent. For example, 4,151 telecare items installed across 2022/2023, with the intention to continue to promote this
- ◆ commissioned arrangements with Lanarkshire Carers continues to grow with 1,398 new carers were identified in 2023/2024, which represents an increase of 26% on the previous year. Overall, Lanarkshire Carers are in touch with 6,825 carers

3.6. Further information can be found in Appendix 1.

4. Employee Implications

4.1. There are no employee implications associated with this report.

5. Financial Implications

5.1. There are no financial implications associated with this report.

6. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

6.1. There are no implications for climate change, sustainability or the environment in terms of the information contained within this report.

7. Other Implications

7.1. The APR presents progress in a range of areas that contribute to the mitigation of a number of risks within the IJB Risk Register, notably:-

- Financial sustainability – very high
- Workforce availability and capacity – very high
- Performance delivery – very high
- Failure to meet public protection and legislative requirements – high
- Failure to fulfil emergency response commitments befitting the IJB's status as a Category One (emergency) responder – low
- Performance Reporting does not capture performance across the whole health and social care system – medium
- Winter pressures – medium

7.2. There are no other issues associated with this report.

8. Integrated Impact Assessment and Consultation Requirements

8.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy and therefore, no impact assessment is required.

8.2. The APR relates to the Strategic Commissioning Plan 2022-2025, which was extensively consulted on. There are no Equality Impact Assessment or consultation arrangement implications associated with this report.

Soumen Sengupta

Director, Health and Social Care

South Lanarkshire University Health and Social Care Partnership

13 November 2024

Contact for Further Information

If you would further information, please contact:-

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Health and Social Care Partnership

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7
South Lanarkshire
University
Health and Social Care
Partnership

South Lanarkshire Integration Joint Board Annual Performance Report

2023/24



Working together to improve health and wellbeing
in the community – **with the community**

Our Vision is

***Working together to
improve health and wellbeing
in the community –
with the community***



1.	Foreword	4
2.	The role of the Integration Joint Board	5
3.	Background and operating context	6
4.	Performance against national indicators	7
5.	Financial performance 2023/2024	10
6.	Strategic overview	12
7.	Governance and accountability	13
8.	Risk	13
9.	Taking a closer look	14
10.	Looking to the future	18

1. Foreword

Over the course of this year we have had much to celebrate as our health and social care staff have continued to deliver services and supports that we can be proud of. Alongside their professionalism and compassion, they have continued to be collaborative, evaluative and innovative in developing practice for the communities that we all serve.

Through the course of this year we have also had to reckon with the hard realities and difficult decisions. In its report on **Integration Joint Boards – Finance and Performance 2024**, the Audit Commission has highlighted that all Integration Joint Boards (IJBs) have and continue to “face a complex landscape of unprecedented pressures, challenges and uncertainties”. The Audit Commission also acknowledges that these pressures, challenges and uncertainties “are not easy to resolve and are worsening, despite a driven and committed workforce” – and has stated that IJBs have reached the point where significant transformation will be needed to ensure the long-term capacity, financial sustainability and quality of services individuals receive. For our IJB – for our services, our staff and our communities – that was reflected in our being faced with a recurring budget shortfall of £33million for 2023/24. No one wants to be in that type of financial position – and it

was certainly not one of our making. The size of that funding gap though meant that in order for the IJB to live-within-its-means that it had to take decisions that inevitably had implications for how a number of valued services were and are provided. In facing up to those realities and taking those difficult decisions, we have remained absolutely committed to developing realistic, sustainable and responsible proposals that protect those most vulnerable and at-risk across our communities. And while unfortunately we know that there is more uncertainty ahead – just as is true for all of our partners and right across the public sector – we remain steadfast in that commitment.

We also recognise that continued collaboration and innovation holds the promise for practical improvements to how we deliver services and supports within the resources available – shaping our practice and delivery based on using data, evidence and insights. That long-term commitment to work with other partners differently was most visibly expressed by the adoption this year of the newly-named South Lanarkshire University Health and Social Care Partnership. By enhancing and extending our work together we aim to develop sustainable, innovative and practical solutions to health and social care challenges that will directly benefit our communities and our workforce for years to come.



Lesley McDonald
Chair,
South Lanarkshire
Integration Joint Board



Margaret Walker
Vice Chair,
South Lanarkshire
Integration Joint Board



**Professor
Soumen Sengupta**
Chief Officer,
South Lanarkshire
Integration Joint Board

2. The role of the Integration Joint Board

Integration Joint Board (Strategic)

- Formal public body
- Develops and leads the strategy for health and social care through the Strategic Commissioning Plan
- Issues 'Direction to South Lanarkshire Council (SLC) and NHS Lanarkshire (NHSL)

Health and Social Care Partnership (Operational)

- Takes forward the operational implementation of the plan on behalf of the parties – SLC and NHSL
- Provides assurance to the IJB and the parties on progress with the implementation of the plan



3. Background and operating context

Strategic commissioning is the main process for understanding, planning and delivering better health and wellbeing outcomes. Well-planned strategic commissioning offers the opportunity to increase the value and financial sustainability of care by making the most effective use of available resources and the most efficient and consistent delivery.

- It is projected that the population within South Lanarkshire will rise from 322,630 in 2021 to 325,243 in 2028, an increase of 1%.
- The projected 2028 figures show the largest decrease of 5% in 0-15 age group and the largest increase of 20% in the 75+ age group.
- In 2020/2021, it was estimated that 22.7% of the South Lanarkshire population had at least one physical long-term condition.
- In South Lanarkshire, 40,695 (12.8%) of people are income deprived (Scottish average - 12.1%), with 17,313 (43%) of people living in the 20% most deprived data zones.

The IJB's Strategic Commissioning Plan 2022 – 2025 (SCP) sets out how health and social care services will be delivered to improve the quality of support for people in South Lanarkshire.

A review the SCP provided substantial assurance on the development and content of the SCP, noting that:

‘Notwithstanding our very positive assessment of the SCP and the process through which it was produced, the environment in which the SLIJB operates is exceptionally complex and extremely challenging at present, a fact recognised within the SCP itself’.

Progress made by the HSCP on the SCP's key priorities and key performance indicators are reported regularly to the IJB and can be accessed from the HSCP website www.slhscp.org.uk.



4. Performance against national indicators

The IJB seeks to promote a culture of continuous improvement to deliver better outcomes for individuals and communities. Our Performance Management Framework provides the structure by which the IJB can make informed decisions on future priorities, using performance information to identify and drive improvement work.

A core suite of indicators has been agreed nationally to ensure consistency across all IJB areas. Nine of these indicators are survey based or qualitative measures which are gathered every two years from the national Health and Social Care experience survey, with the remaining indicators being regular health and social care performance measures.

A summary of the MSG (Ministerial Steering Group) indicators in South Lanarkshire for currently available data showing the year-on-year comparison between April 2023 and March 2024 is detailed below. The IJB has also reflected the recommendation from the 2022/23 External Audit Annual Report and added additional measures aligned to the Strategic Commissioning Plan (SCP) priorities.

These have been introduced in performance reports to the Performance and Audit Sub Committee and IJB since November 2023.

Ministerial Strategic Group (MSG) Indicators

MSG Indicator	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Number of emergency admissions	40,461	32,537	37,028	36,849	37,188
Number of unscheduled hospital bed days (acute specialties)*	238,434	200,694	242,883	260,297	*253,153
Number of A&E attendances	110,095	83,441	104,080	103,855	106,484
Acute bed days lost to delayed discharges	46,570	22,585	35,941	41,970	41,795
% of last six months of life spent in Community setting	88.2%	90.8%	89.5%	88.8%	*88.8%
Balance of care: Percentage of 75+ population at home unsupported	83.6%	84.7%	84.9%	84.7%	Not available

*Calendar year 2023 has been used as a proxy for 2023/24 for this indicator as per guidance from Public Health Scotland due to data completeness issues.



National Indicator	2023/24
Percentage of adults able to look after their health very well or quite well	89.4%
Percentage of adults supported at home who agreed that they are supported to live as independently as possible	67.2%
Percentage of adults supported at home who agreed that they had a say in how their help, care, or support was provided	55.4%
Percentage of adults supported at home who agreed that their health and social care services seemed to be well co-ordinated	58.2%
Total % of adults receiving any care or support who rated it as excellent or good	66.7%
Percentage of people with positive experience of the care provided by their GP practice	56.5%
Percentage of adults supported at home who agree that their services and support had an impact on improving or maintaining their quality of life	63.3%
Total combined % carers who feel supported to continue in their caring role	28.1%
Percentage of adults supported at home who agreed they felt safe	66.2%

*Please note that National Indicators 1-9 are based on the Health and Care Experience (HACE) survey that has been updated with the results from the 2024 HACE survey. Please note results for indicators 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 and 9 for 2023/24 are not comparable to previous years due to changes in survey wording. Also results for 2019/20 and 2021/22 for indicators 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 and 9 are comparable to each other, but not directly comparable to figures in previous years due to changes in survey wording and methodology.

National Indicator	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Commentary
*Premature mortality rate per 100,000 persons	493.4	471.6	459	n/a	
*Emergency admission rate for adults (per 100,000 population)	11,995	12,839	12,530	12,697	Emergency admission rates have increased slightly since 2022/23.
*Emergency bed day rate for adults (per 100,000 population)	98,999	117,362	122,237	118,037	While Emergency Bed Day rates have decreased for SL residents they remain above the national average.
*Emergency readmissions to hospital within 28 days of discharge (rate per 1,000 discharges)	112	103	100	97	The rate of emergency readmissions is below the average level for Scotland, and the rate for SL residents has decreased since last year.

National Indicator	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Commentary
*Proportion of last 6 months of life spent at home or in a community setting	90.8%	89.4%	88.8%	88.8%	Trends in the balance of care from hospital to community settings indicates that South Lanarkshire has consistently achieved 88-90% performance in this area.
*Falls rate per 1,000 population aged 65+	19.3	22.4	22.7	21.5	The rate of falls per 1,000 population for those aged 65+ has decreased since 2022/23 to present.
Proportion of care services graded 'good' (4) or better in Care Inspectorate inspections	80.1%	76.1%	76.9%	79.9%	Performance has increased between last year and this year and remains above the Scotland level.
*Percentage of adults with intensive care needs receiving care at home	63.4%	64.8%	63.6%	62.9%	Trends over the last 4 years report broad consistency in this area despite notable increases in demand and complexity of care being delivered in the community.
Number of days people aged 75+ spend in hospital when they are ready to be discharged (per 1,000 population)	544	910	1,044	1008	Demand and complexity continue to impact on delayed discharges.
Percentage of health and care resource spent on hospital stays where the patient was admitted in an emergency**	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a**	**See notes below.

Notes

*Indicators 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 19 are based on patient level hospital activity information called Scottish Morbidity Records (SMRs) which are submitted to PHS by NHS Boards. Please note that data may not be 100% complete for certain areas for calendar year 2023.

**Indicator 19 presents the cost of emergency admissions as a proportion of total health and social care expenditure. Information for this indicator was previously released up to calendar year 2020 but is now presented to financial year 2019/20 only. PHS have recommended that Integration Authorities do not report information for this indicator beyond 2019/20 within their Annual Performance Reports.

5. Financial performance 2023/24

Financial outturn 2023/2024

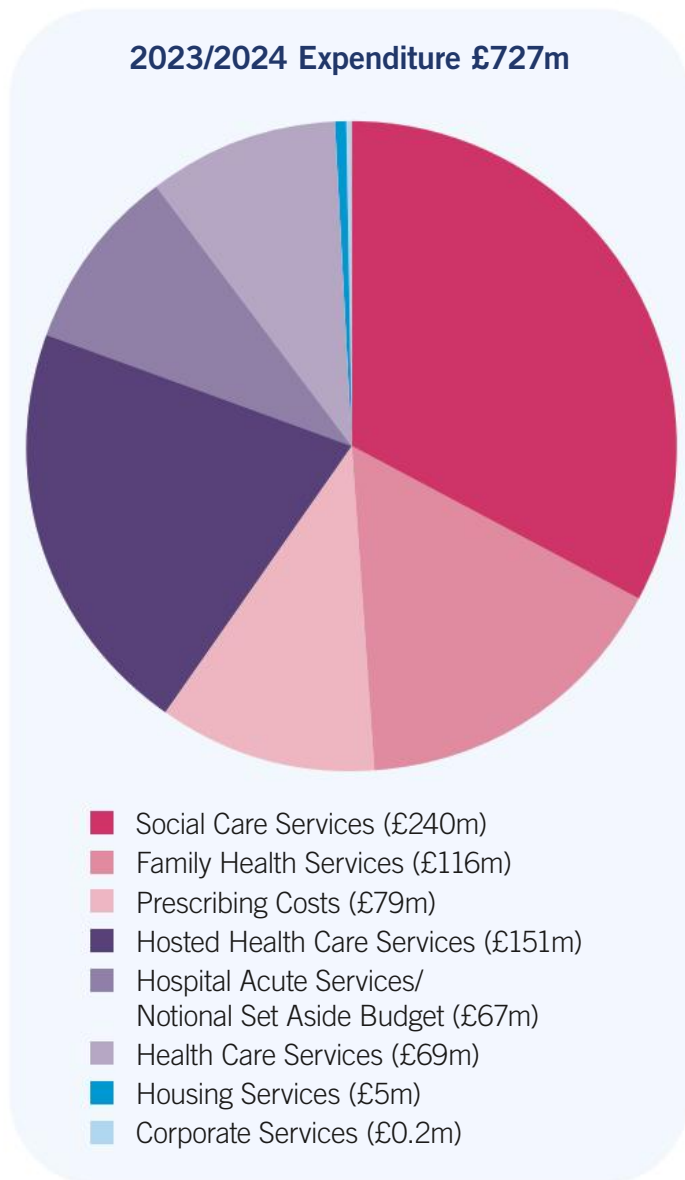
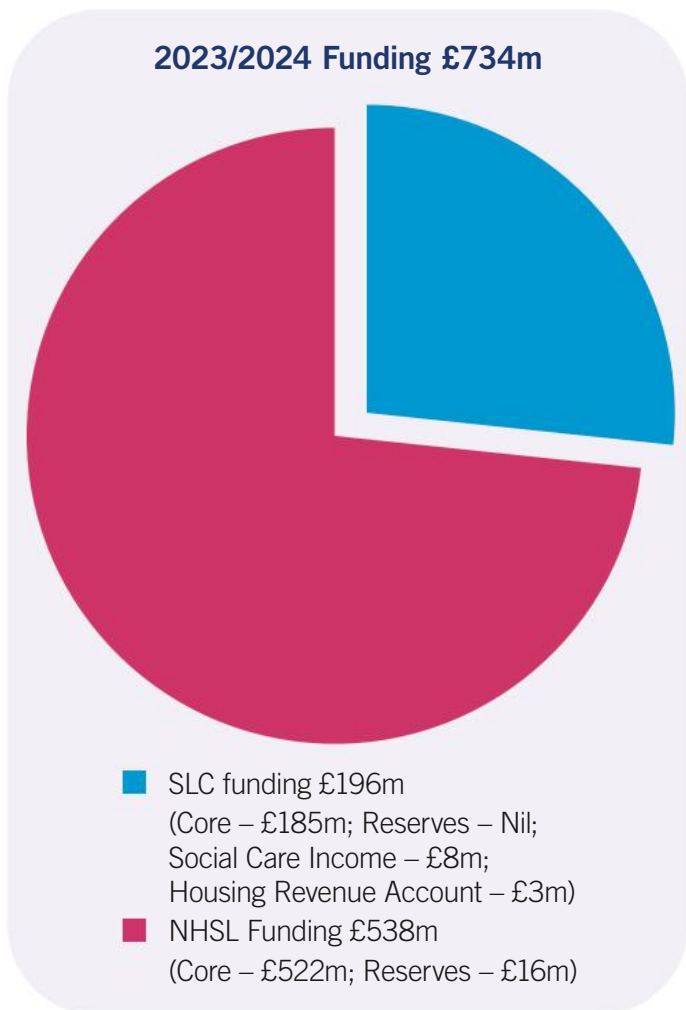
Financial information is part of our performance management framework with regular reporting of financial performance to the IJB. National Health and Wellbeing Outcome 9 also requires resources to be used effectively and efficiently in the provision of health and social care services.

The resources available to the IJB to deliver the delegated functions set out in the Integration Scheme and the Strategic Commissioning Plan (SCP) are comprised of the financial contributions from South Lanarkshire Council (SLC) and NHS Lanarkshire (NHSL).

Following a process of consultation, the IJB Financial Plan 2023/2024 was approved by the IJB on 28 March 2023 and updated on 18 October 2023. **The financial envelope available to the IJB in 2023/2024 totalled £734m.**

The expenditure incurred by the IJB in 2023/2024 totalled £727m. The net movement on reserves was a decrease of **£9.1m.**

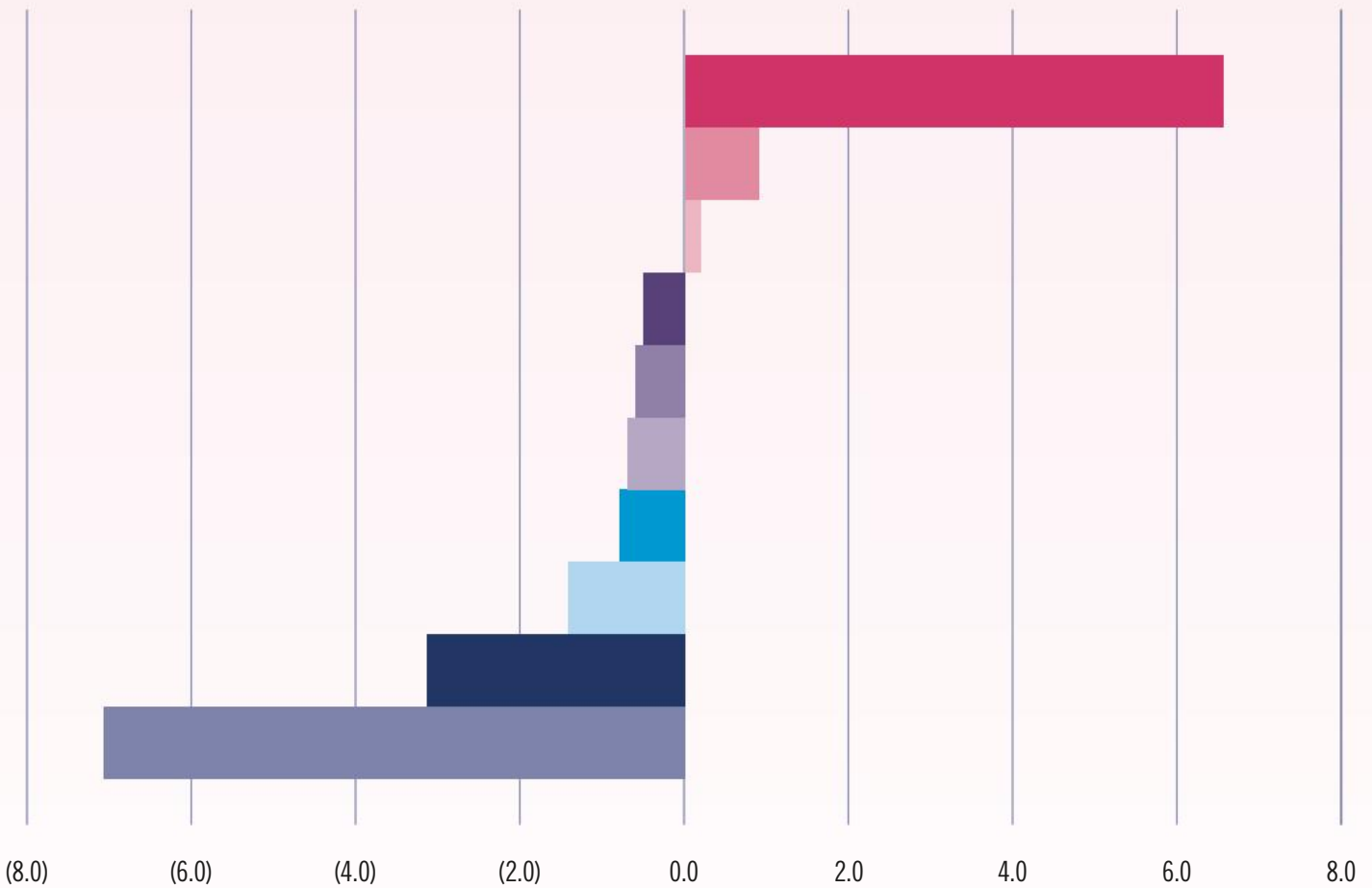
The reserves balance at 31 March 2024 was **£28.8m (NHSL – £26.0m; SLC – £2.8m).**



A total underspend of **£6.7m (NHSL – £5.3m; SLC £1.4m)** was reported for the financial year ended 31 March 2024. The underspends totalled **£14.3m** and the overspends totalled **£7.6m**. The main variances across services are highlighted below.



Variations (£6.7m)



- Prescribing Costs (£6.7m over)
- Out of Area Services (£0.9m over)
- Housing Services (£0.008m over)
- Area Wide Services (£0.4m under)
- Social Care Income (£0.6m over-recovered)
- Medical and Nursing Directorate (£0.7m under)
- Social Care Services (£0.8m under)
- Hosted Services (£1.5m under)
- Addiction Services (£3.2m under)
- Locality and Other Services (£7.1m under)

Financial sustainability

The IJB is recognised as having a strong track-record of sound financial management and robust financial governance. The IJB has a statutory duty to set a balanced budget.

During 2023/2024, the IJB operated in a complex, challenging and changing environment, both locally and nationally. The Scottish Government's financial planning cycle is short-term. At the start of the financial year, there was significant uncertainty about the total funding available. The demand across the IJB's statutory responsibilities also increased and additional costs were incurred in 2023/2024. The financial projections were therefore difficult to forecast and were subject to a high degree of financial risk, particularly in respect of pay negotiations, national care home contract negotiations and projected service demand.

It is anticipated that the public sector in Scotland will continue to face a range of challenges in the short and medium term. Audit Scotland have also highlighted that there remains a significant overall and recurrent budget gap across all IJBs and that IJBs have reached the point where 'significant transformation' will be needed. Failure to make the necessary changes to how public services are delivered will likely mean further budget pressures in the future.

Making transformational change at the same time as managing existing service demands and funding pressures continues to be challenging for the IJB and both partners.

To secure recurring financial sustainability, the Sustainability and Value Programme (SAVP) approach approved by the IJB on 28 March 2023 was adopted. The SAVP approach is transformational and includes whole system service redesign, service reduction, prescribing efficiencies and management and operational actions.

Recognising the necessity to move at pace, a joint approach was also developed between the North Lanarkshire and South Lanarkshire University Health and Social Care Partnerships to identify health care savings options. This will ensure consistency and coverage when proposed as options to each IJB.

The joint approach also helps to mitigate the significant resource and capacity required to deliver change on this scale and at pace. The outcome of achievable savings will be attributed to the South Lanarkshire IJB, North Lanarkshire IJB and NHSL Health Board fairly and transparently. The new NHSL Transformation and Reform Programme for whole-system redesign has also been established.

The scale of the challenge to make the IJB financially sustainable cannot be underestimated. The current and projected financial challenges inevitably mean that service levels cannot be maintained, and difficult decisions will need to continue to be taken to prioritise, reduce or stop some services. Effective communication and public awareness is essential to managing expectations of future service delivery.

Setting and delivering financial balance is fundamental to delivering upon the priorities within the SCP in a sustainable manner. The IJB continues to be committed to working with both partners to implement the SCP and to progress the transformational change required to secure recurring financial and operational sustainability across health and social care services.



Ongoing partnership working continues to play a key role in providing effective responses and ultimately keeping people safe.

6. Strategic overview

Performance improvement objectives are wide-ranging and take account of complex national legislation and strategic priorities. The Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 sets out the framework for integrating health and social care. There is a range of other legislation, policies, guidance and proposals which have a bearing on the work that the IJB progresses, and these are listed in detail in the SCP Engaging with our Communities supplementary information document.

<https://bit.ly/Strategic-Commissioning-Plan-2022-2025>

7. Governance and accountability

The governance framework within the IJB is set out in the **South Lanarkshire IJB Code of Corporate Governance** (bit.ly/Code-Of-Corporate-Governance) which comprises of the systems, processes, culture and values by which the IJB is directed and controlled.

The IJB has well-established governance and decision-making arrangements in place as set out in the Integration Scheme.

Supporting this is the governance structure for South Lanarkshire University HSCP which provides a robust and streamlined process for efficient and effective Partnership decision-making. The IJB holds the ultimate decision-making and commissioning authority, with its assurance responsibilities strengthened by the important scrutiny provided by its Performance and Audit Sub Committee (PASC).

The Strategic Commissioning Group (SCG) is a multi-agency forum comprising of key professional leaders across the HSCP, South Lanarkshire Council, NHS Lanarkshire and Third, Independent and Carers sectors. The group provides support and delivery of the thirteen priorities and national health and wellbeing outcomes detailed within the Strategic Commissioning Plan. Furthermore, it ensures the delivery of NHS Lanarkshire's objectives in relation to service transformation and financial prudence as well as relevant elements of South Lanarkshire Council's Connect Plan 2022/2027. A further role of the SCG is to ensure effective links to each of our four localities.

In 2023/24 the IJB submitted a climate change and sustainability statement, received regular performance monitoring reports, financial monitoring reports, risk management updates and reviewed its Scheme of Delegation. The IJB also reviewed the Directions it issues to the Health Board and Local Authority (the mechanism by which the IJB progresses the commissioning intentions outlined in the SCP).

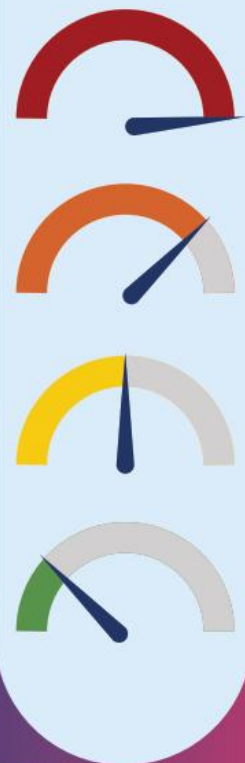


8. Risk

The IJB regularly reviews its Risk Register through its Performance and Audit Sub Committee.

An annual risk workshop is held and the IJB Risk Register has subsequently been revised and refined to focus and provide visibility on risks identified and assessed as being very high or high pre-mitigation.

Those risks identified at February 2024 are as follows (scores below reflecting risk scoring after mitigation with controls):



Very high risk

- **Financial sustainability**
- **Workforce availability and capacity**
- **Performance delivery**

High risk

- **Failure to meet public protection and legislative requirements**

Medium risk

- **Performance Reporting does not capture performance across the whole health and social care system**
- **Winter pressures**

9. Taking a closer look

Improving unscheduled care

- Among the services which have undertaken a significant redesign in the past year is the **Primary Care Out of Hours (PCOOH) Service**.

This service covers all of Lanarkshire (excluding Rutherglen/Cambuslang locality and the Northern Corridor) and processes approximately **80,000 contacts** per year from patients who are looking to access urgent GP services in the out of hours period. On a standard week, the service is operational for **118 hours** and considerably longer for those weeks where there are public holidays.

90% of calls to the PCOOH service are referred by NHS 24, with the remainder being professional-to-professional calls from community nursing, the Scottish Ambulance Service, community pharmacy and community hospitals.

Over the last year, there has been a review of the working model with a significant expansion in the multi-disciplinary workforce. In turn, this has led to a service with much greater stability in being able to manage the demand and associated flow through the service as well as ensuring patients are able to access care by the right clinician in a timely manner. Advanced Nurse Practitioners, Nurse Practitioners, salaried GPs, Pharmacists, and Paramedics now comprise the clinical workforce with support from a dedicated administrative team. In March 2024, a Deputy Clinical Director was recruited to the service. **Two Specialist Palliative Care Nurses** have been introduced on Saturdays and Sundays from 8am to 4pm.

“All of the staff involved – NHS 24, receptionist, nurse and doctor were very pleasant and professional... I really appreciated the care and support given by everyone.”

Feedback from patient attending PCOOH.

- Innovative work in communities continues to support people to live well for longer at home. This is an important and growing part of health and care delivery. One vital element is the community expertise and compassion allowing more people to exercise their choice of being able to die in their own homes when they wish to do so. As part of our winter messaging, <https://bit.ly/an-enhanced-feature> on Lanarkshire’s award winning, end of life community nursing service (led by South Lanarkshire University HSCP) was published.
- **The dedicated Community Nursing team in Lanarkshire** ensures end-of-life needs are fully recognised and provides a comprehensive, consistent and compassionate care strategy. The team is available around the clock, with direct telephone access for families to contact outside of planned visits to seek advice or request additional support.

Optimising intermediate care

- **The intermediate care element of the Blantyre Life Care Campus** opened in March 2023 and has the capacity to support 20 people at any one time. The facility offers step-down support for South Lanarkshire residents aged 50 and over. Patients who have been assessed as clinically fit for discharge and no longer require in-patient treatment and have rehabilitation potential, can be admitted to the Intermediate Care unit for a maximum of **42 days**. The average length of stay for service users over past year is **27 days** which is a significant improvement from the previous test of change and temporary model which averaged **44 days**. The service is exceeding the initial flow target of 42 days and therefore has the potential to manage an increase volume of people. It is contributing to reducing pressure on in-patient services within the NHS. **90% of people** surveyed on the service rated it as **excellent/very good**.



Of those who used the service half returned home without care which reinforces the importance of people being discharged from hospital to be assessed.

Similar to intermediate care the **Home First Care at Home Service** was launched in 2022. The service aims to ensure people return home without delay, safely and supported. It does this by working with service users leaving hospital or living in the community and improves individual outcomes through rehabilitation and re-ablement interventions. The integrated multi-disciplinary teams consist of occupational therapists, physiotherapists and care at home staff working together to maximise independence, thereby reducing reliance on statutory services. Work to date shows that approximately **35% of the hours** initially assessed when in hospital are no longer required at the end of the 'Home First' phase of the person's care exceeding the **25% target**.

"I would like to commend the work of my uncle's carer. He is outstanding in his care and dealings with my uncle. Nothing is a bother and never wavers in his care. Words cannot express the character of such a carer. We cannot thank him enough for all he does."

Feedback from relative.



Case Study

Blantyre Life (finalist in the Scottish Property Awards – Health Care Development of the Year)

After moving into the technology-enabled community at the Blantyre Life care campus, Ann said she has been "brought back to life." The former foster carer and psychiatric nurse said her life was taken to the darkest of places over the last decade following shattering personal adversity. Blantyre Life housing and care campus champions the 'home first' principle, with an emphasis on enabling more people to live as independently as possible within their own homes. It combines a 20-bedded intermediate care facility and 20 new technology-enabled properties – of which Ann is a community member. All homes are equipped with state-of-the-art technology to support independent living. The tech-enabled houses are designed to be fully accessible, making it easy for Ann to move around.

“ The facility is fantastic in itself and has enabled me to regain a sense of being able to do things for myself again. That, in turn, has alleviated a lot of pressure and worry from my sister, Mary, who has helped care for me. It has felt like ‘a new lease of life’ – but in a very gradual sense. I’ve slowly started to reconnect with people through the many activities here, from the Yoga classes to the recent visit of school children who came to sing Christmas carols for us. The facility is, of course, incredible – and while it feels wrong to say it’s just ‘bricks and mortar,’ without the health and social care staff, it would be. They are phenomenal. They are this place’s beating heart – and they’ll always have a place in mine. ”

Promoting early intervention, prevention and health improvement

Physical Activity Prescriptions

South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture

received **3741 referrals** for Physical Activity Prescriptions across the partnership area. Reasons for referral include mental health, general fitness, weight management, pain management, Musculoskeletal and falls. Gerry was referred to the gym by his GP through the Physical Activity Prescription pathway as he has peripheral neuropathy – which is essentially chronic nerve damage in his arms and legs. This causes severe pain and mobility issues with Gerry relying on a mobility scooter for day-to-day activities.

Gerry was hesitant at first as his mobility was so poor he didn't think there were any exercises he would be able to do. However, staff introduced him to Motomed which allowed him to work his arm and legs.

Gerry said,

“I keep telling anyone who will listen how good Motomed is and the staff at Eastfield create such a warm and welcoming atmosphere. I never thought going to the gym would be the highlight of my day!”

Telehealth and telecare

There is a growing range of telehealth and telecare options which people can access. The following case study provides an insight to some of the real benefits to people who use them in terms of service and convenience whilst at the same time, offering transformational and sustainable options in service delivery which the partnership will continue to promote.



Case Study

Connect Me

Zoe has two young children, works full time and has a busy life. She has high cholesterol and blood pressure and was asked to visit the GP practice regularly, however struggled to fit these visits into her already busy schedule. She was often stressed when her blood pressure was being measured which resulted in inaccurate blood pressure readings. The practice nurse suggested remote health monitoring to allow Zoe to measure her blood pressure from home and at a time of her choosing. The Florence text messaging system enabled Zoe to self-manage her own health. Her high blood pressure is now under control and Zoe states she is in great health.

“ When I discovered I had high blood pressure, it was concerning. Being offered the use of Florence was a brilliant alternative – and I think the hassle free-nature of it, without having to commute and take time out of a busy day, probably gave a truer reflection of my day-to-day readings. ”

Technology Enabled Care

Lanarkshire's Technology Enabled Care (TEC) team

continues to provide an integrated approach to sustaining people to live independently at home and within their community. Demand for assistive technology has continued to increase during 2023/2024 with **24% of hospital discharge requests** supported through the Home First pathway and telecare installations taking place within 24 hours of the request being approved.

The transition of alert alarms from analogue to digital continues to make good progress with **6580 digital alert alarms** installed during 2023/24. A priority focus is sustainability with the team having a target to identify **70 alarms** per month that can be recycled and reused. To date **965 digital alert alarms** have been returned/uplifted and reused **saving £156,330** on the cost of replacing these alarms as well as the associated environmental benefits.

Supporting carers

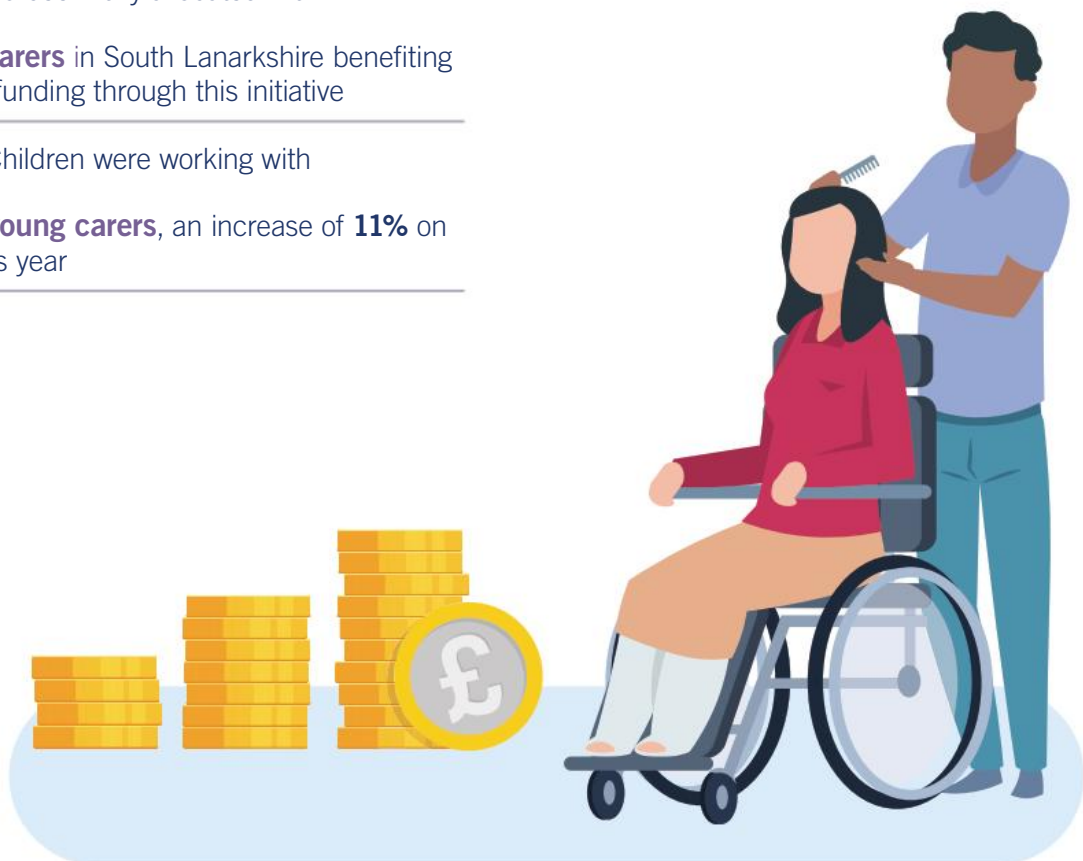
The carers' commissioned services from **Lanarkshire Carers (Adult Carers) and Action for Children (Young Carers)** continue to support increased numbers of carers/young carers in the community. For 2023/2024, Lanarkshire Carers reported the following:

- **1,398** new carers identified in South Lanarkshire, an increase of **26%** on the previous year
- **1,161** adult carer support plans progressed
- **3,533** carers engaged and were supported
- **6,825** total carers known to Lanarkshire Carers
- Creative Breaks Time to Live funding for 2023/24 has been fully allocated with **361** carers in South Lanarkshire benefiting from grant funding through this initiative
- Action for Children were working with **202** young carers, an increase of **11%** on the previous year

A renewed Carers Strategy 2023-2026 <https://bit.ly/Carers-Strategy-2023-2026> was published alongside a strategy on a page.

A partnership statement was developed with Lanarkshire Carers, ensuring all services are open to carers aged 18 years and older living in South Lanarkshire. Delegated responsibility to lead on the provision of Adult Carer Support Plans in specific circumstances is included in the Statement. Every carer has a right to be offered an Adult Carer Support Plan and this partnership statement sets out local arrangements and responsibilities to meet this duty. <https://bit.ly/Partnership-Statement>

Lanarkshire Carers gained the Carer Positive Award (at exemplary level) which is presented to employers in Scotland who can demonstrate that they have a working environment where carers feel valued and supported.



10. Looking to the future

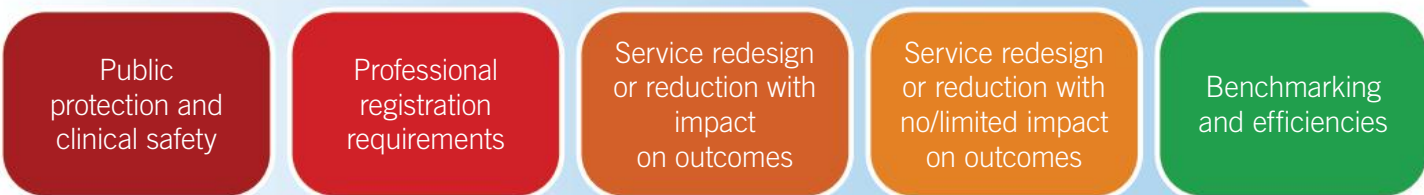
Supporting the delivery of core and statutory duties

To support the delivery of core and statutory functions while securing financial sustainability a Sustainability and Value Programme (SAVP) approach was endorsed by the IJB on 28 March 2023. This included the SAVP Option Appraisal Screening Scale, designed to ensure that potential savings options are appraised, prioritised and then presented to the IJB for consideration in a manner consistent with statutory obligations and professional requirements. The demand across statutory responsibilities has increased over recent years.


The screening scale reflects the advice of the HSCP’s Medical Director, Nurse Director, Allied Health Professions Director and the SLC Chief Social Work Officer and illustrates our commitment to protect the most vulnerable people in South Lanarkshire. We can provide three key assurances to people across South Lanarkshire.

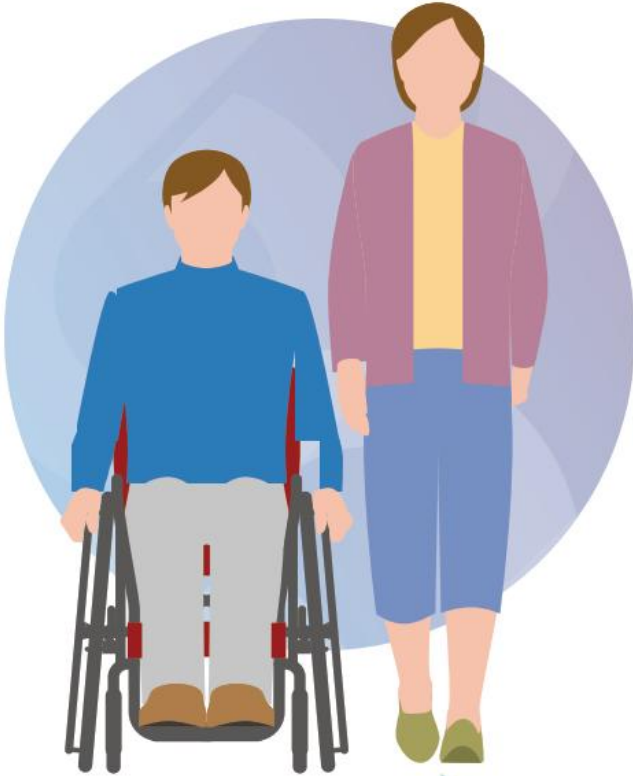
- The first focus of our staff is to keep people safe.
- Public protection and clinical safety will be prioritised as will the professional registration requirements for our staff.
- Where significant transformational change does need to occur, the IJB and HSCP will engage with the relevant stakeholders in line with statutory obligations

Sustainability and value option appraisal screening scale



As highlighted throughout this report, positive work is being taken forward to deliver the intentions set out in the IJB Strategic Commissioning Plan. It is the intention of the IJB to continue to pursue its ambitions as set out on the Strategic Commissioning Plan on a Page in such a manner that recognises the realities of the environment within which it continues to operate, makes best use of the resources available to it and uses evidence and learning to improve provision wherever possible.

Our plan on a page provides a clear summary (opposite). 



Plan on a page

Vision:

Working together to improve health and wellbeing in the community – with the community

Values:

Empathy

Empower

Elevate



<https://vimeo.com/689689109/cb5228bd69>

Context:

- Changing needs of the population
- Meeting the needs of all our communities fairly and equally
- Applying evidence of what works
- Best use of the public pound
- Feedback from our communities – what is important to people

Our priorities

Priority 1: Sustaining statutory social care and core health care functions

Priority 2: Greater emphasis on early intervention, prevention and inequalities

Priority 3: Addressing mental health and addictions

Priority 4: Improving unscheduled care and optimising intermediate care

Priority 5: Supporting carers

Priority 6: Promoting self-care and self-management including technology enabled care

Priority 7: Improving transitional arrangements

Priority 8: Facilitating single point of access and increasing access to seven-day services

Priority 9: Investing in enablers to support integration

Priority 10: Promoting suitable and sustainable housing

Priority 11: Contributing to homelessness prevention and reduction

Priority 12: Responding to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic



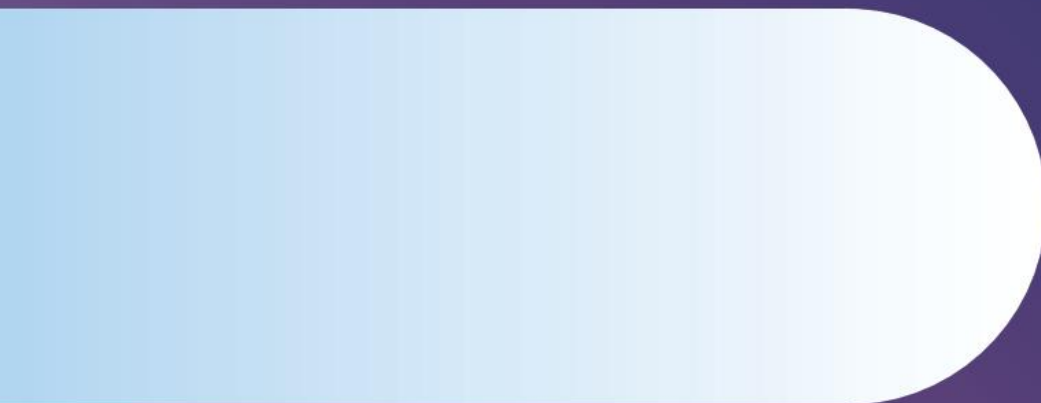
<https://vimeo.com/739607180>

Key enablers

- Evidence
- Innovation
- Learning
- Partnerships
- Technology
- Leadership
- Our staff
- Our communities
- Our commitment



South Lanarkshire
 University
 Health and Social Care
 Partnership



If you need this information in another language or format, please contact us to discuss how we can best meet your needs.

Phone: 0303 123 1015

Email: equalities@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Community Planning Partnership Board Executive Summary

Date of Meeting:	4 December 2024
Subject:	Community Learning and Development - Outcomes of His Majesty's Inspectors of Education (HMIE) Progress Visit
Report by:	Executive Director (Education Resources), South Lanarkshire Council
Contact for Further Information:	Lianne Grieve, Youth, Family and Community Learning Service Manager, South Lanarkshire Council Tel: 01698 454466 Email: Lianne.Grieve@southlanarkshire.gov.uk
Purpose of the Report:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ advise the Partnership Board of the outcomes of the Community Learning and Development Progress visit by His Majesty's Inspectors of Education (HMIE), which took place in May 2024
Community Planning Delivery Partners:	All partners
Key Recommendations/Decisions/Action Required from Partners:	<p>The Board is asked to approve the following recommendations:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) that the nature of the inspection activity that took place be noted; and (2) that the findings from the Progress Visit be noted.
Risks/Challenges:	There are no risks or challenges associated with this report.
Links to Community Plan Ambitions/Principles:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Ambition 1 - we will invest in people by finding ways to share power and resources. ◆ Ambition 2 - we will make progress by investing in learning together and how we can do things better. ◆ Ambition 3 - we will invest in our planet by putting local areas at the centre of our work. ◆ Principles: Added Value and Continuous Improvement; Communication and Empowerment; and Embracing Change.
Summary of Report:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Details of the inspection activity carried out during the Community Learning and Development Progress visit by HMIE in May 2024 and the findings presented in the report published on 2 July 2024.

Report

Report to:	Partnership Board
Date of Meeting:	4 December 2024
Report by:	Executive Director (Education Resources), South Lanarkshire Council

Subject:	Community Learning and Development - Outcomes of His Majesty's Inspectors of Education (HMIE) Progress Visit
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ advise the Partnership Board of the outcomes of the Community Learning and Development Progress visit by His Majesty's Inspectors of Education (HMIE), which took place in May 2024

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Partnership Board is asked to approve the following recommendations:-

- (1) that the nature of the inspection activity that took place be noted; and
- (2) that the findings from the Progress Visit be noted.

3. Background

3.1. The Youth, Family and Community Learning (YFCL) Service is subject to external scrutiny by HMIE with regards to The Requirements for Community Learning and Development (Scotland) Regulations 2013 and the Community Learning and Development (CLD) Strategic Guidance for Community Planning Partnerships: Community Learning and Development:-

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2013/175/contents/made>

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/strategic-guidance-community-planning-partnerships-community-learning-development/>

3.2. In May 2024, an HMIE Education Scotland Community Learning and Development Inspection (Progress visit) took place in South Lanarkshire. The YFCL Service led the organisation of the inspection. This was a Partnership inspection, and the timetable developed for the Inspection Team and self-evaluation reflected the work of the wider Community Learning and Development Partnership.

4. Inspection Activity

4.1. During the visit, HMIE Inspectors analysed South Lanarkshire's CLD Plan and:-

- ◆ used selected quality indicator themes from the 'How good is our Community Learning and Development 4?' Framework
- ◆ undertook an evaluation of outcomes for learners and other key data relating to CLD for which the council and its publicly funded partners have responsibility

4.2. The inspection focused on the following questions:-

- ◆ how effective is the leadership of the local authority and their CLD partners in improving outcomes?
- ◆ how well does the performance of the local authority and their CLD partners demonstrate positive impact?

4.3. During the visit, HM Inspectors spoke with CPP partners, learners and community representatives, CLD leaders, managers, staff and volunteers and other key stakeholders.

5. Findings

5.1. The Progress visit is different from a full inspection and is not graded using the typical 1 to 6 grading system, but is graded in a 3-tier system, with 1A being the highest possible award. The South Lanarkshire Progress visit was graded a 1A, with good practice identified to share at national level from the Regen:FX 'GIVIT Youth Recovery Service', as well as good practice in child protection and safeguarding procedures.

5.2. In addition, a range of highly effective practice was identified throughout the visit, and the report is overwhelmingly positive.

5.3. The main high-level messages coming through were that:-

- ◆ governance is clear and effective
- ◆ there are clear links from the CLD Plan to the Community Plan
- ◆ the YFCL Service together with the CLD Partnership, lead effectively on the development of the CLD Plan
- ◆ there are strong links from the CLD Partnership to the Community Planning Partnership
- ◆ leadership is strong at all levels
- ◆ partners work together effectively and respect each other's roles and contribution to shared strategic objectives
- ◆ staff and volunteers are committed, passionate and focused on making improvements to the lives of individuals and communities
- ◆ CLD is highly valued by senior leaders
- ◆ young people are supported well by CLD staff to influence change and engage regularly and confidently with senior officers and elected members
- ◆ highly effective partnership working and targeting of resources
- ◆ effective and clear intentions and aims from our Locality Action Planning Group;
- ◆ high quality provision highlighted
- ◆ staff at all levels are well-supported, encouraged and trusted to lead. Their voices are heard and valued
- ◆ workforce feels valued and respected
- ◆ Community Planning Neighbourhood Plans show strong community voice
- ◆ staff and partners have strong awareness of need and use and share various types of data to determine need and impact
- ◆ there is a strong clear focus on supporting those most in need

5.4. Inspectors validated the service's self-evaluation and noted 'highly effective partnership working' and a 'mature and well-established partnership'.

5.5. Areas for improvement will be progressed by the CLD Partnership in the refresh of the 3-year CLD Partnership Plan and include:-

- ◆ improved governance of the CLD plan at a local level
- ◆ support for the Locality Action Planning Groups (LAPGs) to develop at an appropriate pace, to be enabled to share effective practice, to have deeper involvement in data analysis and to further strengthen their connection to the CLD Partnership
- ◆ continued joint and more routine interrogation of performance data by senior leaders to inform and drive improvement.

5.6. The full report can be found at: <https://education.gov.scot/inspection-and-review/find-an-inspection-report/find-an-inspection-report/details?id=5313>.

6. Employee Implications

6.1. There are no employee implications associated with this report.

7. Financial Implications

7.1. There are no financial implications associated with this report.

8. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

8.1. There are no implications for climate change, sustainability, or the environment in terms of the information contained in this report.

9. Other Implications

9.1. There are no issues in terms of risk associated with this report.

10. Integrated Impact Assessment and Consultation Requirements

10.1. There are no Equality Impact Assessment or Consultation implications associated with this report.

Carole McKenzie
Executive Director (Education Resources)
South Lanarkshire Council

13 November 2024

Contact for Further Information

If you would like further information, please contact:-

Lianne Grieve, Youth, Family and Community Learning Service Manager, South Lanarkshire Council
Tel: 01698 454466
Email: lianne.grieve@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Community Planning Partnership Board Executive Summary

Date of Meeting:	4 December 2024
Subject:	Independent Review of Community Learning and Development
Report by:	Executive Director (Education Resources), South Lanarkshire Council
Contact for Further Information:	Lianne Grieve, Youth, Family and Community Learning Service Manager, South Lanarkshire Council Tel: 01698 454466 Email: Lianne.Grieve@southlanarkshire.gov.uk
Purpose of the Report:	♦ to provide the Partnership Board with a summary of the key findings and recommendations made in Learning: For All. For Life. A report from the independent Review of Community Learning and Development (CLD).
Community Planning Delivery Partners:	All partners
Key Recommendations/ Decisions/Action Required from Partners:	The Board is asked to approve the following recommendations: - (1) that the content of the report be noted; and (2) that it be noted that following the Scottish Government's consideration of the findings and recommendations, further developments and actions will be reported to the Board and progressed through the CLD Partnership.
Risks/Challenges:	There are no risks or challenges associated with this report.
Links to Community Plan Ambitions/Principles:	♦ Ambition 1 - we will invest in people by finding ways to share power and resources. ♦ Ambition 2 - we will make progress by investing in learning together and how we can do things better. ♦ Ambition 3 - we will invest in our planet by putting local areas at the centre of our work. ♦ Principles: Added Value and Continuous Improvement; Communication and Empowerment; and Embracing Change.
Summary of Report:	♦ Following the review of CLD in December 2023, which was commissioned by the Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Veterans, this report provides a summary of the key findings and recommendations made in Learning: For All. For Life. A report from the Independent Review of Community Learning and Development.

Report

Report to:	Partnership Board
Date of Meeting:	4 December 2024
Report by:	Executive Director (Education Resources), South Lanarkshire Council

Subject:	Independent Review of Community Learning and Development
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ provide the Partnership Board with a summary of the key findings and recommendations made in Learning: For All. For Life. A report from the Independent Review of Community Learning and Development

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Partnership Board is asked to approve the following recommendations:-

- (1) that the content of the report be noted; and
- (2) that it be noted that following the Scottish Government's consideration of the findings and recommendations, further developments and actions will be reported to the Board and progressed through the Community Learning and Development Partnership.

3. Background

3.1. The Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Veterans commissioned a review of Community Learning and Development (CLD) in December 2023, the impetus being the wider reform of education being driven by the Scottish Government.

3.2. CLD has been acknowledged as a positive contributory factor in recent reports and reviews on career advice, education, qualifications and skills. Professor Ken Muir, in his comprehensive review of Scottish Education 'Putting Learners at the Centre: Towards a Future Vision for Scottish Education' (<https://www.gov.scot/publications/putting-learners-centre-towards-future-vision-scottish-education/>) recommended continued support for the CLD Standards Council.

3.3. James Withers, when reviewing the post-school learning system, highlighted the benefits that CLD brings to lifelong learning for young people and adults through his report 'Fit for the Future: developing a post-school learning system to fuel economic transformation' (<https://www.gov.scot/publications/fit-future-developing-post-school-learning-system-fuel-economic-transformation/>).

3.4. Louise Hayward's 'It's Our Future – Independent Review of Qualifications and Assessment: report' (<https://www.gov.scot/publications/future-report-independent->

[review-qualifications-assessment/](#)) stressed the importance of a personal pathway that takes into account broader learner interests, including recognising the contribution and value of community activities. A focussed review of CLD was undertaken to ensure that consideration was given to the role that CLD played in an integrated lifelong learning system and how the sector contributes to:

‘ensure that people, at every stage in life, have the opportunity and means to develop the skills, knowledge, values and attributes to fulfil their potential and make a meaningful contribution to society’ (<https://www.gov.scot/publications/post-school-education-research-skills-purpose-principles/>)

- 3.5. The Scottish Government review of CLD, titled ‘Learning: For All. For Life. A report from the Independent Review of Community Learning and Development’ (<https://www.gov.scot/publications/learning-life-report-independent-review-community-learning-development-cld/>) was published in July 2024, authored by Kate Still. In carrying out the review, it engaged with a range of stakeholders across Scotland, including CLD staff members (front line and in management positions, from Local Authorities as well as Third Sector), volunteers, national CLD working groups, partner organisations and learners from across different age groups.

4. Terms of Reference

- 4.1. The scope of the review was to provide specific recommendations on:-

1. effective and consistently measured outcomes delivered through CLD and reported across the sector. This includes data on the CLD workforce, engagement opportunities and outcomes for learners
2. delivering positive outcomes and improved life chances for marginalised and vulnerable learners in communities, in the context of wider education reform and public finance constraints
3. a strong and suitably professionalised CLD workforce equipped to deliver high quality outcomes for learners

- 4.2. At an early stage of the review, it was acknowledged that it was impossible to separate ‘learning’ from ‘development’. Stakeholders, including practitioners and learners, repeatedly reinforced that a failure to include the community development and empowerment element of CLD would produce a fragmented picture as each part mutually reinforces the other.

‘...there was an almost universal understanding of CLD as much broader than learning new technical skills or brushing up on existing skills as part of a pathway to a recognised qualification or employability (important as that is).’ (Learning: For All. For Life. A report from the Independent Review of Community Learning and Development (CLD) - page 11).

5. Key Messages

- 5.1. The following excerpts have been extracted directly from the report and themed:-

5.2. Understanding the impact and reach of CLD work

- ◆ The evidence gathered throughout this review is clear – CLD is valued by learners and it works!
- ◆ This ‘preventative’ element to what CLD delivers is very much in line with the change recommended more than a decade ago by the Christie Commission
- ◆ In a period when budgets are under severe pressure, and in a wider policy environment which demands well-defined, measurable outcomes to show value

for money, the extent of time required, the intensity of engagement, and the unpredictability of what some might describe as ‘fuzzy’ outcomes, may lead some to consider CLD provision as an add-on or expensive. Everything I have seen and heard throughout this review reinforces my view that this is a wrong-headed assessment. Extensive evidence – some set out below and more in the annexed evidence and literature summaries – shows that CLD provides a positive return on investment in the medium to longer term by developing critical thinking, personal and social skills, widening access to lifelong educational attainment and employment prospects; improving people’s health and well-being; and encouraging active citizenship and participatory democracy.

- ◆ The CLD approach supports a whole range of Scottish Government policy objectives, including in relation to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and contributes to delivering outcomes across the National Performance Framework. Indeed, the proposed revised National Outcomes, where the Education Outcome will emphasise the significance of all forms of learning, throughout life, would suggest an even greater role for CLD
- ◆ Evidence from my engagement across the country shows that CLD is critically important in supporting those facing or recovering from mental ill-health and issues such as anxiety and self-harm; for improving self-confidence and sense of identity; tackling loneliness and social isolation; making friends and having fun; fostering community safety and cultural cohesion, building capacity and confidence; encouraging greater civic engagement and participation, equipping people to engage with services, such as health and welfare, including supporting people by providing them with the necessary digital skills to avoid them being excluded in a world where online access is becoming the norm.
- ◆ Any aspiration for Scotland to become a true Lifelong Learning nation needs to understand the critical role that CLD plays at all life stages
- ◆ The evidence presented in this report, together with that set out in the accompanying Evidence Report and Literature Review, demonstrates how CLD can be highly effective in helping some of Scotland’s most vulnerable and disadvantaged people to identify and address many of the barriers they face in their day-to-day lives, often at an early enough stage to prevent those barriers growing in scale or number. By doing so, CLD is making a critical contribution in meeting those challenges at a wider, societal level
- ◆ Whereas the role of CLD/Youth Work in helping to drive-up attainment amongst disadvantaged groups has been recognised and built into the Scottish Attainment Challenge (SAC) to some extent, it is arguable that its value in reaching those young people for whom the traditional school learning experience is not a good fit remains under-appreciated, and, therefore, under-resourced. Similarly, the role-modelling and engagement shown by parents and grandparents undertaking Adult or Family Learning activities, particularly when their experience of the more formal school environment may not have been a positive one, can have a significant positive impact on children and young people.

5.3. Finance

- ◆ The amount of public money to be spent each year to support learning in schools (approximately £7 billion), Colleges (more than £600 million), Universities (£1 billion) and support for students in Higher Education (£1.5 billion) each dwarf the amount spent by local authorities on CLD learning (approximately £100 million).
- ◆ More than £10 billion of public investment in education and skills will be made this year. CLD spend totals to about 1% of that amount. Given the scale of the challenges set out above, my recommendations include a call for an urgent and

overdue reassessment of the current balance of spending across all dimensions of learning in Scotland.

- ◆ Given the contribution that CLD is making towards delivering wider positive outcomes, there also needs to be a fresh look at how other policy areas, such as Health or Social Work, contribute financially to supporting preventative CLD interventions. When asked why they accessed CLD Services, learners told me they wanted to learn new skills and languages; socialise and have fun, feel safe and be listened to, get involved in volunteering and community work, improve their mental health and well-being and improve their employment options. Learners want CLD to be accessible to all and free at the point of contact. Cost was noted as a significant barrier particularly for young people, those with disabilities and those living in rural areas. The provision of food and subsistence, childcare and device connectivity have enabled access.
- ◆ One of the biggest and most-often heard challenges for learners to access learning was a structural barrier related to a lack of suitable public transport options. It may strike some as an obvious barrier to learning for those living in Scotland's rural and island communities but come as more of a surprise to learn that it was also regularly flagged as an issue for those living in urban areas. Cost, frequency and reliability are issues affecting many learners and potential learners across the country but for me it underlines the importance of trying to keep the CLD offer as local as possible.
- ◆ I would ask that full consideration is given to the needs of those with child-care (or other caring responsibilities) when Local Authorities are developing and implementing their CLD Plans. When asked what could improve their CLD experience many learners cited the need for a greater range of provision at no or low cost and access to welcoming and safe local community-based spaces.
- ◆ There is an urgent need to reconsider the current weight of funding to ensure CLD learning receives the resource it requires to deliver the positive outcomes we know it can. Whilst recognising how important wider Youth Work activity is in drawing young people into an environment where more tailored learning can be agreed (and the same can be said for Adult Learning), a good first step would be to encourage greater use of Scottish Attainment Challenge/Pupil Equity Fund (SAC/PEF) funding to provide dedicated and professional Youth Work support in our secondary schools.

5.4. **Visibility**

- ◆ When is a professional not a professional? Notwithstanding the similar professional qualification requirements, there would appear to be no parity of esteem between CLD professionals and teachers or social workers. It's difficult to know why that is the case, but it does significantly underplay the skills and professional attributes required to be an effective paid CLD worker. It may simply reflect the relative lack of visibility and awareness of what CLD actually is and delivers. It's something that needs to be addressed.

5.5. **English Speakers of other languages (ESOL Crisis)**

- ◆ ESOL is a particular concern for me. While I have seen for myself some of the life-changing work providing English language training for our New Scots, it has been clear from the very start of this review that there is an ESOL crisis.
- ◆ There needs to be a better balance between formal, structured and accredited opportunities and more informal, day-to-day focused practical learning. The 2022 Adult Learning Strategy promised a review of the previous ESOL Strategy, and stakeholders have told me of their disappointment that this has not happened. I don't think there is time to wait for that to happen. ESOL needs action without delay. During the review, I learned about the approaches taken by other countries in the support, including language assessment and

training, offered to immigrants on their arrival to their new home country. I would encourage the Scottish Government and its New Scots partners to look closely at systems operated in countries like Finland or Sweden and to look to design a similar approach for Scotland.

5.6. **Outcomes/Data**

- ◆ The CLD approach takes time. It's learner-driven. It can be non-linear. It may not always be learning for a specific 'purpose'. That doesn't mean progress is not being made or that lives are not being transformed as a result. It just makes it trickier to be able to demonstrate that concisely and comparably. Hearing direct from those whose lives have been transformed (or even saved) through CLD can really help. It needs to be backed, however, by better and more comparable data across the board, including clarity on inputs like spend and staff resource, and on outcomes and impact delivered. The entire CLD sector needs to get better at broadcasting its successes. As one practitioner put it to me: "CLD is the invisible glue that holds so many of our communities together."
- ◆ We need to be clearer on what it is that CLD is setting out to deliver and get better in gathering the data to show if expected outcomes are indeed being delivered. In short, there's an urgent need for an overall CLD shared outcomes and measurement framework. This doesn't need to be built from scratch, with the existing National Youth Work Outcomes and Skills Framework and the Key Performance Indicator (KPI) data collected by CLD Managers Scotland providing a very good starting point for a national CLD framework that can be adapted to include adult and family learning.

6. **Recommendations from the report**

- 6.1. The report outlines in detail 'Where do we want to be'? and 'How do we get to where we want to go' including timelines, as well as a total of 12 recommendations aligned to 6 themes (please see Appendix 1 for full details):-
- ◆ Leadership and structures
 - ◆ Overarching policy narrative
 - ◆ Focus on Delivery
 - ◆ Budgets and Funding
 - ◆ Developing the Workforce and Standards
 - ◆ Demonstrating Impact

7. **Next steps**

- 7.1. National CLD working groups within the sector such as CLDMS (CLD Managers Scotland), YouthLink Scotland and others have begun discussions about the implications of the review for the CLD Sector, and if the recommendations are adopted by Scottish Government, how they will best contribute towards this process.
- 7.2. Any further action required at a local authority level that is within the scope of, or actionable will be progressed through the CLD Partnership and reported to the Education Resources Committee and the CPP Board.

8. **Employee Implications**

- 8.1. There are no employee implications associated with this report.

9. **Financial Implications**

- 9.1. There are no financial implications associated with this report.

10. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

10.1. There are no implications for climate change, sustainability, or the environment in terms of information contained in this report.

11. Other Implications

11.1 There are no issues in terms of risk associated with this report.

12. Integrated Impact Assessment and Consultation Requirements

12.1. There are no Equality Impact Assessment or Consultation implications associated with this report.

Carole McKenzie

Executive Director (Education Resources)

South Lanarkshire Council

13 November 2024

Lianne Grieve, Youth, Family and Community Learning Service Manager, South Lanarkshire Council

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Recommendations from Learning: For All. For Life.
A report from the Independent Review of Community Learning and Development

1. Leadership and Structures

The sense of fragmentation, inconsistency, drift and decline needs to be addressed urgently. In my view there is a requirement for sustained strategic leadership, working to set out and deliver a clear, learner-centred, vision of what CLD is expected to do to provide the best outcomes for Scotland's communities and the individuals who make them up.

Recommendation 1.1

- By Autumn 2024, the Scottish Government and CoSLA should establish a joint CLD Strategic Leadership Group (SLG);
- To meet quarterly as a minimum;
- Alternately chaired by lead Scottish Government Minister and the designated CoSLA lead;
- Membership determined by Scottish Government and CoSLA, with all efforts made to ensure it covers the breadth of the CLD offer and establishes an associated Equalities Form;
- It should be an action-focused group;
- It should be required to meet with a cross-section of CLD learners at least once every year to hear their views directly from them; and
- A key goal for the group should be to consider how the structures emerging at the regional level, for example those relating to City and Region Growth Deals, could help in developing a more coordinated and integrated system of information/best practice sharing and decision-making for CLD planning and delivery.

Recommendation 1.2

- The work of the SLG should be supported by a working-level CLD Strategic Delivery Group (SDG);
- Meets more frequently than the Strategic Leadership Group and ensures actions are progressed in-between meetings of the Strategic Leadership Group;
- This should be a delivery focused group; and
- It should be required to meet with a cross-section of CLD learners at least twice every year to hear their views directly from them.

Recommendation 1.3

- CoSLA and the Scottish Government need to reconsider current arrangements supporting CLD policy and delivery;
- In order to support the work of the SLG and SDG;
- Improve internal coordination and join-up, including ensuring the community development element of CLD is fully integrated in the work of both groups; and
- In the spirit of the Verity House Agreement, full consideration should be given to the secretariat and support team for the groups being a joint Scottish Government/CoSLA one.

Recommendation 1.4

- CoSLA should initiate and lead a process to improve consistency in terms of where CLD is situated within Local Authority structures across all 32 Local Authorities.

Recommendation 1.5

- The CLD Standards Council should be supported to transition towards an independent status more akin to the General Teaching Council Scotland.

Recommendation 1.6

- Ministers should commit to providing regular reports to the Scottish Parliament about follow-up to this Review; and
- The aim should be for the first such report to reach the Parliament by end June 2025.

2. Overarching Policy Narrative

As I have highlighted throughout this report, there is a pressing need for the Scottish Government to take the findings from the many recent inter-related reviews in the education policy space, and to use them to synthesise a clear statement of what it wants in a true Life-long Learning system. This can be helpful in paving the way for a clearer statement of the role that the Scottish Government expects CLD to play within that system.

Recommendation 2.1

- The Scottish Government should develop and communicate a clear and cohesive policy narrative on Life-long Learning; and
- It should build upon the Purpose and Principles work for Post-School Education and Skills but should also cover learning at earlier stages in life and beyond Further and Higher Education.

Recommendation 2.2

- Informed by and consistent with the policy narrative recommended above, the Scottish Government should develop and communicate a clear Statement of Strategic Intent for CLD;
- Developed with input from the Strategic Leadership Group and informed by the evidence presented throughout this review;
- It should build upon strategic priorities across all dimensions of CLD (drawing on prior work relating to the Adult Learning Strategy, Youth Work Strategy, Community Development and the New Scots Strategy); and
- This should include a commitment to work towards delivering by the end of the next Parliament an entitlement to Adult Learning and Youth Work.

3. Focus on Delivery

There is much that needs to be done, but not all of it can be done at once. Nevertheless, it will be important to develop and set-out a plan which shows what steps will be taken, and when, to deliver the changes required to ensure CLD continues to deliver positive outcomes. ESOL needs to be a priority.

Recommendation 3.1

- By the end of 2024, the Strategic Leadership Group should agree and publish a detailed, prioritised and timed Delivery Plan, with the following key priorities. Developing a Routemap to amend the 2013 CLD Regulations in order to:
- Improve accountability and consistency by providing greater clarity on responsibilities across Local Authorities and Third Sector delivery partners;
- Include a requirement for local CLD Plans to be informed and monitored by input received directly from learners;
- Set some minimum standards or requirements for CLD in Local Authorities e.g. % of education spend and/or ratio of staff to population;
- Early identification of key actions required to deliver on strategic priorities across all dimensions of CLD, including community development, to deliver positive outcomes for learners;
- The approach to be followed for the Strategic Leadership Group and Strategic Delivery Group to hear regularly and directly from learners, and from front-line practitioners, about their experiences to inform strategic decision-making and delivery plans;
- Developing a cost-effective plan to publicise and raise general awareness of CLD and the learning offer, together with the positive outcomes it delivers; and
- Considering ways to encourage wider interest in CLD across the Scottish Parliament e.g. supporting a cross-party group of CLD.

Recommendation 3.2

The Scottish Government working alongside New Scots partners, Colleges and Local Authorities needs to take immediate action to tackle the current ESOL crisis, including:

- Reintroducing ring-fencing for ESOL funding provided by SFC to Colleges, at a level consistent with current and predicted demand;
- Using some of the funding provided to Colleges in 2024-25 to undertake a programme of urgent needs assessment for New Scots currently on ESOL waiting lists (or in the early stages of ESOL learning), and potentially sourcing a self-assessment online test to assist in tackling the backlog;
- Work with existing voluntary ESOL providers and CLD Standards Council to develop a delivery model for new migrants to become equipped with basic, practical knowledge of the English language, related to everyday activities. This could potentially use volunteers and mentors from established New Scots from within existing networks already in communities;
- The Scottish Government, working with its New Scots partners, should look closely at systems put in place by countries such as Finland or Sweden to help design an approach to providing support offered to New Scots, including language assessment and training;
- Scottish Government and ESOL partners working intensively with SDS and other relevant bodies should develop a better system for the early identification of New Scots with 'in demand' qualifications, skills and experience to provide tailored support to them being fast-tracked to work in their professional roles; and
- The CLD Strategic Leadership Group should be highlighting and sharing good practice of those employers offering or supporting ESOL learning for those with skills in high demand.

4 Budgets and Funding

I've been clear to learners, practitioners and stakeholders throughout this review about the need to be realistic about the likelihood of significant additional funding being injected into CLD in the short-term. Nevertheless, it will be important to consider what can be done now to address some of the long-standing budget and funding challenges across the sector.

Recommendation 4.1

- The Scottish Government should undertake an urgent and overdue reassessment of the current balance of spending across all dimensions of learning in Scotland;
- It should be informed by the overarching true Life-long Learning policy narrative recommended above;
- It should align with the recommendation that the Statement of Strategic Intent should include a commitment to an entitlement to Adult Learning (including ESOL) and Youth Work; and
- An early and helpful step would be to encourage greater use of SAC/PEF funding to provide dedicated and professional Youth Work support in our secondary schools.

Recommendation 4.2

- Consistent with the Verity House Agreement, the Scottish Government and CoSLA should work together to identify indicative allocations for Local Authority spend on CLD.

Recommendation 4.3

- Wherever possible, funding should be part of core budgets rather than project related. If this is not possible, then project funding should be provided over a multi-year period, with an explanation provided if that is not the case.

5 Developing the Workforce and Standards

The CLD professionals and volunteers, working with people facing the biggest challenges, deserve better recognition than they currently enjoy. For those who are qualified CLD professionals, there is a pressing need to ensure parity of esteem with similarly-qualified professionals in related fields. As Scotland's population continues to change, there is a need for the CLD workforce to change with it.

Recommendation 5.1

- The Scottish Government should appoint a Chief Adviser on Community Learning and Development; and
- To undertake a similar role to the Chief Social Work Adviser i.e. advising Ministers and policy teams with an interest in, or responsibility for, aspects of CLD services and practice.

Recommendation 5.2

- The CLD Standards Council should lead work to develop a CLD Workforce Plan for consideration by the Strategic Leadership Group. It should consider:
- Identifying a standardised approach to grading and job titles for those working in CLD roles, including across the wider voluntary sector;
- Developing a programme of outreach to encourage more people of colour to consider a career in CLD or to become volunteers (with a particular early emphasis on supporting community-based ESOL activities in line with the recommendation above);
- If budget can be found, putting in place a bursary scheme to support people of colour to train for careers in CLD;
- Reviewing existing routes to professional status in CLD, with a view to ensuring that the offer is fit for the future;

- Clarifying and, where possible, simplifying professional job roles and career paths;
- A role for the Standards Council in setting and monitoring minimum Continuous Professional Development (CPD) requirements for CLD professionals and volunteers; and
- Exploring the possibility of mutual learning exchanges being built into CPD requirements for CLD professionals, teachers and social workers.

Recommendation 5.3

- There should be a progressive requirement for all those working or volunteering in CLD roles to be members of the CLD Standards Council:
- With differing types of membership available to account for the continued importance of volunteers and to reflect the need to take prior experience into account.

Recommendation 5.4

- Consideration of HMIE CLD inspection report findings should be a standing item on the Strategic Leadership Group agenda.

6. Demonstrating Impact

If anyone, after reading this report, still harbours doubts about the life-changing nature of CLD, I would strongly encourage them to sit down and listen to the learners whose lives are changed for the better (or have been saved). Many of the practitioners I heard from accepted that CLD needs to get better at telling its stories and demonstrating impact. Collectively, we need to get better at recognising and celebrating what CLD does.

Recommendation 6.1

- The Scottish Government should fund Scotland's participation in the OECD International Survey of Adult Skills (PIAAC):
- Unless we know the scale of the challenge, we won't know where resources need to be directed.

Recommendation 6.2

- Existing outcome measures, including the Youth Work National Outcomes and Skills Framework and the CLD managers Scotland KPI data, should be used as the basis to develop a shared CLD Outcomes and Measurement Framework for use across the sector:
- This will require consideration of what data needs to be consistently gathered to show progress on delivering outcomes.

Recommendation 6.3

- There should be an annual celebration of CLD successes, in the shape of a CLD Annual Report and CLD Awards event:
- To recognise achievement from learners and performance from staff and volunteers; and
- This could potentially become part of an annual Celebrating Community Learning and Development Week.

Community Planning Partnership Board Executive Summary

Date of Meeting:	4 December 2024
Subject:	South Lanarkshire Employability Partnership: Employability Performance Report
Report by:	Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources), South Lanarkshire Council
Contact for Further Information:	Douglas Hashagen, Employability Manager, South Lanarkshire Council Tel: 0141 584 2915 Email: Douglas.hashagen@southlanarkshire.gov.uk
Purpose of the Report:	♦ to provide the Partnership Board with an update on the performance of South Lanarkshire Local Employability Partnership's programmes.
Community Planning Delivery Partners:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ South Lanarkshire Council ♦ Skills Development Scotland ♦ Department of Work and Pensions ♦ VASLan ♦ NHS Lanarkshire ♦ South Lanarkshire College
Key Recommendations/ Decisions/Action Required from Partners:	The Board is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):- (1) That the content of the report be noted.
Risks/Challenges:	The employability programmes set out in the report are predominantly funded by external sources including Scottish Government No-one Left Behind and UK Government Shared Prosperity Fund which are currently funded to March 2025.
Links to Community Plan Ambitions/Principles:	♦ All ambitions/principles
Summary of Report:	The report provides an overview of the South Lanarkshire Works employability programmes and senior phase work-based learning programmes.

Report

Report to:	Partnership Board
Date of Meeting:	4 December 2024
Report by:	Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources), South Lanarkshire Council

Subject:	South Lanarkshire Employability Partnership: Employability Performance Report
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ provide the Partnership Board with an update on the performance of South Lanarkshire Local Employability Partnership's programmes

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Partnership Board is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the content of the report be noted.

3. Background

3.1. South Lanarkshire Works, the Council's Employability Service, delivers and funds a range of programmes designed to develop the work readiness skills of people and support them to progress into sustainable employment. These programmes are developed, funded and delivered in partnership through the South Lanarkshire Local Employability Partnership which includes representation from:

- South Lanarkshire Council;
- Skills Development Scotland;
- NHS Lanarkshire;
- VASLan;
- Department of Work and Pensions; and
- Routes to Work South.

3.2. The employability programmes delivered via the partnership include:

- Keyworker based employability support delivered to key priority groups; and
- Learning/training and skills development provision which is delivered to meet the needs of people engaging with keyworker services.

3.3. South Lanarkshire Works also delivers a range of senior phase work-based learning programmes in partnership with the council's Education Resources and local colleges.

3.4. Case studies demonstrating the impact of the programme on individuals are included at Appendix 1 to the report.

4. **Keyworker-based Employability Services**

- 4.1. The keyworker-based employability services delivered and funded by South Lanarkshire Works are designed to meet the needs of key priority groups experiencing barriers to employment, by providing one-to-one support. All participants are supported by a named keyworker who supports them to develop and complete an individualised action plan, which includes access to a range of training and employability provision.
- 4.2. The keyworker-based services are predominantly funded externally from the Scottish Government's No-one Left Behind funding and UK Government Shared Prosperity Fund. These services, along with the learning and training provision, set out at section 6, are agreed with the South Lanarkshire Local Employability Partnership (SLLEP) and set out in an Annual Investment Plan (AIP) which is returned to the Scottish Government.
- 4.3. All programmes are delivered in line with the Scottish Government's Scottish Approach to Employability which includes:
- Dignity and respect, fairness, equality, and continuous improvement
 - Provides flexible and person-centred support
 - Is straightforward for people to navigate
 - Integrated and aligned with other services
 - Provides pathways into sustainable and fair work
 - Driven by evidence including data and the experience of users
 - Support more people to move into the right job at the right time

Table 1: Key Priority Groups and Services:-

Key Priority Group	Keyworker Service	Delivery Partner
Young people in the last 6 months of school	Aspire	South Lanarkshire Council (SLC)
Young people aged 16-19	AspireWorks	SLC
Adults with barriers to employment	Gateway to Employment	Routes to Work South
People with long term health barriers	Gateway (Intensive)	Routes to Work South
People with learning disabilities	Supported Employment	SLC
Parents from the following groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lone parents • Parents or children with a disability • Parents with 3 or more children • Parents from a minority ethnic background • Parents with a youngest child under 1 • Families with a parent under 25 years 	Supporting Families Aim to Achieve/Upskilling Making it Work	SLC SLC Routes to Work South

5. Employability Learning and Training Provision

- 5.1. All participants engaging on a keyworker-based programme have access to a range of provision. This provision may include activity funded by the South Lanarkshire Works including activity delivered by keyworker services and training or learning activity delivered on a procured basis by local partners. Provision can also include health and wellbeing supports, training allowances and access to waged training programmes.
- 5.2. The SLLEP's operational sub-group meets regularly to identify emerging needs and agree provision to be funded as part of the Annual Investment Plan. In 2024/25 provision has included:

Table 2: Employability Learning and Training Provision 2024/2025:-

Programme	Description	Provider
Volunteering for Employability	VASLAN programme matches employability participants to volunteering opportunities with local third sector organisations	VASLAN
Rural Academy	Training and learning opportunities based in Clydesdale delivered by South Lanarkshire College	South Lanarkshire College
Rise, Reach and Impact	Employability groupwork programmes targeted at young people engaging with Aspire and AspireWorks	Routes to Work South
Winter/summer leaver programmes	College based learning to support young people in their last 6 months of school	South Lanarkshire College New College Lanarkshire
QTS Rail Academy	Rail sector-based training programme linked to the East Kilbride Enhancements Project	QTS/Routes to Work South
Hospitality Academy	Hospitality training programme delivered in partnership with Macdonald Crutherland Hotel	Skills Training Network
Vocational tasters/ Sector Training	Procured programmes to support participants to complete introductory training in sectors on a demand-led basis. Provision has included construction, hair and barbering and Social Care, HGV	Various procured providers Routes to Work South
Work tasters and placements	Employability participants can access work placements as part of their action plan and training allowances of £25 per day are available to support engagement	SLC/Local Employers
Project Search	This programme supports young people with learning disabilities to take part in a programme of work placements, employability support and training delivered at University Hospital Hairmyres in partnership	SLC/Project Search

	with NHS Lanarkshire and New College Lanarkshire and ISS	
NHS and SLC Demonstrator	The programme provides 6 month waged part-time work placements to parental employability participants. Placements are based within NHS Lanarkshire, SLC Facilities Services, ISS and the State Hospital Carstairs	SLC/NHS Lanarkshire and ISS
Employer Recruitment Incentives	Funding is available to support SMEs creating additional Fair Work vacancies to support employability participants into employment	SLC

5.3. Connect2 Renewables Employability Initiative provides enhanced support to complement the range of programmes offered. OnPath Energy provides the Community Benefit funding for Connect 2 Renewables and is available to participants that reside 10km from either Kype Muir Windfarm in Strathaven or Middle Muir Windfarm in Crawfordjohn. Support provided includes Employer Recruitment Incentives, Into Work Grants, Further Education Grants and Training. 385 participants (121 Middle Muir and 264 Kype Muir) have been supported by the fund in 2023/24.

6. Employability Programme Performance

6.1. In 2023/24 the council's employability programmes supported 2,257 people from the key priority groups identified above. 834 people progressed to further education or training including participants undertaking certified learning as part of their engagement with the Gateway to Employment Programme. A total of 579 people progressed to employment during the year.

6.2. In 2024/2025, 1,169 people have registered with Employability Services up to the end of August 2024 with 355 accessing or progressing to education or training and 306 moving into employment.

Table 3: Employability Performance by Key Priority Group 2023/2024:-

	Registrations	Participants accessing/ progressing to further training/ education	Progressions to employment
Young people in last 6 months of school	503	191	46
Young people age 16-19	283	93	95
Adults with barriers to employment	933	384	334
People with learning disabilities	139	9	8
Parents	399	157	96
Total	2,257	834	579

Table 4: Employability performance by Key Priority Group 1 April – 31 August 2024:-

	Registrations	Participants accessing/ progressing to further training/ education	Progressions to employment
Young people in last 6 months of school	398	197	19
Young people age 16-19	108	38	23
Adults with barriers to employment	292	69	175
People with long term health barriers*	175	3	25
People with learning disabilities	29	8	10
Parents	167	40	54
Total	1,169	355	306

*Services have been delivered to people with long term health barriers as a key priority group since April 2024.

7. Senior Phase Work Based Learning

7.1. South Lanarkshire Works delivers a range of work-based learning programmes on behalf of Education Resources. The programmes are delivered in partnership with local colleges and are timetabled to form part of a pupil's senior phase curriculum.

7.2. Foundation Apprenticeships

7.2.1. Foundation Apprenticeships (FAs) are a national senior phase option, funded by Skills Development Scotland (SDS) and the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) and designed to allow pupils in S5-S6 to gain valuable, real-world work experience and access to work-based learning while they are at school. Pupils attend college and work placements up to two days a week while at school and the qualification achieved is delivered at Level 6 (equivalent to a Higher) of the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF).

7.2.2. South Lanarkshire's FA programme is delivered as a partnership between the council, South Lanarkshire College and New College Lanarkshire with the colleges delivering the learning element and the council managing the overall programme including pupil support, compliance and work placements.

7.2.3. During the 2023/2024 academic year, 70 young people completed FAs with 68 achieving the qualification and all 70 progressing to a positive post-school destination of employment or further learning.

Table 5: South Lanarkshire FA Starts 2023/2024:-

Framework	1 year starts	2 year starts	2 nd year returners	Total
Accountancy		13		13
Business Skills	5	7		12
Creative and Digital Media	9	19	12	40
Children and Young People	18	30	15	63
Engineering		10		10
Healthcare	13	27	8	48
IT Software		13		13
Total	45	119	35	199

- 7.2.4. For the 2024/2025 academic year, a similar number of places were available, however, there has been a reduction in uptake from schools with 95 pupils starting the programme in August 2024.

Table 6: South Lanarkshire FA starts 2024/2025:-

Framework	1 year starts	2 year starts	2 nd year returners	Total
Accountancy	0	0	6	6
Business Skills	5	0	4	9
Creative and Digital Media	12	13	18	43
Children and Young People	8	31	20	59
Engineering	0	0	9	9
Healthcare	10	16	13	39
IT Software	0	0	9	9
Total	35	60	79	174

7.3. GradU8

- 7.3.1. The GradU8 programme is a South Lanarkshire specific work-based learning option available to pupils in S4 to S6. Delivery takes place in local colleges where pupils attend one-day-per week to complete a vocational qualification at SCQF level 4 or 5. In 2024/25, pupils have been able to pick one of 12 subject areas, all designed to offer progression in areas with employment progression opportunities. The programme is delivered in partnership with South Lanarkshire College, New College Lanarkshire and Glasgow Kelvin College. This partnership arrangement allows colleges to make a financial contribution in the form of Scottish Funding Council credits which pay for the learning and teaching element of the programme. Pupils are supported in college by South Lanarkshire Works Vocational Development Workers to engage effectively on the programme and to support transition planning for any leavers following completion of the course.
- 7.3.2. In addition to the college-based options each school can also identify up to five young people to take part in a long-term work placement as part of the GradU8 programme. Young people attend their placement one day a week on the school's GradU8 day and placements are sourced by the employability team across council and partner workplaces and with local employers.

- 7.3.3. In 2023/2024, 924 places were available to young people across 12 subjects at partner colleges South Lanarkshire College, New College Lanarkshire, and Glasgow Kelvin College. 796 young people completed the programme and achieved accredited qualifications. For the new 2024/2025 academic year, 766 pupils started in August 2024.

Table 7: GradU8 completers and starts by subject:-

GradU8 subject	2023/2024 completers	2024/2025 starts
Beauty	66	74
Childcare	66	92
Construction	166	142
Creative and Digital	34	46
Engineering	89	61
Hair and Barbering	65	79
Healthcare	58	48
Horticulture	-	9
Hospitality	37	54
Make-up Artistry	61	60
Personal and Social Development	40	-
Sport and Recreation	49	44
Uniformed Services	65	57
Work Experience	28	27
Total	796	766

8. School Leaver Destinations and Post-School Tracking

- 8.1. A key partnership priority is to improve the proportion of school leavers that progress to a positive destination of education training or employment. South Lanarkshire Works and Skills Development Scotland to work closely with all secondary schools to identify those young people most at risk of becoming unemployed when they leave school and tracking their post-school destinations.
- 8.2. The most recent School Leaver Destination Report (SLDR) showed that 96.9% of those pupils who left school in academic year 2022/2023 entered a positive destination. This was a slight improvement from the previous year and above the Scottish rate for the 8th year in a row and placed South Lanarkshire 6th highest of the 32 Scottish local authorities. Participation in the Keyworker Employment Services set out in Table 1 is counted as a positive destination for SLDR purposes and recorded under 'training'.

Table 8: Positive School Leaver Destinations 2018/2019 – 2022/23:-

Year	Positive destination rate (South Lanarkshire)	Positive destination rate (Scotland)
2022/23	96.9%	95.9%
2021/22	96.2%	95.7%
2020/21	96.2%	95.5%
2019/20	94.8%	93.3%
2018/19	95.7%	95.0%

Table 9: Destination breakdown 2022/2023

Destination	South Lanarkshire	Scotland
Employment	21.2%	24.3%
Higher Education	45.9%	40.3%
Further Education	25.7%	26.6%
Training	3.7%	3.4%
Personal Skills Development	0.2%	0.5%
Voluntary Work	0.2%	0.5%
Unemployed seeking	1.5%	1.3%
Unemployed not seeking	1.3%	1.6%
Unknown	0.4%	0.3%

9. Participation Measure and Post-School Tracking

- 9.1. Since 2016, Skills Development Scotland have published the Annual Participation Measure (APM) which reports on the economic and employment activity of 16-19 year olds in Scotland and is the source of the Scottish Government's National Performance indicator "Percentage of young adults (16-19 year olds) participating in education, training or employment". This measure has a wider focus than the school leaver destination and includes young people who are at school, in college, at university, at work or participating in employability support. The most recent report was published in August 2024 and showed 93.8% of young people aged 16-19 in South Lanarkshire were participating, this was higher than the Scottish rate of 92.7% and an increase from the previous year.

Table 10: Participation Measure 2019-2024:-

Year	South Lanarkshire	Scotland
2024	93.8%	92.7%
2023	93.3%	92.6%
2022	92.3%	92.4%
2021	92.8%	92.2%
2020	92.7%	92.1%
2019	92.6%	91.6%

- 9.2. Since 2022, the council and Skills Development Scotland have worked together to track the destinations of young people and improve the participation measure by identifying young people, including through home visits, with an unconfirmed or unemployed status and offering appropriate support or confirming destinations. During this period, the Employability Service has carried out almost 1,300 home visits. A detailed breakdown of the visits carried out between August 2023 and July 2024 is provided below.

Table 11: Participation Measure tracking Aug 2023 – August 2024

	Aug-2023	Nov-2023	Feb-2024	Apr-2024	Jul-2024	Total
Total Home Visits	122	69	112	121	188	612
Found and referred for employability support	22	18	30	23	40	133
Found – declined / not ready for support	7	7	9	8	26	57
Found – confirmed to be in a destination	32	5	11	42	42	132
Found, linking in with DWP	5	0	2	3	0	10
Unable to make contact / changed address	55	39	60	45	80	279

10. Labour Market Information

- 10.1. The council produces regular Labour Market Information (LMI) reports for the South Lanarkshire Employability Partnership to support the planning of Employability Services.
- 10.2. Claimant count, which refers to all unemployed people (aged 16-64) in receipt of out of work benefits (Universal Credit and Job Seekers Allowance) has broadly fallen in recent years since a Covid period high point of 6.8% in August 2020 and stood at 3.2% as of August 2024. This compares to 3.4% for Scotland and 4.3% across the UK. While the rate has remained steady over recent months, the total claimant number has increased for each of the past 3 months and stands at 6,525, an increase of almost 300 people in a year.
- 10.3. Although unemployment is low by historical standards, a significant number of people are economically inactive which means they are out of work and not actively looking for work. The rate of economic inactivity in South Lanarkshire was 21.3% in March 2024 and has been rising since March 2023 when the rate was 16.7%. Although the rate is slightly below the Scottish rate (22.9%) there have been four consecutive quarterly increases in economic inactivity and the current rate is the highest recorded since the middle of the first Covid pandemic (June 2020).
- 10.4. Within this group, which also includes people who have retired before the age of 64 and students, there is a significant group of people who are not working due to ill health. In March, this was more than 30% of the cohort, around 14,000 people in South Lanarkshire.

11. Employee Implications

- 11.1. There are no employee implications associated with this report.

12. Financial Implications

- 12.1. There are no financial implications associated with this report.

13. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

- 13.1. There are no implications for climate change, sustainability or the environment in terms of the information contained within this report.

14. Other Implications

14.1. The employability programmes set out in the report are predominantly funded by external sources including Scottish Government No-one Left Behind and UK Government Shared Prosperity Fund which are currently funded to March 2025.

15. Integrated Impact Assessment and Consultation Requirements

15.1. There are no Equality Impact Assessment or consultation arrangement implications associated with this report.

David Booth

**Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)
South Lanarkshire Council**

13 November 2024

Contact for Further Information:

If you would like further information, please contact:-

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Employability Case Studies

Robbie

Robbie was referred to take part in the REACH programme. He faced challenges with mental health, tourettes and autism. Robbie's goal was to go into employment rather than further education. During his time on the programme, we focussed on personal development and confidence-building. Initially quiet, Robbie gradually blossomed, engaging in activities, sharing ideas, and participating in employer visits and team-building exercises.

His dedication led to a work experience placement at Pets at Home. Within just two weeks, Robbie impressed the team so much that they offered him an interview, resulting in part-time employment.

Robbie "The Reach programme really boosted my confidence and gave me the chance to work hard for what I wanted."

Sonia

Sonia was referred to the 'Making it Work' parental employability programme by DWP. She had been unemployed for five years and was on universal credit. Sonia is a lone parent with two children approaching nursery age.

Sonia had a real interest in becoming an HGV driver. She felt that this would give her independence, and she would be able to provide for her children and hopefully get something that would work around her childcare. Sonia and her keyworker researched HGV training organisations, selected a training course and through the MIW programme funding was provided for Sonia to complete the course. Sonia also participated in CV building and job search sessions to understand how to effectively look for work and the different ways to successfully secure employment and attended interview skills course in preparation for any future interviews.

Following completion of the course Sonia was supported intensively to help source employment. After a short period of time, she obtained employment as an HGV Class 2 Driver, working full time in the evenings which fits around her childcare. Sonia is loving the position, feels proud of herself for achieving her dream and supporting her family. She loves the independence, having a purpose outwith being a parent and her children are feeling the benefits financially with her being in work.

AK

AK was referred to Making It Work for Parents programme in early February by her job coach at DWP. AK had fled the war in Ukraine to come to live in the UK and is a lone parent with school age twin daughters one of whom has cystic fibrosis. AK's barriers centred around her having to move to a new country, feeling isolated, language, childcare and finding suitable hours for employment. AK's hopes and aspirations were to become less isolated, gain some work experience, improve her English and ultimately enter paid employment.

In the initial appointments, we set out a journey plan for AK and had a long discussion to identify her transferable skills and any gaps she felt she needed addressed going forward. A referral to Money Matters was also made to ensure AK was receiving the correct level of benefits and not missing out on any other financial support available to her. One-to-one sessions took place weekly where we could begin to address her employability skills, work

on her CV and cover letters, explore effective job searching and jobsite registration, application form support and interview preparation.

AK took up 2 volunteering placements to help with her isolation, she attended these when her children were at school. One was in a charity shop and the other within a local church café. Both these roles provided her with a social network as well as adding to her work experience in the UK and her employability skills. AK also secured a slot in an ESOL class to improve her English skills.

On completion of the programme, AK moved into paid employment in housekeeping in a local hotel close to her home. This role is ideal for AK as the hours suit her childcare needs and she will now be better off as her weekly wage supplements her existing benefits.

Sean

Sean was referred to the Supported Employment service by DWP. Sean was looking for employment, however, wasn't sure where to begin. He met with a key worker who completed a detailed assessment of his barriers, goals and aims. Sean started Project EmployAbility, an initiative that focussed on building confidence, teamwork and communication skills through practical activities in Hillhouse Workshops followed by supported work experience at a local golf course.

Sean flourished during his time on the programme, reporting that he felt his confidence improved and that he was ready to progress to the world of work.

Sean's next step was to apply for DFN Project Search where he was interviewed for the programme by the Account Director at ISS Hairmyres, however, he so impressed that rather than start with the programme he offered Sean an immediate work trial within University Hospital Hairmyres. Sean completed his trial to great feedback and reviews from the ISS team and was offered a part-time contract with them as a porter which he was delighted to accept.

John

John joined 'Project Search' following completion of a Life Skills college course. Project Search is a 9-month programme designed for autistic adults to gain valuable real life work experience in a hospital setting coupled with employability skill. Participants complete 3 work placements in various departments within the hospital including portering, housekeeping, stores, medical records and labs. Each individual is supported by a dedicated job coach who is available to simplify tasks or work alongside participants until they feel more comfortable to work independently.

John received fantastic feedback from his placements and upon completion of the programme, was offered a part time position with ISS as a catering assistant.

John's Manager said that both Sean and John are excellent additions to his workforce. They have fitted into the existing teams well and are both performing to a high standard.

Eve

Eve was referred to the Supported Employment Team and as part of her plan, took part in a Hospitality Academy programme funded by the council and delivered in partnership with MacDonald Crutherland Hotel in East Kilbride. Over the 12 weeks she attended and engaged really well, her confidence grew, and she showed a real passion for working in the hospitality industry. On completion of the programme, Eve secured employment with the hotel. Eve was supported throughout her 12 weeks by her Key Worker Jade. Jade says that Eve has done extremely well – she has grown in confidence and is flourishing!

Joshua

Joshua is a parent of two children. Joshua was employed as a drainage engineer on a low income, however, due to lack of qualifications and training there was no progression for Joshua who was looking for opportunities to enhance his career. He got in touch with South Lanarkshire Council's Employability Team and was referred to the Upskilling Team for support.

When meeting with Joshua, it was identified that there could be the potential to increase his earnings with his current workplace by completing an HGV driving qualification. It was agreed with his manager that on completion of this training, Joshua would be offered a promotion. With the support from the Upskilling Team, Joshua secured a funded place with a training provider to do his HGV driver training and tests. Joshua was delighted with this offer as he was not in a position to fund this himself.

During the training period, Joshua successfully applied for a post as a drainage technician with a different company at a higher rate of pay. Joshua has now completed his training and successfully passed his and is fully qualified to drive heavy goods vehicles. This will make a huge difference for Joshua's career opportunities. Joshua's employer has agreed to a further increase in salary which will improve his financial position and his wellbeing not only for himself but for his young family.

"The support from South Lanarkshire Works has given me freedom to secure a position within a thriving business and allow me to undertake training that not only will give me an extra qualification but allow me to progress and give my family and I more financial freedom. It has been a real stress-free experience. The team spoke to me through all the steps and reassured me with any questions I had. I would not be in the position I am without their support which I cannot thank them enough."

Oden

Oden who is 17, was referred to the AspireWorks programme by Skills Development Scotland. He had previously been in employment within an Iron Foundry but had not sustained this due to personal issues and mental health.

Following an initial assessment, it was clear that Oden wasn't sure what line of work he would like to do, we looked at his strengths and the transferable skills he had gained previously when he was in employment. The assessment also highlighted that Oden needed support to help develop his confidence and around ways of improving his mental health. Oden's action plan included applying for his Young Scot travel card, developing his knowledge of job searching and applying for jobs, interview techniques and employer expectations. He was also referred to the council's Counselling Service to help with his mental health.

During his time on the programme, Oden and his family became homeless due to their house flooding, they were placed in temporary accommodation, but this didn't stop Oden engaging with his key worker. His Mum played a part in this ensuring he was attending his appointments and engaging. Over time, Oden's confidence began to grow, and he developed a positive working relationship with his key worker. We then agreed to look for a work experience placement and secured a 6-week placement with a local employer in Rutherglen manufacturing doors and windows for the construction industry.

At the same time, we arranged for Oden to complete his Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) card which he passed first time. The employers were delighted with Oden's commitment and attitude to learning new skills, his time keeping and attendance and listening to experienced staff. The employer offered Oden full time employment which he accepted and has maintained employment since. Oden has benefitted greatly from the

AspireWorks support, he has become much more positive and optimistic about his employment prospects and is doing really well in his job.

Brandon

Brandon was referred to AspireWorks by his school. He had just completed S6 but needed some extra support to move into a positive destination.

Brandon was a very quiet, shy young man and found it hard to form friendships throughout school, this was evident when he joined Aspire Works. Brandon also suffered from low self-esteem and really didn't know what he wanted to do with his future. We discussed building his confidence and introducing him to group work. Brandon was supported with weekly meetings to enable him to build a relationship with his key worker and work on his own personal development. As the relationship developed Brandon became increasingly motivated and agreed to take part in the RISE groupwork programmes, delivered by Routes to Work South where he excelled with 100% attendance. The programme included CV preparation, interview skills, sector awareness, mock interviews, confidence building projects and SVQ Qualifications in First Aid, Food Hygiene and Fire Marshalling.

In addition to the RISE programme, Brandon's key worker supported him to find work experience at the Cameronian Museum in Hamilton and he started this in November 2023, one day per week. Brandon was given a training allowance as part of this plan.

Brandon was also supported into looking at different college courses and also helping him to apply for them. He decided he would like to study Criminology and successfully gained a place studying Criminology and Pathology at New College Lanarkshire. When he started this, he still continued to take part in his work experience as this has helped his confidence. Brandon's confidence has grown immensely, he feels confident he will finish the current college course and apply for another course in August.

"The support I received was extremely helpful in my growth as a person as I am now more social and have more confidence in my abilities which helps me to apply my skills to further education and to the work experience, I received as a result of attending AspireWorks, I continue to volunteer at The Cameronian Museum in Hamilton. I would certainly recommend AspireWorks to any young adults looking to find a purpose in their life as I have overcome so many barriers."

Ainslie

Ainslie was referred to the Supporting Families programme by Westburn Nursery. Ainslie was unemployed and the main aim was to help her find a job and to assist with debt management. Ainslie was experiencing a number of barriers to employment including a lack of confidence and self-belief, struggles with her mental health and challenges around money management.

During our initial meeting, Ainslie revealed that she would love to train to be a nurse. She had looked at college courses but was unsure about writing and submitting an application, as she had left school with no formal qualifications. The recent time she had spent caring for her grandmother and helping in a care home had motivated Ainslie into looking at this type of career path.

Following an initial assessment, we drew up an action plan that set out the supports and activities we would put in place to help Ainslie. I referred Ainslie to One Parent Families to complete a benefits check and to support with her money management. They also supported Ainslie to apply for funding for a new fridge freezer.

Ainslie was invited along to attend the Health Walks I was leading at Westburn Nursery to improve her mental health and a referral was made to Rain or Shine to access clothing for her son. I spent a few weeks getting to know Ainslie before asking her how she felt about applying for college to do a SWAP Nursing course. These courses are designed for people who have no or few formal qualifications and have been out of education for three to five years. Ainslie was keen to apply and we sat down together to complete the application drawing on her personal qualities and her experiences caring for her grandmother and previous experience working in a care home for the elderly.

Ainslie was invited to attend an interview at Glasgow Clyde College Langside Campus and the following day Ainslie received an unconditional offer. She was absolutely elated and can't quite believe she is going to college.

"You've made me more confident, you've helped me believe in myself a lot more, you're very kind and patient and very understanding towards my ADHD, you've been there through a good few challenges regarding my grandma and always been really good to talk to and I feel so comfortable approaching you with anything, you're just amazing Hazel you've helped me so much you've come into my life and changed it up. You've stuck by my side, and we clicked right away. Can't thank you enough and really appreciate you".

Nzube

Nzube, who is a parent with two children, one of whom is disabled, was referred to Routes to Work South by Jobcentre Plus as he was unemployed and seeking employment opportunities.

As Nzube required a job which would allow him to help his wife care for both children outwith school hours, Routes to Work South worked with Nzube to apply for the NHS Demonstrator Programme as the programme is designed to fit around participants childcare needs. Nzube had previously worked as a nurse overseas but wanted to move into an admin role following a previous personal experience. Nzube was offered a 6 month waged position on the programme as an Admin Officer with hours which suited his childcare needs. His initial placement was in an ICU setting, however, Nzube found this challenging due to a previous personal experience. The NHS Employability Team and NHS Management were very supportive in working to relocate him to a more suitable location. Nzube has commented that the supportive environment has improved his health.

During his time on the programme, Nzube was supported to update his CV and carry out job searches to help him find suitable employment. Following the 6 month programme, Nzube secured work covering admin bank shifts which he can select to suit his family requirements. He now earns a monthly salary to suit his circumstances.

"I used to be a nurse when I lived in Ukraine and wanted to move into an admin role. By doing the Demonstrator Programme, I have gained skills within the Workforce Team such as IT skills, learning how to use Allocate programme and Trakcare. The opportunity to train and develop myself has been very beneficial. My health has improved as it is a supportive environment and everyone is very helpful".

Olivia

When Olivia was referred to Aspire by her school, she had disengaged from Education and was becoming involved in anti-social behaviour and alcohol use in the community. The school had attempted to support Olivia through counselling support which she had not engaged with and initial attempts to contact her by the keyworker were unsuccessful with repeated attempts made through phone calls and home visits. However, once Olivia began to engage she developed a positive relationship with her key worker and they began to develop a plan together.

Olivia had a clear goal to move into employment rather than attend college and identified early years as her goal. Olivia secured a part-time job in a café and we continued to work together to find her a placement in a nursery. Following this, she used her placement experience to secure a modern apprenticeship in a local nursery where she continues to work.

Sarah May

Sarah May was referred to Aspire for one-to-one support by her pupil support teacher as she wasn't attending and had disengaged from school. On meeting Sarah May, she advised that she lacked motivation and was not open to exploring college courses as she thought it would be the same as school. Through one-to-one meetings we discussed careers pathways, began to work on her CV and registered Sarah May with job search websites, Planit Plus and My World of Work. I also supported Sarah May to keep an open growth mindset about going onto further education, we watched some videos from Winning Scotland to help her understand more about growth/fixed mindset. After a few weeks she became open to the idea of college and we had a look at some of the courses available locally.

As I got to know Sarah May, she would often talk about her holidays with her family and how she loved to travel. Using the techniques I had learned through growth mindset training I hoped to empower her to believe she had the necessary skills and encouraged her to consider the travel and tourism crew course at South Lanarkshire College. We had a look at the course content and arranged a visit to the college where Sarah May was especially impressed with the classroom that is designed like an aeroplane. Sarah May decided to apply for the course and I supported her with the application form.

Sarah May worked really well with me and used Aspire support to the best of her advantage by attending the meetings I had arranged and keeping in contact with regular updates. The change in her attitude and eagerness to work made my job a lot easier. Sarah May is a lovely girl, I wish her every success and have no doubts she will have a bright future ahead of her.

Demi

Demi applied for the 2-year Foundation Apprenticeship in Social Services and Healthcare. Demi had experienced mental health issues and was attending Hamilton Support Base, which supports students with social and emotional needs. Demi was very quiet in class and did not interact with any of the other students.

By the end of year 1, Demi was beginning to interact with other students on the course and as the course progressed into year 2 Demi's confidence began to grow. Demi was on placement for 3 months in a care home and took part in a few activities with the service users, spending time chatting about her life. After a few weeks she was comfortable to act of her own accord, offering service users support and reassurance. Demi's second placement from January to April was in Hairmyres Hospital Outpatient Department. She interacted with patients, asking questions and taking details where required. Demi acted in a professional manner with patients and staff. By the end of the programme the change in Demi was marked. She was now confident in the skills she had gained on placement and was now meeting socially with her peers and interacting unprompted with her lecturer and FA team. Demi successfully achieved her FA in.

Rebecca

Rebecca applied for the 2-year Foundation Apprenticeship in Social Services Children and Young People in 2022. After a few months, it became apparent that Rebecca's health was having a huge impact on her FA and school attendance. The council's FA worker met with

Rebecca and her pupil support teacher to discuss a plan to help Rebecca achieve the qualification as she was sure her future career was in childcare.

It was agreed that a plan be put in place that involved Rebecca leaving the 2-year programme allowing her to concentrate on her health and school subjects and that she would then apply for the 1 year FA programme in sixth year. The plan was followed and Rebecca achieved her FA in May 2024. Rebecca's work placement was at Kilbryde Early Learning Centre and she received fabulous feedback.

Rebecca engaged well with her lecturers, work placement and the FA team keeping them updated on any time off required and followed any remediation plans well. Rebecca achieved her goal of attaining her FA in Social Services Children and Young People and has secured a Modern Apprenticeship with Happy Days Nursery.

Carly

Former Lesmahagow High School Pupil Carly was supported to progress to employment with support from the Connect 2 Renewables programme. The OnPath Energy funding supported Carly to take part in pre-employment training and provided financial support through an employer recruitment incentive to support her into work. Carly, a plant operative, is now part of the 'women in plant' working group where she encourages other females into the industry by going along to speak to them about her experiences at schools and colleges.

Rosanne

Rosanne had been out of employment for a year and had a difficult time finding employment in her dream Job as a Kitchen Porter. Rosanne engaged with the Making it Work for Parents programme, where her advisor worked with her to build her confidence before updating her CV to give her the best chance of employment success. Roseanne participated in group training including an interview skills workshop and she was matched with several vacancies before successfully gaining an interview and securing her dream job. Rosanne struggled at the beginning of her new job with some aspects of the role and wanted to leave, thankfully due to the relationship that had been developed with her advisor we were able to meet with Roseanne to support her to combat her anxiety in the workplace and help her with her transition to work. Rosanne took all the advice and support offered to her and 6 months into her new job she was given a promotion.

Daniel

Daniel came to RTWS with the goal of securing his first job. Despite having some volunteering experience helping the local youth football team, he struggled to recognise the wide range of skills he possessed and lacked confidence in himself. Daniel needed assistance with creating a CV and cover letter. We worked with Daniel to tailor his CV, highlighting his personality and strengths. He also received ongoing support at the job club, where we tasked him with approaching one of the employers for the upcoming Jobs Fair and provided guidance on what to say. Daniel was introduced to a pharmaceutical employer, and with his newfound confidence from the personalised support, he made a strong impression. This led to an interview invitation. We reviewed the job specification in detail and conducted a mock interview to help him prepare. As a result, Daniel's confidence and professionalism shone through, which ultimately led to him being offered the position of trainee dispenser. The employer expressed excitement about bringing Daniel on board and noted that his potential and eagerness made him a standout candidate for the role.

Cahal

Prior to joining RTWS, Cahal had been grappling with anxiety and a lack of confidence, compounded by his disability and a sense of being unsupported during his time at college, which eventually led to him dropping out. Unsure of his next steps, Cahal sought guidance

to help him regain direction and rebuild his confidence. During his initial appointment, we recognised Cahal's interest in data, statistics, and computing. We identified an 11-week data analyst course, and Cahal was assisted throughout the application process, providing support during Teams calls and offering reassurance. Out of 1,500 applicants, Cahal successfully secured a spot on the course. To ensure Cahal feels supported and to prevent a repeat of his negative college experience, we have coordinated ongoing support through his RTWS Advisor and Generation's Wellbeing Team which has led to Cahal's ongoing attendance and participation.

Community Planning Partnership Board Executive Summary

Date of Meeting:	4 December 2024
Subject:	State of the Environment Report 2023
Report by:	Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources), South Lanarkshire Council
Contact for Further Information:	Jennifer Murphy, Planning Officer (SEA), South Lanarkshire Council Tel: 01698 455742 Email: jennifer.murphy@southlanarkshire.gov.uk
Purpose of the Report:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Inform the Partnership Board of the completion of the South Lanarkshire State of the Environment Report 2023; and ◆ Report on the key findings from the Report.
Community Planning Delivery Partners:	All partners
Key Recommendations/ Decisions/Action Required from Partners:	<p>The Board is asked to approve the following recommendations:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) That the content of the report is noted; and (2) That the findings from the State of the Environment Report be disseminated across partners for use in the preparation of plans, policies, programmes and strategies and their Strategic Environmental Assessment and as an information resource.
Risks/Challenges:	There are no risks or challenges associated with this report.
Links to Community Plan Ambitions/Principles:	◆ All ambitions/principles
Summary of Report:	<p>The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act, 2005 requires all public bodies, including the South Lanarkshire Community Planning Partnership, to undertake Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs) of all their plans, policies, programmes and strategies (plans).</p> <p>An integral part of the SEA process is the identification and monitoring of a wide range of environmental issues. The South Lanarkshire State of the Environment Report is the body of data used by South Lanarkshire Council to monitor and report activity against key environmental indicators. It is the recognised source for the core data which allows SEAs on our plans to be undertaken.</p> <p>The Report provides an effective means of tracking changes in the local environment and helps to promote awareness of local environmental issues and priorities.</p>

	The findings from the Report are summarised in Appendix 1. Changes from the 2011 Report are highlighted in Appendix 2.
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Report

Report to:	Partnership Board
Date of Meeting:	4 December 2024
Report by:	Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources), South Lanarkshire Council

Subject:	State of the Environment Report 2023
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ inform the Partnership Board of the completion of the South Lanarkshire State of the Environment Report 2023; and
- ◆ report on the key findings from the Report

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Partnership Board is asked to approve the following recommendations:-

- (1) that the content of the report is noted; and
- (2) that the findings from the State of the Environment Report 2023 be disseminated across partners for use in the preparation of plans, policies, programmes and strategies and their Strategic Environmental Assessment and as an information resource.

3. Background

3.1 The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act, 2005 requires all public bodies, including the South Lanarkshire Community Planning Partnership, to undertake Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs) of all their plans, policies, programmes and strategies (plans).

3.2. An integral part of the SEA process is the identification and monitoring of a wide range of environmental issues. The South Lanarkshire State of the Environment Report is the body of data used by South Lanarkshire Council to monitor and report activity against key environmental indicators. It is the recognised source for the core data which allows SEAs on our plans to be undertaken.

3.3. With the declarations of ecological and climate emergencies, the State of the Environment Report will be a vital resource in outlining South Lanarkshire's progress in reducing its contribution to global warming and associated impacts from climate change on communities, the natural environment and inclusive growth and for protecting and enhancing the area's biodiversity assets.

3.4. The Covid-19 global pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis have had far reaching impacts on South Lanarkshire across environmental considerations, particularly related to people and their health, local air quality, waste services and climate change. The State of the Environment Report provides an invaluable insight to these environmental impacts.

- 3.5. The first comprehensive State of the Environment Report was prepared in 2009 and has been reviewed biennially to support SEAs and to fulfil the council's monitoring obligations. The Report provides an effective means of tracking changes in the local environment. This ensures that we not only have a clear understanding of the current condition of the local environment but also has the accurate environmental baseline data needed to allow statutory SEA and monitoring work to be undertaken. The Report also helps to promote awareness of local environmental issues and priorities.
- 3.6. The Report itself provides and assesses data across a suite of SEA environmental issues and also includes transport. The SEA environmental issues are:
- Population and human health
 - Climate change
 - Waste
 - Air, noise and light
 - Landscape and townscape
 - Biodiversity, fauna and flora
 - Material assets
 - Soil
 - Water
 - Historic and cultural heritage
- 3.7. The trends identified across these issues allow the council and our partners to assess the overall condition of South Lanarkshire's environment. The Report captures these as key indicators to consistently identify where there is an opportunity to improve environmental issues and the progress being made towards a more sustainable South Lanarkshire.
- 3.8. The 2023 edition of the South Lanarkshire State of the Environment Report was approved by the council's Executive Committee on 26 June 2024.

4. Development of the Report

- 4.1. The 2023 edition of the State of the Environment Report has been prepared by the council's Planning Officer (SEA) within Community and Enterprise Resources with data and other contributions sourced from across the council, partners, government bodies and external agencies. Development of the Report has been overseen by the council's Corporate SEA Working Group.
- 4.2. A comprehensive review of the indicators used in the Report was undertaken by the Corporate SEA Working Group. This was, in part, driven by the availability of new data and also recognition that a broader range of indicators was required for monitoring and reporting purposes. For example, indicators on the local economy, housing and tree canopy cover have been included in the 2023 edition. This review resulted in a reduction from 55 indicators to 47.
- 4.3. A healthy environment provides us with natural resources like clean air, clean water, fertile soils, food, energy, medicine and building materials. Our long term economic and social wellbeing ultimately depends on the environment and our natural resources. Sustainable development is about achieving economic and social development in a way that also enables us to protect and enhance our environment both now and for the future.
- 4.4. Sustainable development is a set of fundamental values by which we make decisions and how we chose to live. These values are outlined in the 17 [Global Sustainable Development Goals](#) of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Within the 2023 edition of the State of the Environment Report, the relevant Sustainable Development Goal(s) are assigned to each chapter. This will

support understanding of how South Lanarkshire can contribute to achieving the Goals at both a national and global level.

5. Key Findings

5.1. The 47 indicators in the 2023 Report have each been assigned a status of 'good', 'fair' or 'poor', and traffic lighted as green, amber and red, respectively. Each of these indicators also has a directional trend of either 'improving', 'no change' or 'deteriorating'. The basis for the status identified within the tables, and accorded to each indicator along with its trend, is demonstrated by the information contained within the explanation column included as part of Appendix 1. The status of each indicator is based on an opinion agreed by the Corporate SEA Working Group.

5.2. The findings from the Report are illustrated in the following table and summarised in Appendix 1 to the report:-

Status/Trend	Improving	Unchanged	Deteriorating	Total	
Good	11	6	0	17	36.2%
Fair	8	14	1	23	48.9%
Poor	3	2	2	7	14.9%
Total	22	22	3	47	100%

5.3. The Report highlighted that 17 (36.2%) of the 47 key indicators had 'good' status and that 11 of these have a trend that is improving. These improvements include a continuous reduction in our greenhouse gas emissions and an increase in our renewable energy capacity. There has been a decrease in vacant and derelict land and an increase in declared Local Nature Reserves. Household waste collected has returned to pre-pandemic levels and the number of complaints received about airborne nuisance and the occurrences of fly tipping have also significantly fallen.

5.4. Six of the indicators with a 'good status' had an 'unchanged' trend from the previous edition. These include the number of various historic and cultural assets in South Lanarkshire and the return of traffic growth to pre-pandemic levels. The number of people who have not experienced traffic congestion has remained constant for the past four years.

5.5. None of the indicators with a 'good' status show a deteriorating trend compared to five from the previous Report. This improvement can be attributed to the relaxation of Covid-19 restrictions and recovery from some of its impacts.

5.6. There are 23 (48.9%) indicators with a 'fair' status, eight of which have an improving trend. These cover a wide range of environmental issues and indicators, including improvements to our woodlands, greenspace and recreational land. The local economy is showing signs of recovering from the pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis and we continue to deliver new homes across all tenures. There have been significant improvements to local air quality, with no areas in excess of national limits set to protect human health. Improvements to the quality of our rivers and watercourses have also been noted.

5.7. The Report identifies 14 indicators with a 'fair' status which have an 'unchanged' trend. This is because some environmental issues have stabilised or where there are limitations on available data. Initiatives such as park and ride improvements and an increase in concessionary travel have helped to increase an uptake in public transport but train and passenger numbers have yet to return to pre-pandemic levels. There has been an increase in poor mental health and poor general health following the pandemic. Only one indicator is bordering on falling into the 'poor' category.

This relates to an increase in complaints about artificial light pollution since the last Report.

- 5.8. Seven (14.9%) of the indicators, based on an assessment of the information contained in the State of the Environment Report, are judged to be of 'poor' status. Of these, three are 'improving'. These include a reduction in fuel consumption and kilometres travelled for personal use but an increase in consumption from commercial vehicles and, despite various initiatives to improve uptake, active travel remains poor.
- 5.9. Two indicators with a poor status have a trend which is 'unchanged'. The first of these relates to the prevalence of early and premature death from cancer, heart disease and drugs and alcohol. However, the number of deaths from stroke have reduced. The second is because there has been no significant change in the area of tree canopy cover or urban canopy cover.
- 5.10. There are 2 indicators with a 'poor' status and a deteriorating trend. The first of these relate to deprivation due to the cost-of-living crisis and the ongoing recovery from the pandemic, and secondly, the overall condition of peatland remaining poor and important sites being recorded as 'unfavourable'.
- 5.11. It is not possible to have a direct comparison with the findings in the 2023 Report, particularly within population and health, due to the indicators review. Of those which are directly comparable to previous editions, there have been eight changes in status, principally due to the ongoing recovery from the pandemic. (These are highlighted in yellow in Appendix 2 to the report). For example, reductions in complaints relating to domestic noise and airborne nuisance, a reduction in traffic emissions and stabilisation of traffic congestion.
- 5.12. Analysis of the changes from the 2011 Report highlights 'continuous improvement' in seven indicators. These include, greenhouse gas emissions, local air quality, environmental awareness, and road safety. The trend within eleven indicators has 'stabilised', including, outdoor and countryside access, historic and built heritage, energy consumption and traffic growth. Six indicators have an 'improving' trend such as environmental waste, airborne nuisance and the quality of our rivers and watercourses. The analysis highlights that no indicators have a deteriorating trend within the same timeframe.
- 5.13. The 2023 edition of the South Lanarkshire [State of the Environment Report](#) is available on the council's website.

6. Employee Implications

- 6.1. There are no employee implications associated with this report.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1. There are no financial implications associated with this report.

8. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

- 8.1. The State of the Environment Report is a valuable resource for the council and partners in strategic planning. It provides the environmental baseline used in the Strategic Environmental Assessment of all council led plans, policies, programmes and strategies. Strategic Environmental Assessment helps to safeguard South Lanarkshire's natural and built environment and raises awareness of climate change impacts and directs climate action.

9. Other Implications

9.1. There are no issues in terms of risk associated with this report.

10. Integrated Impact Assessment and Consultation Requirements

10.1. There are no Equality Impact Assessment or consultation arrangement implications associated with this report.

David Booth

Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

South Lanarkshire Council

13 November 2024

Contact for Further Information:

If you would like further information, please contact:-

Jennifer Murphy, Planning Officer (SEA), South Lanarkshire Council








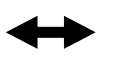

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Key findings from State of the Environment Report 2023

Current status: Good

Environmental Issue	Indicator	Status and Trend	Explanation
Biodiversity, fauna and flora	Local Nature Reserves	↑	The council has augmented the number of Local Nature Reserves across South Lanarkshire, with an additional 16 sites declared within the past two years. Langlands Moss has also been significantly extended.
Material assets and landscape	Vacant and derelict land	↑	The area of vacant and derelict land decreased by 48.5% since 2003 through re-development and greening. The number of sites also significantly decreased.
Material assets and landscape	Built facilities	↑	There are a wide range of education, academia, sport, leisure and cultural facilities in South Lanarkshire. A review of the number and use of halls and community centres across the council area is ongoing.
Waste	Household waste management	↑	The amount of household waste collected by the council has returned to pre-pandemic levels. Waste per household is now at its lowest level, partly driven by the increase in the number of households. Household recycling rates fell in the last financial year to 40.5%. In 2022, recycling rates at Household Waste and Recycling Centres increased to 69.4%, an increase from 62.5% from the previous year. Compostable waste materials collected fell in 2022 compared to 2020.
Waste	Environmental waste	↑	Street cleanliness in the area continues to improve and satisfaction levels remain above the Scottish average. The occurrences of fly tipping have reduced to pre-pandemic levels. However, there has been a notable increase in the number of abandoned cars reported to the council.
Air, noise and light	Airborne nuisance	↑	The number of airborne nuisance complaints received has decreased significantly over recent years as in now at the lowest level since this data was collected. There had been an increase during lockdowns, particularly related to garden bonfires and smoke. Garden bonfires and smoke are the main nuisances reported to the council.
Water	Water pollution	↑	Point source pollution remains a threat to the quality of the water environment. This is closely monitored by SEPA. It has not been possible to update this indicator from the previous Report.
Climate change	Greenhouse gas emissions	↑	Carbon emissions continue to decrease in South Lanarkshire year on year. Emissions per capita remain below the Scottish average.
Climate change	Renewable capacity	↑	South Lanarkshire's renewable energy capacity continues to increase year on year mainly due to wind energy developments. There has been a tenfold increase in renewable energy capacity since 2011. The area is an energy exporter.
Climate change	Environmental awareness	↑	The council is implementing its new Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy. Initiatives such as Beat the Street, Eco-schools and the John Muir Award continue to help raise environmental awareness in schools.
Transport	Road safety	↑	The council is making a positive contribution towards the Scottish Government's 2030 casualty reduction targets. Data within this report reflects the reduced volume of traffic during Covid-19 restrictions. The number of child fatalities as a result of road traffic collisions has remained at zero for the past four years.

Environmental Issue	Indicator	Status and Trend	Explanation		
Historic and cultural heritage	Gardens and Designed Landscapes		The number of Gardens and Designed Landscapes areas in South Lanarkshire remains unchanged since 2016.		
Historic and cultural heritage	Historical heritage		The area has a wealth of historic and tourist attractions, including the New Lanark World Heritage Site. These continue to attract large numbers of visitors to South Lanarkshire.		
Material assets and landscape	Landscape		The importance of quality landscapes in the area continues to be recognised and protected through the local planning process.		
Soils	Soil quality and capacity		Current data indicates good soil quality in a Scottish or regional context. At present there is limited data on soil quality specifically within South Lanarkshire. There has not been a significant level of development within the Green Belt.		
Transport	Traffic growth		Road traffic growth is returning to pre-pandemic levels following the relaxation of Covid-19 restrictions.		
Transport	Congestion		The number of residents who did not experience congestion in the area has remained consistent over recent years.		
	Improving		No change		Deteriorating

Current status: Fair

Environmental issue	Indicator	Status and trend	Explanation
Population and human health	Economy	↑	The area has been impacted from both the Covid-19 pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis. However, it is evident that progress is being made towards recovery from recent challenges.
Biodiversity, fauna and flora	Native woodland	↑	The total native woodland cover is increasing and further work is being carried out to improve connectivity of habitats and expand native broadleaf woodland cover.
Historic and cultural heritage	Archaeological sites	↑	The number of archaeological sites recorded across the area continues to increase year on year, as does the number of applications approved with archaeological conditions.
Material assets and landscape	Recreational land	↑	Investment in greenspace will be informed by the Open Space Strategy that is under preparation. The number of community allotments and plot holders has increased considerably from previous years.
Material assets and landscape	Housing	↑	A further 3,166 homes have been delivered since 2021 increasing the number across all tenures to around 157,657. The Local Housing Strategy has been renewed.
Air, noise and light	Local air quality	↑	Air quality across South Lanarkshire is generally good and improving with no areas in excess of national limits set to protect human health. Work is ongoing to revoke the Air Quality Management Area status for Lanark.
Air, noise and light	Noise	↑	The number of noise complaints, particularly residential noise complaints, received by the council has significantly decreased since the pandemic lockdown periods. However, noise complaints about licensed premises have increased.
Water	Water quality	↑	The number of rivers achieving High/Good overall status under the Water Framework Directive (WFD) has increased since the last Report.
Population and human health	Demographic	↔	The area's population is growing at a slower rate than the Scottish average, with the proportion of older population showing the greatest increase. However, the population of people aged less than 25 years is declining.
Population and human health	Morbidity	↔	Covid-19 has impacted on the health and wellbeing of communities across the area. There has been an increase in poor mental health and poor general health.
Biodiversity, fauna and flora	Designated areas	↔	Not many sites have been surveyed since the previous report. Although there has been some isolated improvement, in general the condition of the designated features remains similar to previous reports.
Biodiversity, fauna and flora	Ancient woodland	↔	There is no change in the area of ancient semi-natural woodland cover. There is limited data on the overall condition of this habitat.
Historic and cultural heritage	Built heritage	↔	There has been minimal change in the number of designated built heritage features in South Lanarkshire. The number of Conservation Areas remain constant.
Material assets and landscape	Countryside and outdoor access	↔	There is an extensive path network across South Lanarkshire. Investment to maintain and improve the condition and standards of paths and other access infrastructure is kept under review.
Material assets and landscape	Minerals	↔	Minerals remain an economically important resource across South Lanarkshire. Mineral recycling is being further developed.
Air, noise and light	Point source emissions	↔	Due to the cyber-attack on SEPA, it has not been possible to update the number of permits issued for industrial activities in South Lanarkshire.

Environmental issue	Indicator	Status and trend	Explanation		
Soils	Contaminated land	↔	Since 2005, 33% of potentially contaminated sites have been investigated and remediated under the planning system. Further progress has not been made since the last Report.		
Water	River flow	↔	The annual water flow rates in the rivers across the region have remained similar to previous years with the exception of 2020. The high level is closely linked to the increase in annual precipitation rates, associated with severe weather events.		
Water	Groundwater and wetlands	↔	The number of groundwater bodies with a good status in South Lanarkshire has remained the same since the previous Report. The data available on ponds and wetlands remains limited.		
Climate change	Energy consumption	↔	Gas and electricity consumption has significantly decreased compared to the baseline albeit at a slower rate in recent years.		
Transport	Road network condition	↔	The condition of the road network remains similar to previous years, although it remains better than the Scottish average. Emerging statistics for 2023/2024 indicate a deteriorating picture across all categories of road.		
Transport	Public transport	↔	The number of park and ride facilities increased to help facilitate an uptake in public transport. However, due to Covid-19 restrictions, the number of train and bus passengers significantly reduced. A large number of residents are using concessionary bus passes, particularly secondary school pupils.		
Air, noise and light	Light	↓	Complaints about artificial light pollution have increased over recent years.		
↑	Improving	↔	No change	↓	Deteriorating

Current status: Poor

Environmental issue	Indicator	Status and trend	Explanation		
Water	Flooding	↑	Severe weather events continue to impact and have resulted in increased flood incidents in the area. The council's approach to flood management continues to improve.		
Climate change	Transport emissions	↑	Fuel consumption and kilometres travelled for personal vehicles have reduced compared to pre-pandemic levels, partly due to the increase in numbers of people working from home. However, consumption from commercial vehicles has increased due to the rise in online retail consumerism. Work continues to promote the use of electric vehicles.		
Transport	Active travel	↑	Although the number of people walking and cycling remains low these remain higher than pre-pandemic levels. Active travel amongst school pupils remains constant and the uptake of cycling continues to improve due to initiatives in schools such as Bikeability.		
Population and human health	Mortality	↔	Premature deaths in South Lanarkshire remain significant across a range of parameters, particularly cancer, heart disease, alcohol specific deaths and drugs related deaths. However, there has been a reduction in the number of deaths from stroke.		
Biodiversity, fauna and flora	Tree canopy cover	↔	There is no significant change in the area of tree canopy cover or urban tree canopy cover.		
Population and human health	Deprivation	↓	The cost-of-living crisis and the ongoing recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic has exacerbated the need for financial and other supports across communities.		
Soils	Peatland	↓	The overall condition of raised and blanket bogs across the area is relatively poor with a number of designated sites recorded as unfavourable.		
↑	Improving	↔	No change	↓	Deteriorating

Changes from 2011 SOE Report

Indicator	Status and trend							Comment
	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023	
Environmental issue: Biodiversity, fauna and flora								
Designated areas	↔	↑	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	Stabilised
	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	
Ancient woodland	↔	↔	↔	↑	↑	↔	↔	Stabilised
	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	
Environmental issue: Historic and cultural heritage								
Built heritage	↓	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↔	Stabilised
	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	
Historical heritage	↓	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	Stabilised
	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	
Environmental issue: Material assets and landscape								
Recreational land	↔	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	Continuous improvement
	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	
Countryside and outdoor access	↑	↑	↑	↔	↔	↔	↔	Stabilised
	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	
Environmental issue: Waste								
Household waste management	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↓	↑	Improving
	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	
Environmental waste	↔	↑	↑	↑	↑	↓	↑	Improving
	Fair	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	
Environmental issue: Air, noise and light								
Local air quality	↓	↓	↓	↔	↑	↑	↑	Continuous improvement
	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	
Airborne nuisance	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↓	↑	Improving
	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	
Noise	↓	↔	↔	↔	↔	↓	↑	Improving
	Poor	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	
Environmental issue: Water								
Water quality	↔	↔	↔	↔	↑	↓	↑	Improving
	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	
River flow	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↔	↔	Stabilised
	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	
Groundwater and wetlands	↓	↔	↑	↑	↔	↔	↔	Stabilised
	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	
Flooding	↓	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	Continuous improvement

Indicator	Status and trend							Comment
	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023	
	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	
Environmental issue: Climate change								
Greenhouse gas emissions	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	Continuous improvement
	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	
Energy consumption	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↔	↔	Stabilised
	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	
Traffic emissions	↔	↑	↑	↔	↔	↔	↑	Improving
	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	
Environmental awareness	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	Continuous improvement
	Fair	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	
Environmental issue: Transport								
Road network condition	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↔	↔	Stabilised
	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	
Congestion	↓	↑	↑	↓	↑	↑	↔	Stabilised
	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	
Traffic growth	↑	↑	↑	↔	↔	↔	↔	Stabilised
	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	
Road safety	↑	↑	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑	Continuous improvement
	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	
Active travel	↔	↔	↔	↔	↑	↑	↑	Continuous improvement
	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	

Community Planning Partnership Board Executive Summary

Date of Meeting:	4 December 2024
Subject:	Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan Annual Review 2023/24 and Homeless Pressures Update
Report by:	Executive Director (Housing and Technical Resources), South Lanarkshire Council
Contact for Further Information:	<p>Jacqueline Fernie, Homelessness and Housing Support Manager, South Lanarkshire Council Tel: 01698 455139 Email: Jacqueline.fernie@southlanarkshire.gov.uk</p> <p>Linzi Brunton, Strategy Co-ordinator (RRTP), South Lanarkshire Council Tel: 01698 455139 Email: Linzi.Brunton@southlanarkshire.gov.uk</p>
Purpose of the Report:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Update the Partnership Board on the outcome of the annual Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan (RRTP) review for 2023/24; ◆ Update on progress implementing actions in relation to homeless pressures; and ◆ Update on the approval of a Homelessness Strategic Plan for 2024/25, combining RRTP and homeless pressure response actions in one.
Community Planning Delivery Partners:	Housing, Third Sector, Health and Social Care Partnership and the Alcohol and Drug Partnership
Key Recommendations/Decisions/Action Required from Partners:	<p>The Board is asked to approve the following recommendations:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) that progress made in delivering the RRTP objectives, as set out in the RRTP Annual Review 2023/24, attached as Appendix 1, be noted; (2) that the update on homeless demand pressures and performance be noted; and (3) that the approved Homeless Strategic Plan for 2024/25 be noted.
Risks/Challenges:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Increasing homelessness demand; ◆ Increasing costs against pressured budget; ◆ Increasing timescales involved in homelessness/Living in temporary accommodation; and ◆ Recognised negative impact of homelessness, particularly for extended period.
Links to Community Plan Ambitions/Principles:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ People ◆ Progress ◆ Communication and empowerment ◆ Embracing Change

	◆ Focused Delivery
Summary of Report:	<p>The annual review for 2023/24 concludes the 5-year lifespan of the council's RRTP 2019-2024. The plan recognised the good progress which had been made over the five-year RRTP lifespan, delivering against high level objectives aimed at preventing homelessness wherever possible, otherwise minimising its impact through speedy resolution and effective person-centred support as required.</p> <p>However, sustained increased demand has significantly impacted on performance and costs involved in delivering the homeless service. In response, a range of actions were outlined to the council's Housing and Technical Resources Committee in February 2024. The approved actions have been progressed over recent months and a progress update is also provided in this report.</p>

Report

Report to:	Partnership Board
Date of Meeting:	4 December 2024
Report by:	Executive Director (Housing and Technical Resources), South Lanarkshire Council

Subject:	Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan Annual Review 2023/2024 and Homeless Pressures Update
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ update the Partnership Board on the outcome of the annual Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan (RRTP) review for 2023/2024;
- ◆ update on progress implementing actions in relation to homeless pressures; and
- ◆ update on the approval of a Homelessness Strategic Plan for 2024/25, combining RRTP and homeless pressure response actions in one

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Partnership Board is asked to approve the following recommendations:-

- (1) that progress made in delivering the RRTP objectives, as set out in the RRTP Annual Review 2023/24, attached as Appendix 1, be noted;
- (2) that the update on homeless demand pressures and performance be noted; and
- (3) that the approved Homeless Strategic Plan for 2024/25 be noted.

3. Background

3.1. The fourth annual review of South Lanarkshire Council's Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan covering the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 was approved by the council's Housing and Technical Resources Committee in August 2023.

3.2. The plan recognised the good progress which had been made over four of the five-year RRTP lifespan, delivering against high level objectives aimed at preventing homelessness wherever possible, otherwise minimising its impact through speedy resolution and effective person-centred support as required.

3.3. Key highlights include:-

- ◆ new affordable housing supply continued to increase 165 properties purchased in the year
- ◆ high level of tenancy sustainment was maintained for former homeless households with 91% of tenancies continuing beyond 12 months
- ◆ annual targets for percentage of social housing allocated to homeless households were exceeded by both Registered Social Landlords and council at 62.9% and 43.5% respectively
- ◆ the Council's stock of temporary accommodation was increased by over 15% to help address additional demand

- ◆ 100% of homeless households who required support were provided with Housing Support Officer assistance to meet their needs; and
 - ◆ repeat homelessness remained low at 3.6% over 2023/2024.
- 3.4. Progress was made in the early years of the plan against a challenging set of circumstances including the outbreak of Covid-19, cost of living crisis and significant increase in demand for homeless assistance.
 - 3.5. However, last year's review noted that by the 4th year of the RRTP (financial year 2022/2023), the cumulative pressures leading to sustained increased demand for homelessness assistance had impacted on the council's performance. Whilst a majority of RRTP measures continued to show positive progress achieving target objectives, the key strategic indicators including presentation numbers, overall caseload and timescale to resolve homelessness declined.
 - 3.6. Annual review of the council's 2022/2023 RRTP was submitted to the Scottish Government on 30 June 2023.
 - 3.7. The annual review for 2023/2024 concludes the 5-year lifespan of the council's RRTP 2019-2024. There has been no communication from the Scottish Government as yet in relation to any continuation of RRTP or proposed introduction of any alternative strategic framework. A final year review submission has been requested and will be submitted by the deadline of 11 October 2024.
 - 3.8. Despite uncertainty over next steps, Scottish Government officials have advised that there will be 2 years additional funding, on the same basis of RRTP taking account of the national position of high and increasing levels of homelessness.
 - 3.9. To date, South Lanarkshire Council has received £3,120,784, made up of £2,659,892 over the five years of the plan, with additional allowance of £460,892 for 2024/25. There is no confirmation of level of award for 2025/2026 or any future year's funding.
 - 3.10. It is worth noting progress made over the initial years of the RRTP aided the council in managing the significant challenges faced in the last 2 years.
 - 3.11. However, sustained increased demand has significantly impacted on performance and costs involved in delivering the homeless service. In response, a range of actions were outlined to the council's Housing and Technical Resources Committee in February 2024. The approved actions have been progressed over recent months and a progress update is provided at section 5 of this report.
- 4. Annual Review 2023/24**
- 4.1. The RRTP review is structured around five high level priority objectives. There are 53 indicators against which the council and its partners monitor progress, comprising 33 actions and 20 measures. In accordance with wider reporting arrangements across the council, these indicators are categorised into 'blue', 'green', 'amber', and 'red' depending on the progress made against them.
 - 4.2. It has proven an extremely challenging year both locally and nationally in terms of maintaining progress, nationally it has been reported that homelessness figures are at the highest they have been since records began in 2002.

- 4.3. Despite the most challenging of contexts, positive progress was made with 89% of the indicators on, or only slightly behind target, to achieve the projected outcomes within the identified timescales. Table 1 below, details the categorisation of the 53 indicators:
-

Table 1: Categorisation of RRTP indicators 2023/2024:-

Status	Measures	Actions	Total	%
Blue	0	11	11	21%
Green	13	21	34	64%
Amber	1	0	1	2%
Red	5	0	5	9%
Report later/Contextual	1	1	2	4%
Totals	20	33	53	100%

- 4.4. Table 1 illustrates that good progress continues to be made within RRTP, with 11 indicators completed, 1 showing minor slippage and 5 with major slippage.
- 4.5. Full details and progress against all indicators are provided in the RRTP Annual Review 2023/2024, attached as Appendix 1.

5. Homeless Pressures

- 5.1. Reports presented to the council's Housing and Technical Resource Committee on 7 February 2024 and Executive Committee on 12 June 2024 detailed the unprecedented pressures currently facing homelessness services in South Lanarkshire, highlighting that:-
- ◆ there was no sign of abatement in the significant increase in the levels of homelessness experienced in South Lanarkshire over the last two years
 - ◆ the extremely challenging circumstances are not affecting South Lanarkshire in isolation but are mirrored by trends being experienced across Scotland
- 5.2. This spike in demand has impacted on the quality of service, in particular the ability to meet temporary accommodation needs within suitable accommodation. As a result of this and other factors relating to the affordable housing supply programme, South Lanarkshire Council unanimously agreed to declare a housing emergency in South Lanarkshire on 12 June 2024.
- 5.3. Against three principal measures of homelessness, over the last two years the council experienced:-
- a **28%** increase in the number of people applying to the council for assistance due to homelessness;
 - a **38%** increase in the number of people recorded by the council as homeless; and
 - a **101%** increase in the backlog of urgent need homeless households awaiting housing
- 5.4. A range of actions were proposed to mitigate the impact of increased demand, founded on maintaining a person-centred approach to address 3 key issues, which are to:-

- address the significant increase in the number of households in temporary accommodation
- maintain a sufficient supply of appropriate temporary accommodation
- improve the timescales for homeless households to be allocated a suitable permanent home
- reduce the number of children who are currently experiencing homelessness

5.5. Since the range of actions were agreed in April 2024 good progress has been made with implementation, including the following: -

- housing staff briefed across all teams;
- relevant procedures updated;
- all homeless applicants contacted and advised of change to approach in relation to application preferences under urgent homeless priority;
- discussion with all applicants to complete updated Housing Plan (c 1,600); and
- revised monitoring in place (with focus on children affected by homelessness)

5.6. Monitoring of the impact of the range of housing pressures response actions includes considering a range of well-established performance indicators such as level of presentations, temporary accommodation supply and demand, timescales in temporary accommodation, lets to homeless applicants, homeless appeals and case closure outcomes.

5.7. Table 4 below sets out key indicators monitoring the impact of changes implemented since April 2024 in comparison to the same period the previous year:-

Table 3 Comparison of Key Homelessness Measures 2022/2023 and 2024/2025

Homelessness Measures	SLC 2024/2025 Q1	% Change Q1 2023/2024 - 2024/2025	SLC 2023/2024 Q1	SLC 2022/2023 Q1
No. Homeless applications received	623	-8.78%	683	569
No. Homeless / Potentially homeless decisions	541	6.50%	508	417
Caseload active	1619	21.09%	1337	808
Average case closure timescale	282.08	33.69%	211.00	228.33
Lets to homeless list (UH)	58.24	-12.09%	66.10	54.70
Permanent Offers refused	28	86.67%	15	12
Appeals received	74	19.35%	62	29
UH tenancy sustainment	95%	1.06%	94%	93.4%
Outcomes (Percentage of homeless households provided with a Scottish Secure Tenancy (SST))	57.82%	-11.83%	65.58%	54.60%

- 5.8. It is worth noting actions implemented since April 2024 have had limited time to show any impact up to the end of Quarter 1 at the end of June 2024.
- 5.9. Despite homeless presentations continuing at a higher rate than previous years, latest statistics show a decrease of 8.78% in comparison to Quarter 1 the previous year (2023/24), which was trending circa 20% above the previous year's level of presentations.
- 5.10. Positive homeless decisions have increased in comparison to the previous year by 6.5% because of the number of applications carried forward into the year. However, this is a reducing trend compared to the previous year's percentage increase and it is anticipated this will further reduce, if reduction in presentations is sustained.
- 5.11. The caseload or backlog remains high and increasing due to availability of housing falling short of demand and the sustained surge in demand over the last two financial years, despite a high number of properties available for let going to urgent homeless applicants (66.10% in 2023/2024).
- 5.12. We are yet to see any reduction in timescales to resolve homelessness which have increased from 228.33 days at Quarter 1 2022/2023 to 282.08 for the same period in 2024/25, an increase of 23.5%.
- 5.13. To generate an increase in turnover of housing one of the measures approved by committee was to increase lets to the Transfer list via reduction to the Homeless list (UH), thus generating additional turnover, meeting greater housing need including secondary lets to UH. Turnover has slightly increased from 489 lets at Q1 2023/2024 to 530 lets Q1 2024/2025 (7.7% increase) providing a larger pool of properties available for secondary lets to urgent homeless households.
- 5.14. Subsequently lets to homeless households have decreased at this early point in the year, sitting at 58.24% for Q1, however increased turnover will assist more broadly in increasing overall stock available to meet need, including that of homeless households.
- 5.15. There has been an increase in appeals against permanent offers of housing to homeless applicants and in refusal of offers as had been expected with a change in approach. It is anticipated negative outcomes will reduce as the new housing plan approach beds in.
- 5.16. To date there is no impact on the level of complaints received by the service, tenancy sustainment, or other indicators such as applications withdrawn or lost contact, however the full range of performance measures remain under constant review.

6. Homelessness Strategic Plan 2024/2025

- 6.1 With future requirements of RRTP unknown it is proposed that partners locally will continue to focus strategic activities on the priority objectives detailed within the RRTP. However, given recent development of a range of actions in response to system pressures, it is proposed that the Homelessness Strategic Plan 2024/25 will also incorporate the high-level actions which are being progressed to address these pressures.
- 6.2 The proposed plan, attached as Appendix 2 has also been developed to continue direct alignment with the Local Housing Strategy. The proposed approach provides an effective way for the council and partners to ensure a continued focus on high level priorities with measurable actions to drive delivery and monitor progress.

6.3. One change incorporated within the structure of the Homelessness Strategic Plan is an amendment to original objectives, where it is proposed that RRTP priority objective's 4 and 5 are merged within the new plan in relation to Housing First. This takes account of the scale of progress, local context and funding limitations, whilst maintaining a commitment to deliver this focused approach to reducing homelessness and exploring opportunities to deliver in collaboration with HSCP and wider partners as a priority.

7. Priorities for 2024/2025

7.1. For the coming year, 2024/2025 priorities centre around addressing homeless pressures, building on learning through RRTP delivery and continuing work with Community Planning partners delivering services focussed on preventing homelessness otherwise minimising the impact.

7.2. Detailed below is a summary of some of the key priorities to be progressed during 2024/2025, set out in full within the annual review: -

- continue to deliver affordable homes for social rent
- ongoing focus on prevention of homelessness, particularly in relation to households with children through continuing to maximise social lets to homeless households and continued support to access and sustain in relation to the private sector
- further progress the homelessness directions contained within the Strategic Commissioning Plan;
- continue to develop, promote and monitor the Private Sector Access and Sustainment Service;
- complete review of support service provision and identify proposals; and
- continue the focus on joined up approaches and avoid long-term duplication of services.

8. Next Steps

8.1. It is proposed that a new Homeless Strategic Plan replaces RRTP for 2024/2025 combining ongoing RRTP actions alongside newly developed actions in response to significant homeless demand pressures, subject to guidance from the Scottish Government.

9. Employee Implications

9.1 There are no employee implications as a result of this report. However, there are permanent employees within the Housing establishment funded via RRTP, ongoing consideration given to matching given future funding uncertainty.

10. Financial Implications

10.1. The Scottish Government has provided £3,120,754 in funding to assist in the development and implementation of the RRTP, including allocation for 2024/2025.

10.2. As part of the ongoing RRTP monitoring and review process, consideration is given by all partners on how to further embed RRTP activities into mainstream services. At the same time partners will continue to identify opportunities to access additional funding, which is required to meet not only RRTP objectives, but also to support achievement of national objectives detailed within the Ending Homelessness Together Action Plan.

10.3. Again, it is worth noting uncertainty around future funding, a risk for the council in relation to RRTP funded support services which have operated at full capacity through the lifespan of the plan, in addition to internal RRTP funded posts.

11. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

11.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy which impacts on the natural environment, climate change or sustainability.

12. Other Implications

12.1. The content of this report will contribute to the evidence to support the requirements of the Annual Assurance Statement.

12.2. There are no additional risks associated with this report.

13. Integrated Impact Assessment and Consultation Requirements

13.1. An equality impact assessment was carried out on the RRTP. The assessment confirmed that the plan will make a positive contribution to the promotion of equalities.

13.2. A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) pre-screening determination was completed as part of the development of the RRTP 2019-24. This confirmed there is no requirement for a separate SEA to be carried out for the RRTP.

13.3. The RRTP was developed and co-produced with a range of key partners and stakeholders. These groups have confirmed their commitment to work together to ensure the delivery of the priority outcomes. Through the Homelessness Strategy Group, these partners have been involved in monitoring and reviewing progress of the plan.

Stephen Gibson
Executive Director (Housing and Technical Resources)
South Lanarkshire Council

13 November 2024

Contact for Further Information:

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Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan Annual Review 2023 - 2024



South Lanarkshire Council

Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan

Annual Review 2023/24



Contents

Foreword	3
1. Executive Summary.....	4
2. Homelessness Trends in the Year.....	8
3. Year Five progress	14
4. Proposed Changes to Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan (RRTP)	22
5. Priorities for 2024/25	22
Appendix 1: Update on RRTP Action Plan for 2023/24	24

Foreword

Councillor Davie McLachlan

Chair of Housing and Technical Resources Committee



I'm delighted that despite the significant challenges we've encountered over the past year, the fifth year of South Lanarkshire's Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan has involved a number of key successes. While the demand for homelessness services has seen a significant rise, both locally and nationally, our local services have risen to the occasion, preventing homelessness where feasible and when, providing suitable accommodation and support services when required.

This review highlights the extensive work carried out over the year and our unwavering dedication to delivering high-quality, person-centred services that yield positive and lasting results. We continue to focus on our priority of delivering additional council homes and collaborating with our housing association partners to significantly increase the availability of affordable homes, a crucial factor in achieving the substantial reduction in homelessness at the core of our plan.

As we transition from the final year of the plan, I am confident that we will continue to build upon the excellent work and outcomes we have already achieved, despite the most challenging of circumstances. We are committed to maximising opportunities to expand the supply of affordable housing, prevent homelessness whenever possible, and respond effectively with suitable accommodation and support packages. This forms the basis for our collective efforts to make a significant impact on homelessness and achieve the outcomes we aim for.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D McLachlan'.

Councillor Joe Fagan

Chair of South Lanarkshire's Community Planning Partnership Board



In recent years, our communities have dealt with significant challenges in fulfilling their basic needs. This year's review showcases the magnitude and character of the efforts that we, along with our partners have made to combat homelessness under the most trying circumstances.

This review underscores a fraction of the remarkable work carried out daily across the Community Planning Partnership to enhance the lives of South Lanarkshire's residents. Over the past year, the emphasis has remained on preventing homelessness. When prevention is not feasible, we strive to mitigate the impact on individuals, families, and communities by providing high-quality temporary housing as quickly as possible.

We must persist in our collaborative efforts, building on the strength of the Community Planning Partnership to comprehend needs, respond effectively to heightened pressures, and continue our journey towards effective change in addressing homelessness across South Lanarkshire.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Joe Fagan'.

1. Executive Summary

In reviewing the fifth year of the plan the Homelessness Strategy Group reflected on the changing environment in which partners operate, not least the unabated spike in homelessness nationally, the cost-of-living crisis and wider increasing pressures in the housing system.

A summary of the key highlights over the last year, the fifth year of the RRTP include: -

- Housing First target achieved with 40 households being supported over the lifespan of the plan.
- The level of repeat homelessness remained low at 3.6% over 2023/24.
- New supply continued to increase over the year with acquisitions increasing by almost 3 times from the previous year with a total of 165 properties purchased in the year.
- Annual targets for percentage of social housing allocated to homeless households were exceeded by both RSLs and council at 62.9% and 43.5% respectively.
- High level of tenancy sustainment was maintained for former homeless households with 91% of tenancies still being in place after 12 months.
- A further 12 temporary accommodation properties were converted to secure tenancies during 2023/24.
- The council's stock of temporary accommodation was increased by over 15% to help address additional demand.
- 100% of homeless households who required support were provided with Housing Support Officer assistance to meet their needs.
- Success continued in the pathway approach for care experiences young people, those affected by domestic abuse with 100% of cases having a housing pathway offered.

1. Background

1.1 National Context

In October 2017, the Scottish Government established the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Group (HARSAG) to develop solutions to end homelessness. Final recommendations included a requirement local authorities develop a 5-year Rapid Re-housing Transition Plan (RRTP), setting out the local context and detailing the actions which partners would take to achieve a step change in reducing homelessness.

Within the past year the Scottish Government and number of Local Authorities including South Lanarkshire declared housing emergencies. At their national conference on 5 March 2024, the Chartered Institute of Housing, declared a 'Scottish Housing Emergency' and not long after on the 15th May 2024 the Scottish Government declared a nationwide housing emergency.

Despite the tangible success that has been achieved over the last 5 years significant challenges have been faced in the later years of the plan, these are:

- a spike in demand for homelessness assistance
- significant increase in the number of people homeless at any one time
- significant numbers of people in temporary accommodation

- extreme pressure on the supply of appropriate temporary accommodation
- ensuring access to the required number of permanent homes

Nevertheless, the Scottish Government has yet to confirm the requirements and expectations for RRTPs from 2024 onwards, although commitment to extend RRTP funding has been confirmed, with local authority allocation for 2024/25 now confirmed.

1.2 South Lanarkshire Context

South Lanarkshire remains a top performing local authority, however Table 1 below shows over the last two years there has been a concerning downturn comparing 2021/22 performance to year end 2023/24. Whilst the increase in demand reduced over the last year, this is in the context of comparison against 2021/22 where demand rose sharply in the final months of the financial year and 2022/23, a year of unprecedented high levels of demand.

Against three principal measures of homelessness, South Lanarkshire experienced: -

- a **28%** increase in the number of people applying to the council for assistance due to homelessness
- a **38%** increase in the number of people recorded by the council as homeless
- a **101%** increase in the backlog of urgent need homeless households awaiting housing

The table below shows the year on year increase in demand for homelessness assistance between 2021/22 and 2023/24

Table 1

	Baseline	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	% Increase from 21/22 to 23/24	% increase from 22/23 to 23/24
Homeless Applications	1928	2090	2225	2134	2502	2728	27.84%	9.03%
Homeless Decisions	1941	1763	1658	1652	2144	2277	37.83%	6.20%
Homeless Caseload	892	956	969	785	1309	1579	101.15%	20.63%

A report to Housing and Technical Resources Committee on 7 February set out the severity of the challenges facing homelessness services stemming from sustained increased levels of demand. The report also detailed a range of actions which are being progressed to help address the emergency homelessness situation. It should be emphasised the statutory and demand-led nature of the homelessness service means that the objective is only to partially mitigate the impact of the emergency situation which cannot be fully address the scale of demand if it is continued over the longer term. Nationally and locally it is accepted that the long term answer has to be based upon delivery of an adequate supply of affordable housing These measures are however founded on maintaining a person-centred approach to address 4 key issues, which are to: -

- address the significant increase in the number of households in temporary accommodation.
- maintain a sufficient supply of appropriate temporary accommodation.
- improve the timescales for homeless households to be allocated a suitable permanent home.
- Reduce the number of children who are currently experiencing homelessness.

The council will continue to work with partners to progress the range of actions approved to address the housing and homelessness situation set out above. The proposed RRTP revised outcome framework for 2025/26 will incorporate these actions required to address the current situation along with continuation and strengthening of key areas of partnership focus.

1.3 Co-production and Oversight of the RRTP

The Homelessness Strategy Group who are responsible for monitoring and reporting in relation to the RRTP continued to meet throughout 2023/24.

A system of quarterly monitoring of the RRTP Measures and Actions was continued through 2023/24.

Senior managers from Housing and Technical Resources also attended regular meetings of the Housing Options West HUB meeting and represent the West HUB at the National Homeless Prevention RRTP subgroup, benefiting from shared learning across authorities and Scottish Government updates and discussions.

During 2023/24, further work continued to strengthen partnership links, ensuring homelessness and its wider impact is appropriately reflected in each strategy/plan.

1.4 Funding

The total funding that was originally sought to support delivery of the South Lanarkshire RRTP in was £7.31million.

Since the first award of funding from the Scottish Government in 2019, and taking account of the confirmed award (2024/25 of £460,892) a total of £2,659,892 has been awarded to support the development and implementation of RRTP, the breakdown is as follows:

RRTP funding received by year	Amount
2019	£105,000 (start-up funding)
2019/20	£461,000
2020/21	£453,000
2021/22	£282,000
2022/23	£445,000
2023/24	£453,000
2024/25	£460,892

The partnership plan therefore had to be reviewed and scaled back. Despite this the additional funding and focused partnership approach delivered opportunities for learning which informed service planning and delivered positive outcomes. Progress made in early the early years of the RRTP in preventing and reducing homelessness, strengthened the partnership's position to deal with the scale of challenges faced over the last two years.

A summary of the key areas which have been progressed during the year using funding received from the Scottish Government's Ending Homelessness Together Fund is detailed below: -

- Continuation of specialist support services to meet a range of complex need. This included service to address repeat homelessness, people with multiple needs (in particular addiction and mental health). Work in this area was further assisted through funding provided by the Alcohol and Drug Partnership (ADP).
- Continued development and delivery of the Housing First approach to meet the needs of the most vulnerable, offering greater choice and support to access and make a house a comfortable home.
- Continued focus on homeless prevention at points of transition in people's lives, including the further development of the Sustainable Housing on Release for Everyone (SHORE) approach.
- Continued delivery and further development of
 - approaches to Gender Based Violence and
 - housing pathway planning for young people moving on from care.
- Maintained services to prevent homelessness in the private sector through the Private Sector Access and Sustainment Service delivering advice along with practical and financial support to access and sustain private tenancies.

From the outset RRTP funding has been used to help establish or further develop key aspects of the RRTP. It should be emphasised that the overwhelming level of resources that partners have contributed to support delivery of the RRTP are out with the scope of RRTP funding.

1.5 Other funding sources

Throughout the period of the RRTP local partners have worked together to actively consider alternative funding routes to take forward priority activities and identify opportunities for mainstream services and budgets to be revised or re-focused to help deliver RRTP priorities.

Progress was made in the year with:

- The Alcohol and Drug Partnership who confirmed an allocation of £40,000 in year five of the plan to deliver services specifically designed to meet the needs of vulnerable women with addictions. The ADP are also considering opportunities to further support prevention activity during 2024/25 including funding to increase SHORE, residential pathway planning and intensive support activities.
- South Lanarkshire Council contributed £15,000 towards delivering the SHORE project with a further £16,000 confirmed for 2024/25.
- The Women Thriving Together Project was funded by ADP and provided two 21-hour Support Worker posts within Blue Triangle Housing Association to support women impacted by domestic abuse alongside drugs and alcohol.

- South Lanarkshire Violence Against Women and Girls Strategic Partnership (VAWAGSP), gathers representatives from local partners and national agencies meet to share knowledge, develop practice and improve joint working and communication between partners with the aim of improving outcomes for those affected by gender-based violence. Through links with the VAWAGSP, the Resource worked with Say Women to provide practical and emotional support to women in South Lanarkshire who had experienced sexual abuse, with the aim of preparing them for independent living and sustain a tenancy. Between October 2023 and February 2024, a part time worker from Say Woman led a conversation café with staff members to explore opportunities for joint working, referral routes and outcomes for women engaging in this service. During the lifetime of the project one young person was supported.
- Housing and Technical Resources' Gender Based Violence Working Group meets quarterly to co-ordinate the development and delivery of housing and homelessness services to those affected by gender-based violence and to ensure that the Resource is contributing to the delivery of the Make a Stand Pledge and Equally Safe Strategy. Key areas of work undertaken over the last year include the development of an action plan to direct and focus the work of the group, the review of the domestic abuse pathway plan and a review of the Women's Aid contract to take account of future needs. A key area of focus for the group in the future will be the development of a housing domestic abuse policy.

2. Homelessness Trends in the Year

2.1 Humanitarian Assistance

Over the first five years of the Syrian Resettlement Programme (now United Kingdom Resettlement Scheme) South Lanarkshire's partnership, supported over 200 individuals referred to the local authority for assistance under refugee resettlement arrangements.

The unexpected Ukrainian emergency situation resulted in significant resettlement need across neighbouring countries, including the UK. South Lanarkshire Council supported approximately 1,000 individuals through welcome (hotel) accommodation, and over 100 households have been accommodated across social housing options (170 individuals) alongside supporting a larger number move onto settled accommodation within and out with the local authority area over the last 2 years.

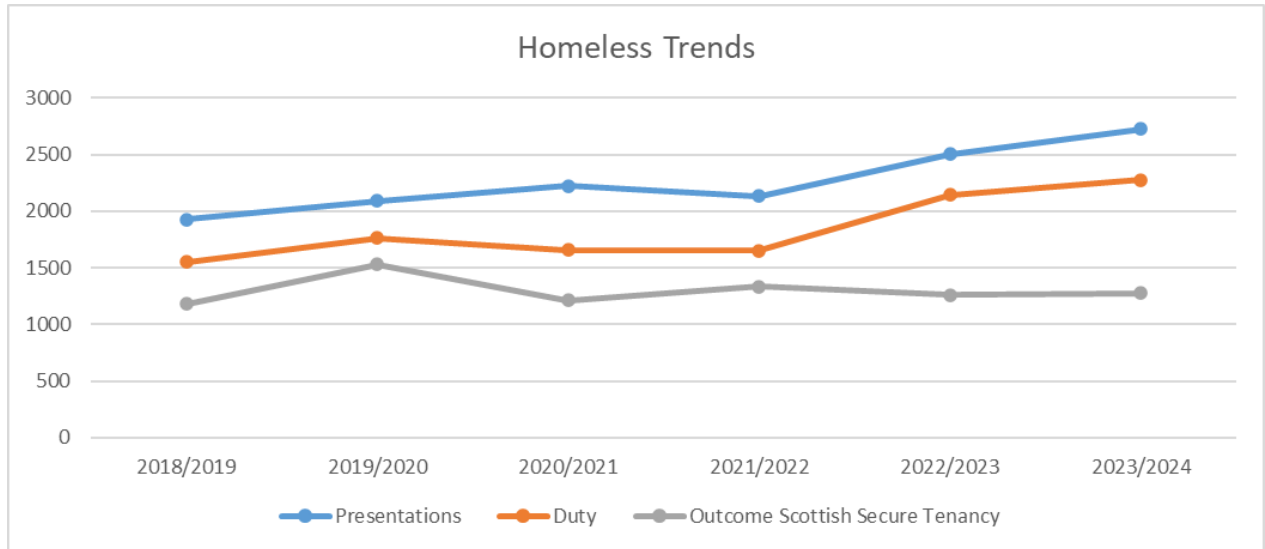
It is worth noting Home Office projections, and actual arrivals to the UK via all humanitarian routes across refugee programmes and unplanned asylum show no signs of reducing, in fact proportionate share across Scotland's local authorities, including South Lanarkshire, is set to increase. UK and Scottish Government grant funding fully covers the financial outgoings of the Refugee Resettlement service, however the impact of demand does generate wider costs not covered by the level of grant awarded for resettlement purposes given additional demand for temporary and permanent housing and wider services such as health and education.

A key focus in South Lanarkshire is our partnership approach to planning to meet need as far as possible across the partnership delivering the best possible service to those seeking refuge and mitigating any negative impact in relation to community, resource and service pressures alongside competing priorities.

2.2 Homelessness demand

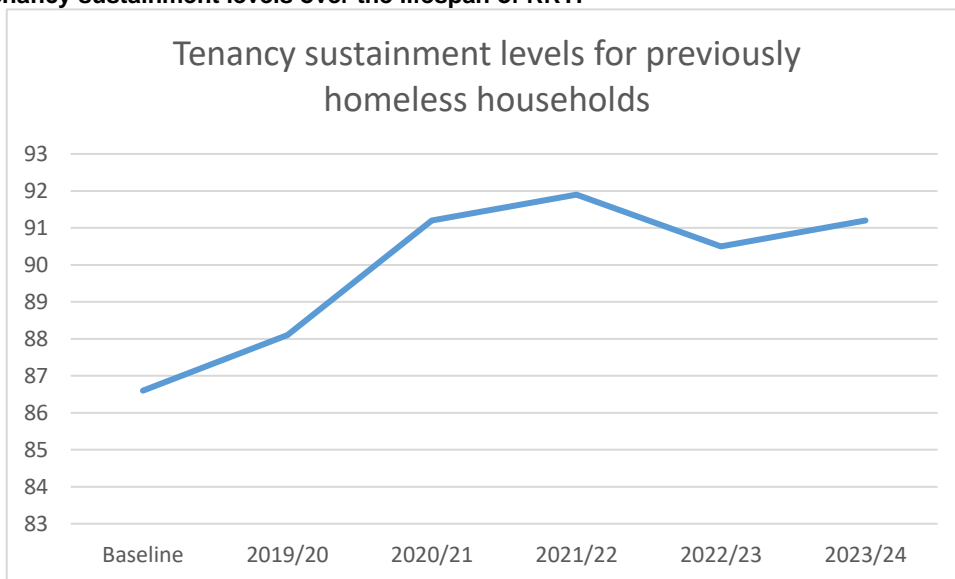
- Figure 1 below demonstrates the trend in the number of homelessness presentations received between 2003/04 and 2023/24, measured against the number of cases where the council had a duty to house the applicant and the number of cases that resulted in a Scottish Secure Tenancy being allocated upon case closure.

Figure 1 – Homelessness trends 2018/19 – 2023/24



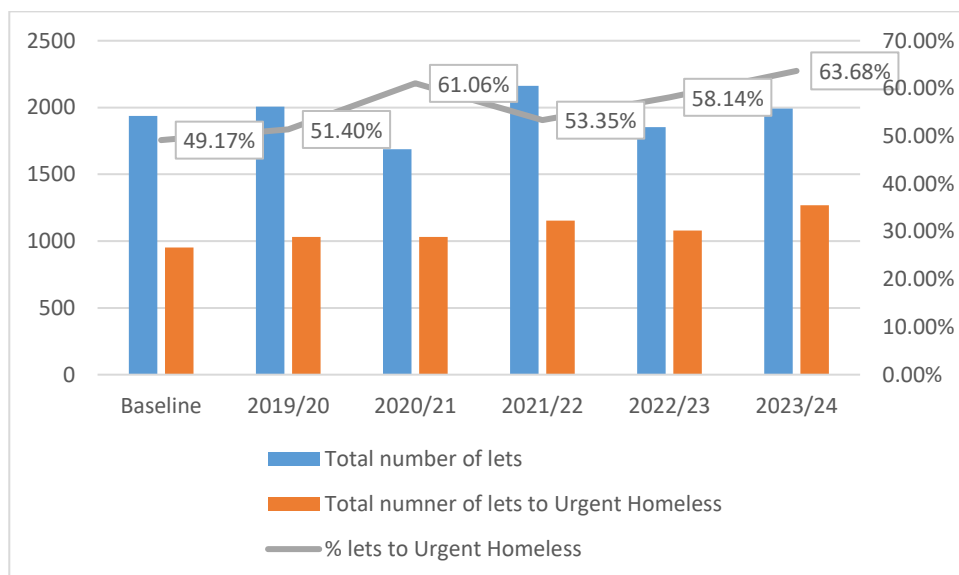
- Although in the last year the rate of increase in presentations has slowed from the previous year there has now been a 30.5% increase in the number of homeless presentations over the lifespan of the plan, from 2090 in 2019/2020 to 2728 in 2023/24. This is likely to be due to the external economic issues affecting the housing market including the reduction in turnover/availability, pressures in the private rented sector and the “cost of living crisis.”
- Since the beginning of the plan there has been a rise of 29.2% in the number of households the council had a duty to house from 1763 in 2019/20 to 2277 in 2023/24. Again, the increase was not as high as the previous year at 6.2%.
- The removal of consideration of local connection within Scotland in November 2019 leading to out of area presentations (c240 in current year to date) has contributed to increased demand as well as significant housing need arising from humanitarian programmes, considerably above the expected local commitment.
- Figure 1 also reiterates the extreme pressure experienced over the last two years with the worrying incline comparing 2021/22 performance to 2023/24 cited at 1.2 above.
- Despite the surge in homelessness, as demonstrated in figure 2, there has been a continued high level of success in tenancy sustainment, with 91% of homeless households sustaining their tenancy for over 12 months in 2023/24. This shows the positive impact achieved through sustainment services such as Homestart.

Figure 2 – Tenancy sustainment levels over the lifespan of RRTP



- Lets to homeless households both by the council and RSL partners have increased by over 5% and 7% respectively over the last year (63.7% for council and 45.3% RSLs) assisted by an increase of 7% in the total number of properties available to let.
- Figure 3 below shows that despite the council having let over 6500 properties to the urgent homeless list and lets from RSL’s over and above this, over the lifespan of the plan the number of people who are homeless awaiting a permanent home has almost doubled in the same period.

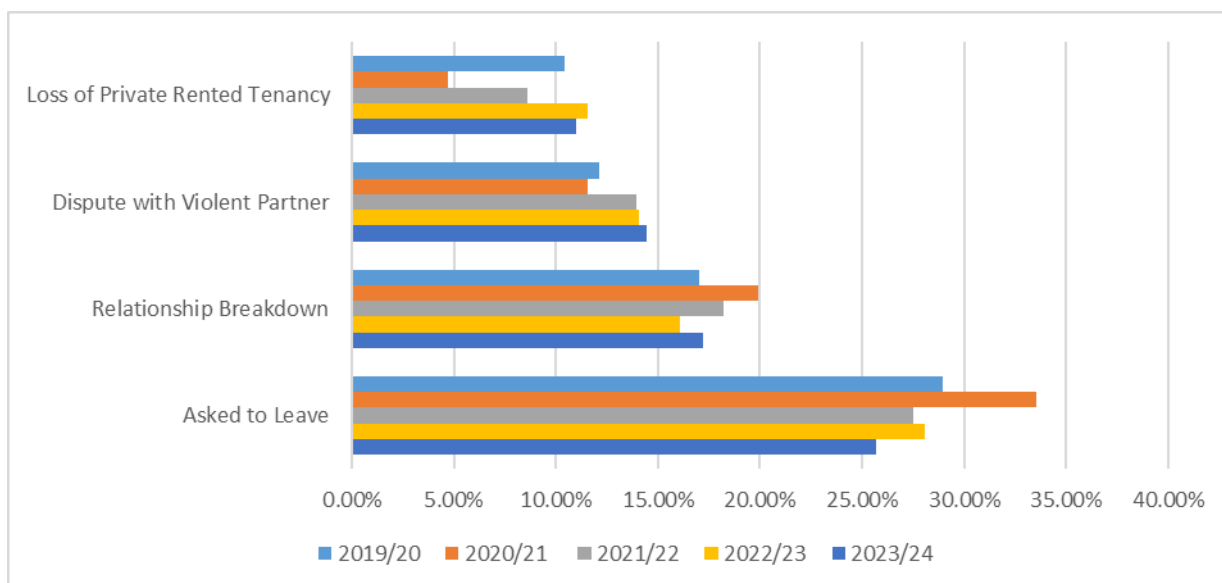
Figure 3 – South Lanarkshire Council lets to homeless



2.3 Reasons for homelessness

Figure 4 below provides a summary of the higher percentage of reasons for homelessness in South Lanarkshire in from 2019/20 to 2023/24.

Figure 4 – Reasons for homelessness



While the overall increase in demand is in line with national trends the reasons for presenting remain similar across the lifespan of the plan in terms of percentage of overall presentations. The changes in the most common reason for presenting are detailed below;

- Being asked to leave current accommodation remains the most common reason for homelessness in South Lanarkshire at 25.7% which is a slight decrease on 2022/23 level of over 28% and less than the average over the 5 years of the plan, 28.7%.
- Dispute with a violent partner account for 14.44% of all homeless presentations in South Lanarkshire, a slight increase of less than 1% on the previous year and just over 1% higher than the 5-year average.
- Previous reviews had seen an increase in the levels of homelessness from private rented across subcategories e.g., Landlord leaving the sector, however 2023/24 has shown a slight reduction from the previous year 2022/23 at 11.54% and 10.99%. during 2023/24 This does however remain higher than the 5-year average of 9.26%.

2.4 Prevention of Homelessness

Housing Services continued to focus on preventing homelessness as far as possible, increasingly challenging in the context of shrinkage of the private sector and extreme pressure on affordable housing across tenures.

During 2023/24 1086 households approaching the housing options service were assisted to prevent homelessness occurring with 60.87% of cases closed with successful prevention outcomes, below the internal target of 70%.

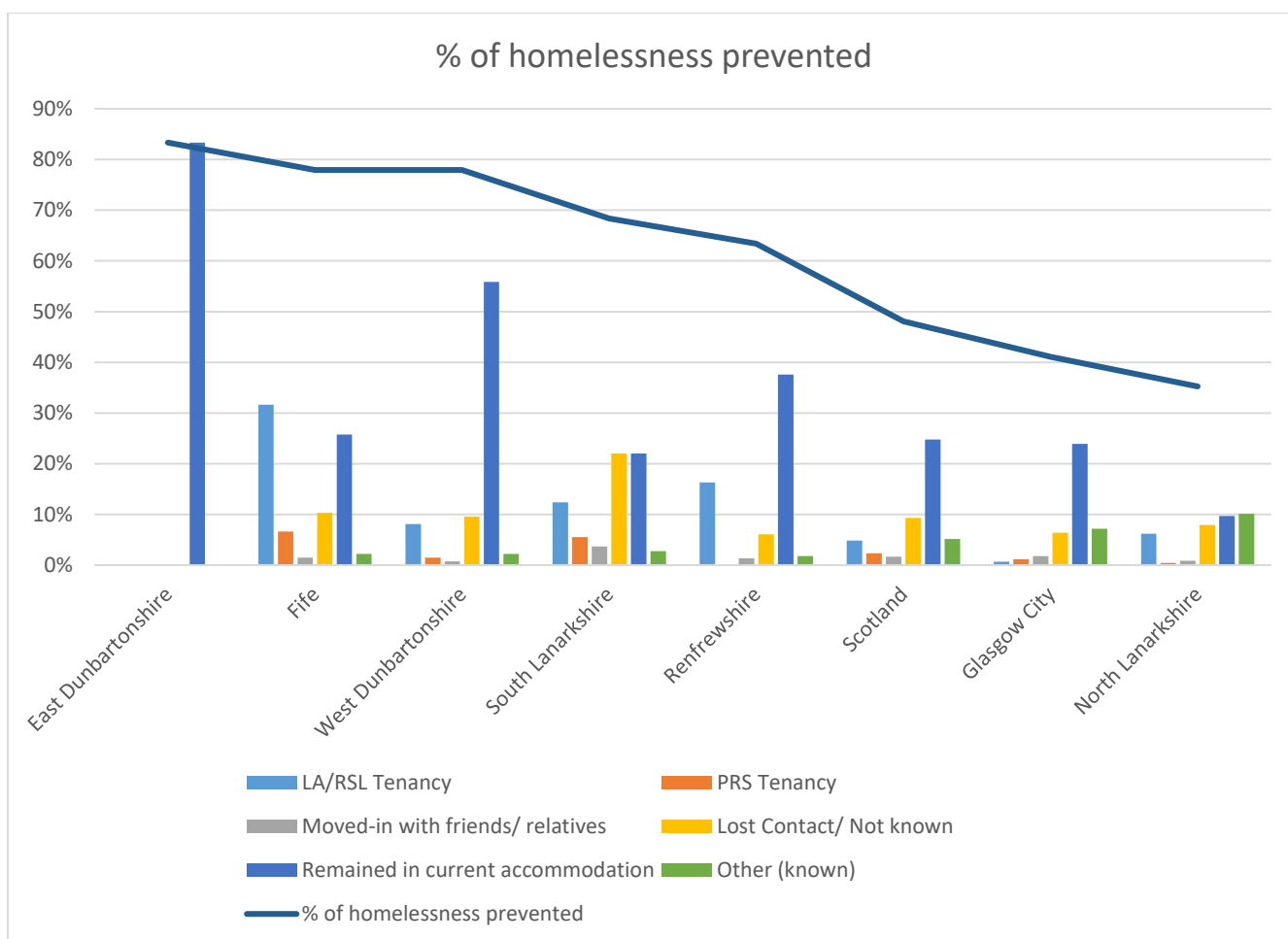
On this basis through the review process a national comparison was carried out to consider South Lanarkshire’s performance against peer authorities, this showed that;

- The national rate of approaches is 157 per 10,000 households, though this varies greatly between local authorities. Locally approaches in 2022/23 were lower than the target of the RRTP nationally, South Lanarkshire accounted for the 12th highest level across all 32 authorities, which was 63 approaches per 10,000 households, 2%.
- In terms of the % of homelessness prevented from these outcomes South Lanarkshire were place 11th in comparison to other local authorities. In the Prevent 1 report South Lanarkshire detailed that homelessness was prevented in 68% of cases, this was 20% more than the national average shown in figure 6.

- Where the approach has led to the outcome of a securing a local authority or Registered Social Landlord tenancy South Lanarkshire were placed 4th in terms of percentage of outcomes at 12%, 7% higher than the national average.
- South Lanarkshire were placed 5th nationally in terms of outcome being housed in the private sector preventing or resolving homelessness at 6%,4% above the national average.

Internal review is underway considering the councils Housing Options service and approach to homeless prevention, conclusions and recommendations will be presented to Housing Services Management Team early in 2024/25 which may result in some service re-design.

Figure 6 – West Hub and Peer comparison of % of homelessness prevented outcomes



2.5 Affordable Housing Supply (Social Rented)

2.5.1 Figure 7 below, provides details of the increase in social rented council stock across the four localities during the lifespan of the RRTP.

Figure 7 – Total Social Rented Council Housing Supply (non-sheltered)

Description	Clydesdale	East Kilbride	Hamilton	Rutherglen/ Cambuslang	South Lanarkshire
RRTP Baseline (2018/19)	4799	5266	9767	4747	24,579
2022/23 Additions	7	92	79	55	233

2023/24 Additions	13	136	108	12	269
Total	4909	5,707	10,079	5,074	25,769

- As well as additional council stock there has been an increase in RSL stock of 107 properties in 2022/23, 177 in 2023/24 and over 7,700 in total over the lifetime of the RRTP.
- Executive Committee in November 2022 committed to a target of 1,300 additional council homes by March 2027. Additional supply will be delivered through a combination of acquisition of existing homes and new builds.
- Acquisitions are an opportunity to immediately increase provision of council stock in high pressure housing areas, helping to meet homelessness demand. To meet increased demand, significant increase in number of properties acquired on previous years has been achieved for 2023/24 (165), with an expanded market purchase scheme implemented.
- In 2023/24 there were 104 new build completions. Significant increase in number of completions is expected in 2025/26 and 2026/27 as sites at design and planning phase move towards completion.
- It is important to highlight that the program relies on grant funding and while confirmation of allocation is pending there is an expectation the Scottish Government will reduce allocation for 2024/25 following national budget confirmation. Implications from this, including impact to meeting homelessness demand through increased supply is a concern and discussions are ongoing with Scottish Government representatives.

2.6 Temporary Accommodation

- In addition, the council's core temporary accommodation provision of self-contained furnished properties, ordinary homes, across our communities, has increased by almost 100 over 2023/24 to 704 units.
- One of the most significant manifestations of the pressure on services during the year has been significant use of B&B. For a considerable period of time B&B only used on a minimal basis however, B&B usage constituted the greatest increase in temporary accommodation placements during the year, with a 146% increase since the same period last year, impacting on the council's performance in relation to breaches of the unsuitable accommodation order. There have been 13 breaches recorded in the course of the year and significant overspend in available budget based on historical use of bed and breakfast accommodation, £30k budget v over £140k spend during 2023/24.
- A contributing factor to increased demand for temporary accommodation is again the removal of consideration of local connection (within Scotland) resulting in c240 out of area presentations. Housing Services upheld its duty to accept in terms of assessing circumstances and providing temporary accommodation during assessment period. Approximately 80% of those presenting out with area are found to be homeless and the council therefore hold a duty to accommodate in settled housing. The remaining 20% are found either to be not homeless or have no local connection (last settled address was out with Scotland, commonly England or Ireland).

2.6.2 The process of "flipping" temporary units to Scottish Secure Tenancies has continued, with 117 units having been converted to a permanent home for homeless households since the implementation of the RRTP in 2019 with a focus on planning for longer term cases.

2.7 Repeat Homelessness

2.7.1 During 2023/24, the level of repeat homelessness remained static at 3.6%. There continues to be an increased focus on support, particularly for those with complex needs, which contributes to improvements in tenancy sustainment and prevention of repeat homelessness. Analysis of repeat homelessness is continuous informing future service development.

3. Year Five progress

3.1 Tackling homelessness requires a shared commitment from a range of agencies and partners in the public, private and third sectors. As such the RRTP was co-produced and annually reviewed with partners and stakeholders involved in the decision-making process for agreeing ongoing priority actions contained within the plan.

3.2 Reviewing the plan

The Homelessness Strategy Group has responsibility for monitoring progress in relation to the RRTP and overseeing the annual review, including the evaluation of progress against actions and measures set out within the action plan and consideration of the appropriateness of the actions identified.

In the course of evaluating the fifth year of the RRTP, it's clear that improvements have been made, leveraging the robust partnerships already in place. This has facilitated continuing development and enhancement of crucial work areas, which has been essential given the persistently demanding circumstances.

3.3 Review Scorecard

To monitor progress against each of the five priority objectives in the RRTP, a traffic light scoring system is used. Attached to the priorities are 53 indicators comprising of 33 actions and 20 measures. A further category of blue was an addition to the second annual review and highlights actions which have been completed. Figure 9 below provides a summary of the position in relation to the progress made towards the achievement of the five priority objectives of the RRTP during 2023/24. Over 89% of indicators were either achieved or were close to target.

Figure 9: Scorecard

RRTP Scorecard 2023/24	Blue	Green	Amber	Red	Grey	Total
Prevent homelessness occurring and significantly reduce homelessness	0	10	0	4	0	14
Significantly reduce time spent by households in temporary accommodation and minimise moves before moving to settled homes	1	10	0	1	0	12
Improve and increase the provision of housing support for households to live independently within communities	5	6	1	0	0	12
Expand the scope and capacity of our Housing First approach to be the first response for households with multiple complex needs	4	4	0	0	2	10


Enhance integration and partnership working to embed RRTP through a whole systems approach	1	4	0	0	0	5
All	11	34	1	5	2	53

Colour	Progress
Blue	Complete
Green	Achieved/on target
Amber	Minor slippage
Red	Significantly off target
Grey	Report Later/Contextual

3.4 Key Highlights of Progress Made in Year 5

Detailed below are key highlights of the progress that has been made towards delivering the actions and measures outlined for Year four for each of the five RRTP priority objectives. Some examples of service user feedback and case studies have also been provided to demonstrate the positive outcomes achieved.

A summary of progress made in Year five, in relation to all actions and measures detailed in the RRTP Action Plan is also attached as Appendix 1.

	Priority Objective 1: Prevent homelessness occurring and significantly reduce homelessness
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A further improvement of availability in affordable housing has been seen in 2023/24 with a total of 165 properties purchased through the Council's Open Market Purchase Scheme. Additionally, 104 new homes were completed. There has been a continued partnership approach with Right There to support access and sustainability of tenancies in the Private Rented Sector through continuation of the Innovation Fund. In 2023/24, with 29 people helped through the scheme. The Women Thriving Together Project was funded by ADP and provided two Support Worker posts within Blue Triangle Housing Association to support women impacted by domestic abuse alongside drugs and alcohol. The service supported women to become active members of their community and to engage in social networking opportunities as well providing activities to encourage women to stay safe in their own homes. South Lanarkshire Council worked in partnership with Say Women between October 2023 and February 2024 to provide outreach specialist emotional support for young women aged 16 to 25. The part-time worker led a conversation café with staff members to explore opportunities for joint working, referral routes and outcomes for women engaging in this service and supported one young person. Ongoing pathway approach to support those affected by domestic abuse with a view to preventing homelessness wherever possible. During 2023/24 we have continued to provide housing representation at every MARAC, sharing relevant information on victims and perpetrators and taking away appropriate actions agreed at each meeting with the goal of maximising safety planning to safeguard victims. Officers have established a presence at Beacons recovery hub services within South Lanarkshire providing information and assistance with homelessness prevention, homelessness case information, repairs and other general housing enquiries. 	

- Contact is being made by the Breaking the Cycle support team to all people presenting with children or any indication of domestic abuse out of hours to proactively identify support options at the earliest opportunity.

Case Study: Breaking the Cycle

Family Comp – 1 adult, 3 children, 14,9,3

Miss L and her children were placed into emergency Family 1st Stop Accommodation at East Kilbride fleeing domestic abuse. Miss L is originally from Poland and has lived in Scotland for approximately 4 years after meeting her partner and subsequently having their daughter. Miss L has no support or friends in Scotland and was living a very isolated lifestyle with her partner and her three children.

Miss L and her children required support to register with GP and a referral was made to Health and Homeless for support. Specific requirements in relation to the future offer of housing were also discussed with the local housing team. Miss L had fled from her partner on two previous occasions where she has come home and the door has been locked and she has had to find alternative accommodation for herself and her two eldest children as her partner refused to hand over their youngest daughter. This time Miss L felt it was different and was determined she wasn't returning to her partner and will pursue her own safe permanent tenancy for her children. We discussed a referral to Women's Aid which Miss L eventually declined.

Further accommodation was sourced for Miss L and her children, and she required support with utilities and setting up the temporary tenancy.

Miss L agreed to short term support as she was struggling with practicalities of moving and setting up the tenancy. The council's intensive family support service Breaking the Cycle (BTC) sourced household goods and supported Miss L with setting up utility accounts and generally settling into her new home. Miss L was struggling with Christmas presents for the children and BTC managed to source gifts from Christmas appeal and also digital access with a laptop and Wi-Fi. BTC referred Miss L to Routes to Work who engaged with Miss L and supported her to create a CV and look at job opportunities.

The support case was later closed following a home visit where Miss L agreed that all identified support needs had been met i.e. health, benefits, education, accommodation and employment and she was well settled



Priority Objective 2: Significantly reduce time spent by households in temporary accommodation and minimise moves before moving to a settled home

- Despite the increase in demand for temporary accommodation a further 12 temporary tenancies were flipped to Scottish Secure Tenancies, a total of 117 properties since the beginning of the plan, above the original 100-unit target. Area Teams continue to achieve a balance between flipping and keeping quality temporary accommodation in the right places to meet the needs of homeless households.
- The Council and its HomeFinder Registered Social Landlord (RSL) partners continue to maximise the percentage of lets to be directed to those on the Homeless List. In 2023/24, 63.7% of council properties were let to homeless applicants. HomeFinder RSLs collectively let 43.5% of vacant properties to homeless households.
- Percentage of homeless households provided with a Scottish Secure Tenancy (SST) moved from an amber measure to green in 2023/24 with an increase of nearly 5% to 62.6% an area there was confidence would be improved over the past year.
- The level of repeat homelessness remained low at 3.6% over 2023/24.
- Against RRTP intentions temporary accommodation was increased during 2023/24 a direct result of increased demand for homelessness assistance, including temporary accommodation and in line with the councils objective to meet temporary accommodation needs in good quality housing, ordinary homes within our communities thus reducing the negative impact of homelessness as far as possible.

Case Study: Flipped Tenancy

Service user and his partner with their four sons had been residing in their private rented property for 3 years. The service user was a full-time carer for his wife who suffered from issues with her mental health and the currently living circumstances were causing further distress.

The family presented to the council due to various issues with repairs including no heating and no hot water in property, issues with rats and an incident where his partner fell through the flooring leaving a hole. When Service user contacted the landlord for an update, they became verbally abusive towards him. The family also became a target of ASB in the area.

With support Environmental Health visited and declared the property below the tolerable standard and unsuitable for the family to continue residing there.

Housing Support Officer assessment lead onto the family being supported through the process of making a homeless application and placed in temporary accommodation.

The Housing Support Officer worked with the family to complete a detailed housing plan so we could establish the best areas to be rehoused permanently. A referral to Money Matters and an application for a Community Care Grant was also supported.

Following the agreed plan of action, the family had settled into the Temporary Furnished Flat quickly. The family relationships improved greatly, the kids settled and school and his partner was linked in with a CPN advising her mental health was also improving. It was agreed to 'flip' the tenancy to a Scottish secure tenancy to allow the family to remain settled and avoid any further moves.

The positive outcomes for this case: -

- Multi agency approach met support needs.
- Person centred housing plan identified most appropriate accommodation option.
- Appropriate offer of housing through flipping tenancy preventing further disruption.

Positive relationships established should there be any future need for advice or support.



Priority Objective 3: Improve and increase the provision of housing support for households to live independently within communities

- Continued focus on prevention of homelessness, particularly in relation to households with children through maximising social lets to homeless households and continued support to access and sustain in relation to the private sector. Approaches to the service for Housing Options increased over 2023/24 by almost 12% to 1086 households.
- For another year 100% of homeless households who require support, were provided with Housing Support Officer assistance.
- Procurement commenced to further increase the supply of First Stop Accommodation. The objective being to establish a single provider to deliver, supported Accommodation, out of hours services and outreach housing support. It is anticipated that this will be one lead provider with subcontractors and the new contract estimated to be in place for October 2024
- This year the Housing Pathways approach for all care experienced young people continued. The target of 95% of all active throughcare homefinder applications having a person-centred housing pathway in place was exceeded at 100%.

Case Study: Throughcare Pathway

Support Worker became involved with Mr N when they met at a Christmas Lunch within the Social Work base. Mr N is a young person who originally came from Shetland and continues to be supported by Shetland Local Authority. As he was not originally a South Lanarkshire Young Person, he had not been picked up the regular joint meetings between Housing & Social Work so he did not have a current housing application on.

Support Worker completed a housing application with Mr N and added him onto the joint spreadsheet so he could be discussed at further meetings. A housing pathway was carried out him, clarifying his areas of choice. Mr N worked full time with a travel agency and had recently been offered a position to progress to Cabin Crew.

At a joint meeting between social work & housing, Mr N was discussed as a concern as he stayed in a private let that the landlord had decided to sell. Mr N was potentially homeless and had no alternative accommodation even on a temporary basis. Housing was able to consider his application and match him to a property in his area of choice. He accepted the offer and was excited about the future with a new home and job.

Mr N said, "I am very thankful for all the help housing has provided in getting me a home as I was concerned, I would end up homeless".

Although Mr N was not originally on the joint spreadsheet, we were able to rectify this and find out about his current situation prior to him requiring temporary accommodation. Housing was proactive in identifying a suitable property resulting in a positive outcome.



Priority Objective 4: Expand the scope and capacity of our Housing First approach to be the first response for households with multiple complex needs

- South Lanarkshire Council in partnership with The Salvation Army continue to work to deliver Housing First support to individuals with multiple complex needs.
- In 2023/24 a further 4 individuals were supported through Housing First totalling 40 supported since the service began.

Case Study: Housing First Service

Mr F had over 10 homeless presentations prior to working with the Housing First Service. Over the period he had been in and out of emergency accommodation and struggled with his mental health addiction which resulted in criminal activity and several custodial sentences. Mr F was very institutionalised advised he could not manage on the ‘outside’ and he spent more time in prison. He felt prison was his only option when things became unmanageable, knowing he was safe, fed and away from society. Mr F had never had a tenancy as he was never out of prison long enough.

On his release he was referred to Housing First after his case was highlighting. Mr F now has his tenancy in an he always wanted, there have been no prison admissions since working with the service and now attending support groups. Mr F is now discharged from Housing First as he feels that he has received the support he required.



Priority Objective 5: Enhance integration and partnership working to embed RRTP through a whole systems approach

- Between the four Council operated employability programmes there were a total of 2540 people supported, 620 people gained sustainable employment and 861 people accessed further education or training.
- Through 2023/24 the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) continued to collaborate with the council and various third sector organisations to prioritise access to training, skills development and employment for claimants impacted by homelessness.
- VASLAN maintained its representation within the RRTP partnership through 2023/24, with the aim of promoting awareness of third sector support in South Lanarkshire.
- Aligned to the intentions in the Strategic Commissioning Plan 2022 – 2025, there has been a continued commitment to improving homelessness prevention.

3.5 Key Areas for Improvement

3.5.1 Progress is being made with 89% of indicators on the RRTP Action Plan being complete, on target or close to target, however five measures are now categorised a red and these will continue to be areas of focus and improvement during 2024/25. Details of these are noted 2 Table A below outlines the 5 red measures. the context as and monitoring arrangements

Table A – Red Measures

Reference	Measure	Comment
M1.1	Number of homeless presentations	<p>As previously reported it was anticipated that the target for this measure would be unlikely met due to the emergency homeless situation</p> <p>A report to Housing and Technical Resources Committee on 7 February set out the range of actions which are being progressed to help address this.</p> <p>It should be emphasised the statutory and demand-led nature of the homelessness service means that the objective of the actions is only to partially mitigate the impact of the emergency situation and cannot be expected to fully address the scale of demand if it is continued over the longer term.</p>
M1.2	Level of Homeless Households (homelessness caseload at year end)	<p>In line with the previous red measure there was no sign of abatement in the significant increase in the levels of homelessness experienced in South Lanarkshire over the last two years.</p> <p>The extremely challenging circumstances are not affecting South Lanarkshire in isolation but are mirrored by trends being experienced across Scotland. The measure will continue to be a focus throughout 2024/25.</p>
M1.5	Increase the number of accredited landlord properties	<p>In the context of limited supply against high demand for available properties further limiting housing options.</p> <p>The reducing number of landlords in the sector is resulting in this measure proving difficult to increase and a proposal to amend the measure in line with the associated action to 'Continue to promote' this service would be more appropriate.</p>
M1.6	Number of homeless households whose housing needs are met in the private rented sector	<p>This year (2023/2024), 300 homeless presentations were received due to the loss of a private sector tenancy, this accounts for 11% of all homeless presentations.</p> <p>At the same time, challenges accessing the private rented sector is contributing to additional homelessness demand.</p> <p>Prevention activities continue, although it is increasingly difficult as the private sector market is proving to be less accessible or sustainable for customers. Focus remains on partnership working to meet support needs, provision of housing options advice and support to access and sustain private sector housing via 3rd sector partnership.</p>

Reference	Measure	Comment
M2.8	Number of homeless households who spend more than 12 months in temporary accommodation	<p>Demand from temporary accommodation has grown significantly beyond previous trends or projections, in short space of time. Supply has increased at speed, as far as possible to meet demand, with 100 additional temporary furnished units identified in the last year.</p> <p>A range of other work is being progressed to help mitigate the situation.</p>

4. Proposed Changes to Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan (RRTP)

- 4.1 The annual review provides the opportunity to assess and report on the progress made against each of the actions and measures contained within the plan. It also allows for a general re-examination of the RRTP, to ensure that the objectives, actions, and measures identified, remain appropriate, relevant, and measurable.
- 4.2 While there is no specific requirement to continue or prepare a new RRTP, with additional funding for RRTP confirmed for 2024/25, it is proposed to continue the current RRTP for a further year to ensure a continuity of focus.
- 4.3 Dependant on guidance from the Scottish Government a rebrand of the RRTP is being proposed as Transition Plan may not be the appropriate term moving forward, Homelessness Strategy has been suggested as an option with links into the Local Housing Strategy.
- 4.4 With the future requirements of RRTP unknown the resource would hope to retain commitment to the priority objectives set at the introduction of the plan, combining Priority objective 4 and 5 in the new plan. This is due to Housing First remaining a commitment however funding has restricted the ability to upscale this. Combining with the multi-agency focused outcome in the potential for a multi-agency approach to this.
- 4.5 Table B below shows specific proposal for amendment to measure M1.5 in line with changes in the Private rented sector.

Table B – Proposed changes to measure

Reference	Measure	Proposed change
M1.5	Increase the number of accredited landlord properties	Continue to promote landlord accreditation and training from Landlord Accreditation Scotland

5. Priorities for 2024/25

- 5.1 The review also provides an opportunity to set out the key priorities going forward and the future of the RRTP.
- 5.2 A summary of these to be progressed during 2023/24 are detailed below: -
- Reduce the number of children affected by homelessness
 - End repeat offers of temporary accommodation related to challenging behaviour

- Work with customers to ensure that they are queuing for an appropriate range of areas
- Focus on meeting housing need to resolve homelessness within a reasonable timescale
- Queue applicants with minority access to children for multi storey properties
- Continue pilot of use of furnished properties as emergency accommodation
- Continue work to expand core temporary accommodation provision
- Consider appropriate balance between lets to urgent homeless applicants and transfer applicants to optimise availability and meet wider housing need
- Continue discussions with key partners including RSL's and the Scottish Government to increase supply of affordable homes for social rent.
- Continue support to enable people to access and sustain tenancies in the private sector.
- Supporting development of the new Strategic Commissioning Plan, to ensure appropriate linkages to future homelessness planning
- Continue to maintain and develop links to the Local Child Poverty Action Plan.
- Monitor specific pathways for victims of domestic abuse, and young care leavers.
- Further develop the approach for individuals released from prison by expanding the service by linking in with female prisons.
- Continue the Housing First approach.
- Continue to convert temporary units to permanent accommodation where possible.
- Continue the focus on joined up approaches and avoid long-term duplication of services especially with health and social care partnerships and community justice in line with impending prevention duties.

5.3 Funding the RRTP during 2024/25

Scottish Government Funding

During 2023/24, the Scottish Government's Ending Homelessness Together Fund confirmed a funding allocation of £460,892 for year five for South Lanarkshire. Partners agreed that this would be used to further embed and progress the following RRTP actions: -

- The continuation of specialist support services currently provided by Blue Triangle Housing Association for intensive floating support services to individuals with complex needs.
- Continuation of funding dedicated officer posts to support victims of domestic abuse.
- Continued support of the Private Sector Access and Sustainment Service and expansion of the Innovation Fund administered by Right There.
- Continuation of funding dedicated officer posts to support young care leavers now funded through Social Work Resource.
- Continuation of funding dedicated officer to support SHORE standards for individuals entering and leaving prison.
- Continuation of the Housing First programme.

Other Funding Sources

The Homelessness Strategy Group actively consider other potential funding routes to meet future resourcing requirements of the RRTP. Partners have committed to work collaboratively to identify funding opportunities in 2024/25.

Appendix 1: Update on RRTP Action Plan for 2023/24

Priority Objective 1: Prevent homelessness occurring and significantly reduce homelessness					
RRTP Measures		Target	RRTP Baseline	Progress 2023/24	Lead
M1.1	Number of homeless presentations	Maintain or reduce	1,928	2728	HTR
M1.2	Level of Homeless Households (homelessness caseload at year end)	Maintain or reduce	892	1579 UH, 6 deferred	HTR
M1.3	Number of affordable homes added to the housing supply (new and OMP)	Annual target will be set and detailed in the Strategic Local Programme Agreement, developed between SLC and the Scottish Government	RSL 283	To be reported later	HTR / RSL
			SLC 193	269	
M1.4	New supply affordable housing suitable to meet particular needs	Annual target will be set and detailed in the Strategic Local Programme Agreement, developed between SLC and the Scottish Government	170	20	HTR / RSL
M1.5	Increase the number of accredited landlord properties	+9% from LHS baseline	1,068	787	HTR
M1.6	Number of homeless households whose housing needs are met in the private rented sector	Increase 2020/21	50	24	HTR

Priority Objective 1: Prevent homelessness occurring and significantly reduce homelessness				
Actions		Target/Milestone	Progress in 2023/24	Lead
A1.1	Set housing supply targets for new build properties and ensure contribution to meeting homelessness needs are considered in the planning process	Aligned with Strategic Housing Investment Plan and the Local Housing Strategy. Annual target will be set and detailed in the Strategic Local Programme Agreement, developed between SLC and the Scottish Government.	The council's target for additional supply will be delivered through a combination of acquisitions of existing homes and new builds. The council approved target of 1300 additional homes will require to be reviewed in light of a significant reduction in the grant funding available to support the programme	HTR/RSL
A1.2	Increase number of properties acquired through Open Market Purchase (OMP Scheme) to support conversion of temporary accommodation to secure tenancies and rehousing in pressure areas	Annual target to be agreed in Strategic Housing Investment Plan.	The SHIP target to purchase 120 homes in the year was significantly exceeded with 165 properties purchased. Acquisitions provide an opportunity to immediately increase council stock in high pressure areas, helping to meet homelessness demand.	HTR
Priority Objective 1: Prevent homelessness occurring and significantly reduce homelessness				
Actions		Target/Milestone	Progress in 2023/24	Lead
A1.3	Continue to develop and promote the landlord accreditation scheme	Deliver two private landlord forums per annum in partnership with the Landlord Accreditation Scotland	South Lanarkshire Council has continued to promote the accreditation scheme at forum meetings and the Council's websites. There are 787 registered landlords in South Lanarkshire. Again, this year the number of accredited landlords has decreased despite the high levels of engagement at our landlord forum and ongoing promotion of the PSASS service.	HTR

A1.4	Provide funding to incentivise landlords to access accreditation and training from Landlord Accreditation Scotland	Annual fees provided and accreditation monitored	The council continues to fund and work in partnership with Landlord Accreditation Scotland who provide training to private landlords.	HTR
A1.5A	Expand the Private Sector Access and Sustainment Service administered by Right There	Service Expanded Monitor effectiveness of increased capacity and widening scope of service delivery	Right There (formerly Ypeople) provide expert advice and assistance, assessing housing needs, risk to sustainment in particular financial risk and assist households to access and sustain private sector accommodation. Additionally, to increase partnership working with landlords and letting agencies. In 2023/24 £350 of financial assistance was provided through Guarantee Bonds in place of a cash deposit. The service is continually promoted to landlords, to gain their support in encouraging access to the fund. The service has also expanded through work with the Jubilee Key Scheme who provide a limited amount of financial assistance to those supported. Quarterly reporting to the Homeless Strategy Group monitors the effectiveness of the service and opportunities for development.	HTR /Right There
A1.6A	Deliver and continue to develop Private Sector Innovation Fund administered by Right There - providing financial support to private rented tenants to prevent homelessness.	Service continues to be delivered in accordance with – commissioning contract.	The Innovation Fund administered by Right There's Private Sector Access and Sustainment Fund (PSASS), has seen increased demand. In 2023/24 there were 29 successful referrals and the spend was £16,500 with £3500 paid back in.	HTR/ Right There
Priority Objective 1: Prevent homelessness occurring and significantly reduce homelessness				
Actions		Target/Milestone	Progress in 2023/24	Lead

A1.7A	Continue to develop and implement approaches to prevent youth homelessness, with a particular focus on pathway approach to meeting the needs of care experienced young people.	Continue to deliver personalised and planned approach to provision of housing for young people leaving care. New Pathway Approach implemented by March 2023	This year we continued our Housing Pathways approach for all care experienced young people within the Throughcare system. Partners set a target in the year for 95% of applicants in the throughcare route to have a person-centred housing pathway agreement in place and achieved 100% at the end of quarter four.	HTR
A1.8	Continue to develop and implement approaches to support victims of domestic abuse and prevent homelessness.	Enhance the development of the housing pathway for victims of domestic abuse , considering legislative changes and good practice	During 2023/24 we have continued to provide housing representation at every MARAC, sharing relevant information on victims and perpetrators and taking away appropriate actions agreed at each meeting with the goal of maximising safety planning to safeguard victims.	

Priority Objective 2: Significantly reduce time spent by households in temporary accommodation and minimise moves before moving to settled homes

RRTP Measures		Target	RRTP Baseline	Progress 2023/24	Lead
M2.1	Temporary Accommodation Supply	Complete review of options for the provision of temporary accommodation in 2022/23 in conjunction with implementation of the Temporary Accommodation Strategic Plan to maintain optimum supply.	Units 530	Units 704	HTR
M2.2	Percentage of social housing allocated to homeless households by all social housing providers in South Lanarkshire	50-60% Set target subject to annual review	49.2% SLC 29.4% RSL	62.90% 43.50%	HTR/RSL
M2.3	Percentage of homeless households provided with a Scottish Secure Tenancy (SST)	Maintain/improve on LHS baseline of 61.2%	61.2%	62.60%	HTR
M2.4	Percentage of former homeless households provided with an SST that maintain their home for more than 12 months	Maintain/improve on LHS baseline of 88%	88%	91%	HTR
M2.5	Average time spent in temporary accommodation	Reduce from 192 days	192 days	181.50 days	HTR
M2.6	Number of temporary accommodation units converted to SST	Up to 100 units converted over 5-year period		12 units (117 in total)	HTR

Priority Objective 2: Significantly reduce time spent by households in temporary accommodation and minimise moves before moving to settled homes					
RRTP Measures		Target	RRTP Baseline	Progress 2023/24	Lead
M2.7	Percentage of all homeless presentations which are repeated (within 12 months)	Reduce to less than 3%	4.5%	3.6%	HTR
M2.8	Number of homeless households who spend more than 12 months in temporary accommodation	Reduce by 50% on baseline	120	143	HTR

Priority Objective 2: Significantly reduce time spent by households in temporary accommodation and minimise moves before moving to settled homes				
Actions		Target/Milestone	Progress in 2023/24	Lead
A2.1A	Maximise the potential for converting temporary accommodation to a Scottish Secure Tenancy where the property meets the needs of the household	Review best practice and identify suitable households and units	12 units were flipped during 2023/24. This continues to be an area of consideration and Area Teams continue to achieve a balance between flipping and maintaining a lever of temporary accommodation in the right places to meet the rising levels in demand.	HTR
A2.2	Increase percentage of allocations to homeless households	SLC aligned with Local Letting Plans. RSL partners as per agreed targets	The council continues to allocate more than 50% of available homes to homeless households. Cumulatively RSL HomeFinder partners allocated 43% of vacant properties to homeless households in 2023/24. To support delivery of the RRTP, the council continues to work with RSLs to secure the necessary proportion of their vacant properties are directed towards meeting the needs of homeless households during the year.	HTR

Priority Objective 2: Significantly reduce time spent by households in temporary accommodation and minimise moves before moving to settled homes				
Actions		Target/Milestone	Progress in 2023/24	Lead
A2.3	Review number of properties currently used as temporary accommodation in line with demand.	Reconfigure targets for temporary accommodation provision in 2022/23 subject to analysis confirmed in Temporary Accommodation Strategic Plan	Targets re-configured using modelling tool	HTR
A2.4	Regularly review rent charges for temporary accommodation to ensure it remains a financially viable option for all homeless households.	Aligned with Homelessness Business Plan	Focus remains in supporting service users in financial difficulties and annual consultations continue to focus on and ensuring rent remains affordable.	HTR

Priority Objective 3: Improve and increase provision of housing support for households to live independently within communities					
RRTP Measures		Target	RRTP Baseline	Progress 2023/24	Lead
M3.1	Number of people accessing Housing Options (prevention) services	1,000	964	1086	HTR
M3.2A	Percentage of homeless households who require support, provided with Housing Support Officer assistance	Maintain at 100%	100%	100%	HTR

Priority Objective 3: Improve and increase provision of housing support for households to live independently within communities					
RRTP Measures		Target	RRTP Baseline	Progress 2023/24	Lead
M3.3	Percentage of looked after young people accessing and sustaining accommodation that meets their needs	Determine baseline Increase annually	95%	94%	HTR

Priority Objective 3: Improve and increase provision of housing support for households to live independently within communities				
Actions		Target/Milestone	Progress in 2022/23	Lead
A3.1	Increase housing support service provision to improve homelessness prevention and support tenancy sustainment across all tenures.	Review current service provision	<p>The Wellbeing Web was introduced 2022/23 to enable SLC to monitor and track progress of households engaged with Housing Support Workers. The tool demonstrates the level of housing support needs, particularly in relation to managing the home, finances, mental and physical health and employment and education. The tool is person centred and focuses support provision on tenancy sustainment and prevention.</p> <p>The Wellbeing Web was further reviewed in 2023/24 by staff providing the front-line services. This resulted in a reviewed template and reporting tool which has become easier to work with and will continue to be reviewed on an ongoing basis to ensure effectiveness. The reviewed tool is more efficient freeing up recording time to allow increase provision of support.</p>	HTR

Priority Objective 3: Improve and increase provision of housing support for households to live independently within communities				
Actions		Target/Milestone	Progress in 2023/24	Lead
A3.2	Increase provision of support from all services to support new tenancies, including improvements to housing starter/furnishing packs and incentives to encourage uptake of offers.	Review and develop Implement and monitor effectiveness	HomeStart came to a close 31 March 2024 with work carried out with area teams to consider how best to redistribute the good practice areas of the role within existing housing options teams.	HTR
A3.3	Monitor current Housing Options approach, and ensure adequate resourcing to meet any future increase in demand	Annually monitor resourcing requirements and report through annual review	A review of the Housing Options service is underway which is due for completion in 2024/25.	HTR
A3.4	Deliver Housing Options and homelessness awareness training to young people, targeting high schools in areas identified with high homelessness rates amongst young people	Monitor and report	Improved awareness of housing options and homelessness by secondary school pupils due to the development of a film that incorporated into the school curriculum with active participation from homeless service users. Service users enjoyed this experience and considered it valuable to provide an overview of the impact of homelessness	HTR

Priority Objective 3: Improve and increase provision of housing support for households to live independently within communities				
Actions		Target/Milestone	Progress in 2023/24	Lead
A3.5	Review access to Scottish Welfare Fund with a view to ensuring	Complete Review Implement any actions from review	Review complete with good partnership working across services with regular liaison meetings, good communication and awareness of urgency for homeless households. SWF team utilised	HTR

	effective and appropriate access for homeless households.		additional funding to increase support to homeless household aiding sustainment over the last year.	
A3.6	Review current provision and need for outreach housing support and agree future service arrangements	Complete Review. Current services/contracts due to end and implement revised arrangements as result of review	Prior Information Notice (PIN) returns received in February 2024 to seek information on potential providers and their ability to provide the desired services. The new contract is looking for one contractor to provide First Stop Accommodation, Supported Accommodation, Out of Hours Services and Outreach Housing Support. It is anticipated that this will be one lead provider with subcontractors however awaiting legal guidance on this. New contact estimated to be in place for October 2024	HTR
A3.7	Ensure 'care experience' is identified as a support need for any young people presenting as homeless and directed towards appropriate case managed pathway.	Monitor and report	Use of pathway plan, which compliments with wider Children's Plan enables comprehensive person-centred housing and support planning and delivery. There have been positive outcomes and improvements to processes due to effective joint working between Housing and Social Work. The housing & social work joint working protocol was approved launched in December 2023 with follow up sessions carried out early 2024. The protocol will continue to be monitored and reported to senior management annually.	HTR
Priority Objective 3: Improve and increase provision of housing support for households to live independently within communities				
Actions		Target/Milestone	Progress in 2023/24	Lead
A3.8	Complete a Wellbeing Assessment for all children and young people who are homeless	Monitor and report (annually)	A process for a "request for assistance" is now in place to highlight affected children both to health visitors and school nurses. Housing and NHS Lanarkshire Health Improvement team working towards developed a process for wellbeing	HTR

			assessments for children affected by homelessness through the school nurse service.	
A3.9	Promote digital inclusion for households who are homeless	Maximise funding for the provision of digital equipment and two year's unlimited internet access for homeless households	Since 2019 108 homeless households and vulnerable young adults have benefited from the continued efforts to challenge digital exclusion through the Bringing IT Home project. Each household has received a piece of digital equipment and two years of unlimited internet access.	HTR

Priority Objective 4: Expand the scope and capacity of our Housing First approach to be the first response for households with multiple complex needs					
RRTP Measures		Target	RRTP Baseline	Progress 2023/24	Lead
M4.1	Number of current households receiving Housing First Support	Phased increase to 40	3	40	HTR
M4.2A	Number of Housing First planning cases handled by health professional led multi-agency care management approach.	Baseline to be established	-	To be reported later	HTR/HSCP

Priority Objective 4: Expand the scope and capacity of our Housing First approach to be the first response for households with multiple complex needs				
Actions		Target/Milestone	Progress in 2023/24	Lead
A4.1	Expand Housing First across South Lanarkshire	40 cases to be progressed on period of RRTP - 2019-24	During 2023/24, an additional 4 cases were included in the programme bringing the total households who have been supported to 40 meeting the target set at the beginning of the RRTP.	HTR
A4.2	Evaluate Housing First pathfinders and increase scale/scope of approach aligned to case conference criteria and pathways approach	Evaluation Report to be completed	To be reported later	HTR
A4.3A	Complete development of the Temporary Accommodation Strategic Plan and progress implementation	Implementation of Temporary Accommodation Strategic Plan and reconfiguration of temporary accommodation model.	The Temporary Accommodation Strategic Plan has been developed which enables a complete understanding of how temporary accommodation is used and how it can be best developed to meet demand. It has been agreed that due to the increase in demand on the homeless service the modelling tool which was developed in support of the plan in 2021/22 and continues to inform the provision of temporary accommodation.	HTR
A4.4	Work with Scottish Prison Service and Addiewell prison to implement SHORE standards for people entering and exiting prison, including a priority focus for short-sentence prisoners on remand. Explore additional options for dedicated staff resources	Implementation plan agreed and implemented from 2020/21	There is currently 1 full-time SHORE post funded by RRTP (split into two part-time posts) and a further full-time post funded by ADP to support households in prison and those leaving prison with substance and alcohol challenges into sustainable housing solutions on liberation. The ADP funded post supports the wider project work undertaken by SACRO on behalf of South Lanarkshire to support offenders.	HTR

Priority Objective 4: Expand the scope and capacity of our Housing First approach to be the first response for households with multiple complex needs

Actions		Target/Milestone	Progress in 2023/24	Lead
			There were 442 new SHORE cases during 2023/24, of these 50 received admission appointment and 197 received liberation appointments (45%). Significantly, 70 households were supported through SHORE to return to their previous tenancy and a further 9 received their own tenancy after liberation.	
A4.5	Increase awareness and increase training offered to front line services to support people impacted by Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) from being homeless	Evaluate requirement to raise awareness of partners in relation to ACEs.	Service Development Sessions continue to be delivered to Housing Officers and Housing Support Officers across locality operational teams to raise awareness of trauma and providing a psychologically informed environment.	HTR
A4.6	Identify requirements for intensive trauma informed and PIE residential supported accommodation to meet the needs of extremely vulnerable groups	Complete scoping report	Service Development Sessions are still being conducted for Housing Officers and Housing Support Officers throughout local operational teams. The aim of these sessions is to enhance understanding of trauma and to foster a psychologically informed environment.	HTR
A4.7	Promote 'routine enquiry' across all health and care services, including visiting outreach, to identify housing provision and financial security	Monitor and report via Health and Homelessness Steering Group	Aligned to the intentions in the Strategic Commissioning Plan 2022 – 2025, there has been a continued commitment to improving homelessness prevention. The specific directions have provided opportunity to improve early intervention where recognised triggers of homelessness are identified however evidencing this has been limited in terms of formal reporting.	HTR/HSCP

Priority Objective 4: Expand the scope and capacity of our Housing First approach to be the first response for households with multiple complex needs


Actions		Target/Milestone	Progress in 2023/24	Lead
			Arrangements are in place between housing and the University Health and Social Care Partnership to progress this direction and reporting in 2024/25.	
A4.8	Prioritise access to general medical and universal health screening services for homeless people, including primary care (GP), prescribing, dentists, etc	Monitor and report via Health and Homelessness Steering Group	<p>During 2024/25 work will continue to explore opportunities to expand and evidence prevention activity through priority access through the reestablishment of the Health and Homeless Steering Group.</p> <p>This group will also focus on preparation work around legislation and statutory guidance on new prevention of homelessness duties for public bodies in the forthcoming Housing Bill.</p>	HTR/HSCP

Priority Objective 5: Enhance integration and partnership working to embed RRTP through a whole systems approach

RRTP Measures		Target	RRTP Baseline	Progress 2023/24	Lead
M5.1	Number of training and employment pathways for homeless households	To be agreed	To be agreed	4	FCR

Priority Objective 5: Enhance integration and partnership working to embed RRTP through a whole systems approach				
Actions		Target/Milestone	Progress in 2023/24	Lead
A5.1	Work with DWP to further develop use of discretionary support funding for homeless households to undertake appropriate training to develop skills and resilience to improve access to employment	Agree pathways for accessing discretionary support with DWP	The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) is persistently collaborating with the council and various third sector organisations. Their goal is to guarantee that claimants, who are either homeless or on the verge of homelessness, receive appropriate and prompt assistance. Pathways are in place with every Jobcentre having a designated Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for claimants who are homeless or are under threat of becoming homeless. These SPOCs have strong links to the Local Authority and other partners and providers and work collaboratively to signpost and support this priority group.	HTR/DWP
A5.2	Explore options for improving digital connectivity for all homeless households, increasing engagement with services, and enabling improved tenancy management	Explore options for expansion of project	Utilising RRTP funding, the Bringing IT Home project was expanded. Since 2019 108 homeless and vulnerable households have been provided with digital devices and unlimited internet access for 2 years. A top up opportunity has opened going into 2024/25 for additional devices.	HTR
A5.3	Ensure effective training for staff is in place on awareness of the third sector support available to people at risk of homelessness in each locality	Implement improvements as required	VASLAN maintains its representation within the RRTP partnership, with the aim of promoting awareness of third sector support in South Lanarkshire.	TS

Priority Objective 5: Enhance integration and partnership working to embed RRTP through a whole systems approach				
Actions		Target/Milestone	Progress in 2023/24	Lead
A5.4	Contribute to ongoing development and review of homelessness business plan to ensure sufficient resources available to continue to provide high quality services to homeless households	Implemented recommendations as required	The advancement of the Homelessness Business Plan is consistently tracked throughout the year. This is done via monthly performance reports and reviews conducted at the middle and end of the year.	HTR



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Produced for Housing and Technical Resources by Communications and Strategy. 067270/Jul24
Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan Annual Review 2023 - 2024, Issue 3

Homeless Strategic Plan 2024/2025

In our ever-evolving landscape of addressing homelessness, adaptability and strategic planning are paramount. As we revisit our RRTP action plan, we recognise the need for clarity, alignment, and purpose. This revised plan aims to provide a concise overview of our priority outcomes, measures and actions alongside mitigations approved to tackle the homeless emergency situation.

The annual review for the final year of the RRTP 2023/24 provided the opportunity to assess and report on the progress made against each of the actions and measures contained within the plan. It also allows for a general re-examination of the RRTP, to ensure that the objectives, actions, and measures identified, remain appropriate, relevant, and measurable.

While the RRTP placed a renewed focus on partnership planning across Scotland, locally partners have, over the last twenty years maintained a consistent strategic focus on homelessness. Accordingly, while there is no specific requirement to continue or prepare a new RRTP to ensure a continuity of focus partners locally have agreed to continue the current RRTP for a further year.

A report to Housing and Technical Resources Committee on 7 February 2024 set out a range of actions to help address the emergency homelessness situation. These measures of these are incorporated within an updated RRTP outcome framework for 2024/25 with a dual focus, namely detailing the;

1. the actions identified to address the emergency situation and
2. partnership actions which will be progressed to continue and further develop key areas previously included within the RRTP 2019/2024.

With the future requirements of RRTP unknown the resource would hope to retain commitment to the priority objectives set at the introduction of the plan, combining Priority objective 4 and 5 in the new plan. This is due to Housing First remaining a commitment however funding has restricted the ability to upscale this. Combing with the multi agency focused outcome in the potential for a multi agency approach to this.

Priority Outcomes:

1. **Prevent homelessness occurring wherever possible thus reducing its impact**
2. **Limit time spent by households in temporary accommodation and minimise temporary accommodation moves before moving onto settled homes**
3. **Ensure housing support provision meets the level and type of need for households to live independently within communities**
4. **Enhance integration and partnership working to embed RRTP through a whole systems approach**
5. **Implement and monitor the Homeless Demand Pressures Mitigations**

The plan has been reviewed to enhance efficiency and streamline processes to optimise resource utilisation. By doing so the plan will be impact driven by ensuring that every action and measure contributes directly to our vision: 'Homelessness in South Lanarkshire is significantly reduced, with homeless households moving to a settled home as quickly as possible'. This will also strengthen collaboration and concentrate on partnership working in line with the impending Prevention Duties for seamless implementation.

Actions:

The plan sets out actionable steps, assigns responsibilities, and establishes clear timelines. The plan also incorporates the mitigations set to tackle the homeless pressures. Regular progress assessments through the continuation of the Homeless Strategy Group will guide the course of the plan. The document will be open to adjustments and improvements as we progress and learn from our experiences. Completed actions will be removed from the plan to ensure the document remains concise.

Homeless Strategic Plan

Strategic Outcome 1: Prevent homelessness occurring wherever possible thus reducing its impact

Actions					
Ref.	Action	Start	Milestone/Target	Lead Partner	Progress
A1.1	Minimise increase in level of homelessness or maintain homelessness levels	2024/25	Annual	Housing and Technical Resources	
A1.2 (EA)*	Reduce the number of children affected by homelessness	2024/25	Annual	Housing and Technical Resources	
A1.3	Promote homeless prevention activities to prevent homeless as far as possible	2024/25	Annual	Housing and Technical Resources	
A1.4 (EA)*	Complete review of prevention approach and implement identified service improvements	2024/25	March 2025	Housing and Technical Resources	
A1.5 (EA)*	Undertake annual update of Temporary Accommodation Strategic Plan with 'ordinary homes' objective	2024/25	Annual	Housing and Technical Resources	

Measures					
Ref.	Measure	Baseline 2023/24	Target	Responsibility	Progress
M1.1	Number of homeless presentations	2728	Maintain or reduce	Housing and Technical Resources	
M1.2	Level of Households Homeless (homelessness case load at year end)	1579	Maintain or reduce	Housing and Technical Resources	
M1.3	Meet targets set for percentage of social housing allocated to homeless households by all social housing providers in South Lanarkshire	SLC 62.90% RSL 43.50%	50-60%	Housing and Technical Resources RSL	

Strategic Outcome 2: Limit time spent by households in temporary accommodation and minimise temporary accommodation moves before moving onto settled homes

Actions					
Ref.	Action	Start	Milestone/Target	Lead Partner	Progress
A2.1 (EA)*	Review existing homelessness cases to ensure people appropriately queued to resolve homelessness	2024/25	6 monthly report on progress	Housing and Technical Resources	Action complete, including queuing for whole locality area and allocation of multi storey housing for households with shared access to children, impact monitoring ongoing

A2.2	Minimise the number of moves between types of accommodation by utilising emergency accommodation	2024/25	Annual	Housing and Technical Resources	
A2.3	Increase affordable housing supply by progressing actions within the LHS and SHIP to increase supply through new build, acquisitions and bringing long term empty properties into use.	2024/25	Aligned with Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) and the Local Housing Strategy (LHS). Annual target will be set and detailed in the Strategic Local Programme Agreement, developed between SLC and the Scottish Government.	Housing and Technical Resources RSL Scottish Government	
A2.4 (EA)*	Complete the Personal Housing Plan review.	2024/25	April 2024	Housing and Technical Resources	Action complete, impact monitoring ongoing

Measures					
Ref.	Measure	Baseline 2023/24	Target	Responsibility	Progress
M2.1	Reduce the average time spent in temporary accommodation	181.5 days	Manage in line with Temporary accommodation model requirements	Housing and Technical Resources	

M2.2	Convert temporary accommodation units to SST wherever possible	12	10	Housing and Technical Resources RSL	
M2.3	Increase the number of affordable homes added to the housing supply (new and market purchase)	SLC 269 RSL 177	Aligned with the SHIP	Housing and Technical Resources RSL	
M2.4	Number of long term empty properties are brought back into use in South Lanarkshire	28	15	Housing and Technical Resources	
M2.5	Increase the number of homeless households whose housing needs are met in the private rented sector	24	Increase on previous year	Housing and Technical Resources	

Strategic Outcome 3: Ensure housing support provision meets the level and type of need for households to live independently within communities

Actions					
Ref.	Action	Start	Milestone/Target	Lead Partner	Progress
A3.1	Monitor, evaluate and adapt service provision to meet the evolving needs of service users in housing support service provision to improve homelessness prevention and support tenancy sustainment across all tenures	2024/25	Annual	Housing and Technical Resources 3 rd Sector Partners	

A3.2	Include within Local Housing Strategy an assessment of the support needs that local people have and the availability of housing support services	2024/25	Annual	Housing and Technical Resources	
A3.3	Continue to develop and implement approaches to prevent youth homelessness, with a particular focus on pathway approach to meeting the needs of care experienced young people	2024/25	95% pathway plans in place 95% sustainment	Housing and Technical Resources Social Work Resources	
A3.4	Deliver Private Sector Innovation Fund and Sustainment service providing financial support to private rented tenants to prevent homelessness	2024/25	Widen scope of service delivery	Housing and Technical Resources Right There	
A3.5	Prepare and publish a domestic abuse policy setting out how tenants affected by domestic abuse will be supported and a view to preventing homelessness	2025/26	Publish Policy	Housing and Technical Resources	
A3.6	Implement new commissioning approach	2024/25	Introduce consortium approach to commissioning	Housing and Technical Resources Corporate and Finance	
A3.7	Implement actions of Housing Support Review	2024/25	New Housing Support lead role	Housing and Technical Resources	Proposal for delegated authority June 2024

Measures					
Ref.	Measure	Baseline 2023/24	Target	Responsibility	Progress
M3.1	Ensure all homeless households who require support are provided with Housing Support Officer assistance, including specialist and intensive where required	100%	Maintain 100%	Housing and Technical Resources Salvation Army Blue Triangle Housing Association	
M3.2	Maintain or improve the percentage of former homeless households provided with an SST that maintain their home for more than 12 months	91%	Maintain/improve on	Housing and Technical Resources	
M3.3	Sustain a low percentage of all homeless presentations which are repeated (within 12 months)	3.6%	Reduce to less than 3%	Housing and Technical Resources	
M3.4	Reduce the number of homeless presentations that result in the application being withdrawn	1.9%	Reduce form the previous year	Housing and Technical Resources	
M3.5	Reduce the number of homeless applications were contact is lost with the applicant	5.7%	Reduce form the previous year	Housing and Technical Resources	
M3.6	Continue to develop and implement approaches to support victims of domestic abuse and prevent homelessness	100%	100% HTR representation at MARAC	Housing and Technical Resources <i>BTHA</i> <i>Say Women</i>	

M3.7	Continue to deliver SHORE standards for people entering and exiting prison	533	Double interactions from 2022/23	Housing and Technical Resources ADP Social Work Resources	
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Strategic Outcome 4: Enhance integration and partnership working to embed R RTP through a whole systems approach

Actions					
Ref.	Action	Start	Milestone/Target	Lead Partner	Progress
A4.1	Continue our Housing First approach to be the first partnership response for households with multiple complex needs	2024/25	Maintain	Housing and Technical Resources	
A4.2	Expand workforce development and training across partners Ensure training and development across partners contains effective communication, coordination, and referral processes to ensure that individuals receive the right support and services at the right time (Ask & Act)	2024/25	Ongoing	All specified bodies	

Measures					
Ref.	Measure	Baseline	Target	Responsibility	Progress
M4.1	Number of new Housing First cases in year	4	Maintain	Housing and Technical Resources Salvation Army SACRO	
M4.2	Promote 'routine enquiry' across all health and care services through the review of the Strategic Commissioning Plan and in line with the impending Prevention Duties	-	Increase	Health & Social Care Partnership Housing and Technical Resources	
M4.3	Prioritise access to general medical and universal health screening services for homeless people, including primary care (GP), prescribing, dentists, etc	-	Increase	Health & Social Care Partnership Housing and Technical Resources	
M4.4	Increase awareness of homelessness issues and services, particularly within the Third Sector	Access to pathways monitored via VASLAN and third sector agencies		Housing and Technical Resources VASLAN	

M4.5	Deliver Housing Options and homelessness awareness training to young people, targeting high schools in areas identified with high homelessness rates amongst young people	-		Housing and Technical Resources Education Resources	Included in curriculum
M4.6	Continue to explore employment and training pathways for homeless/potentially homeless households	Access to pathways monitored via Employability		Housing and Technical Resources Employability DWP	
M4.7	Promote Digital Inclusion for homeless/potentially homeless households	Access to services monitored via FIN sub Group		Housing and Technical Resources Financial Inclusion Network Digital Inclusion Sub Group	

Strategic Outcome 5: Implement and monitor the Homeless Demand Pressures Mitigations (EA)*

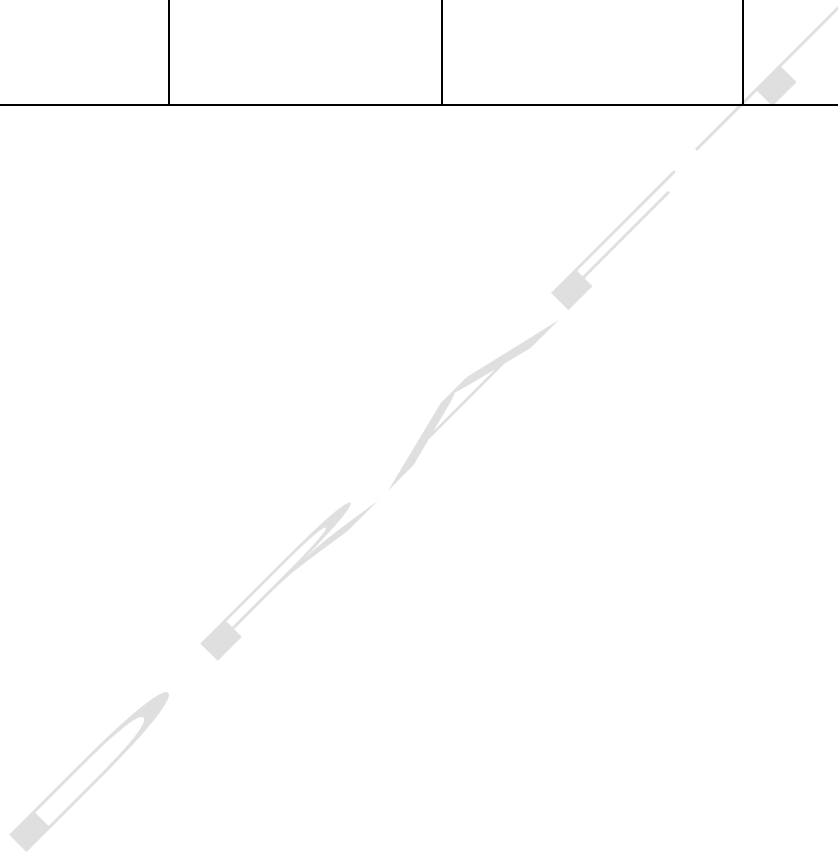
Measures					
Ref.	Measure	Start/Baseline	Target	Responsibility	Progress
M5.1	Homeless Pressures Update Report to Housing Committee	2024/25	February 2024	Housing and Technical Resources	Initial action complete. Next Housing Committee discussion August 2024 – monitoring impact

M5.2	Continue to brief staff on further actions and service developments to address pressure on homelessness service.	2024/25	March 2025	Housing and Technical Resources	Initial action complete. Ongoing Homeless SIG & Partnership Strategy group discussion monitoring impact and progress
M5.3	Review scrutiny group findings on access to homeless service and incorporate improvements as appropriate.	2023/24	September 2024	Housing and Technical Resources	
M5.4	Consider wider urgent need – SHORE, GBV, Housing First - impact	2023/24	March 2025	Housing and Technical Resources	Ongoing OC priority for continuing care and SHORE – minimal numbers Management discretion to award OC priority for GBV as appropriate Ongoing HSMT discussion around priorities – including prevention of homelessness amongst children/minimising timescales and impact
M5.5	Review of webpages	2024/25	June 2024	Housing and Technical Resources	Initial action complete Area of work set out in operational/service and individual work plans

M5.6	<p>Communicate approach/implementation plan to staff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff • Tenants & customers (UH applicants) • Elected Members • Partners - H&SCP, 3rd Sector, ADP, CAB • Trade Unions • Regulator 	2024/25	May 2024	Housing and Technical Resources	<p>Initial actions complete.</p> <p>Next Committee discussion February 2024</p> <p>Customers, staff and partners updated through regular service improvement and partnership discussion forums</p>
M5.7	<p>Revise communications to ensure effectively reference the current pressure on service Consider strapline on emails for homeless service</p>	2024/25	2024	Housing and Technical Resources	
M5.8	<p>Routine Performance monitoring will inform ongoing evaluation</p>	2024/25	Ongoing	Housing and Technical Resources	<p>All areas of monitoring already covered by well-established performance monitoring allowing for detailed trend analysis</p>
M5.9	<p>Develop revised Homeless induction and L & D programme</p>	2024/25	August 2024	Housing and Technical Resources	<p>SIG discussion to plan approach June 2024</p>
M5.10	<p>Implementation of HOME system</p>	2024/25	January 2025	Housing and Technical Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good progress made by module group • Local champions identified and

					<p>training commencing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• System development work ongoing• Wider training plan in development
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- ***EA – Emergency Action**



Community Planning Partnership Board Executive Summary

Date of Meeting:	4 December 2024
Subject:	Local Child Poverty Action Report
Report by:	Director, Health and Social Care, South Lanarkshire University Health and Social Care Partnership and Executive Director (Education Resources), South Lanarkshire Council
Contact for Further Information:	Kevin Mullarkey, Children’s Services Partnership Planning Manager, South Lanarkshire Council Tel: 07795453122 Email: kevin.mullarkey@southlanarkshire.gov.uk
Purpose of the Report:	◆ Update the Partnership Board on the content of the South Lanarkshire Child Poverty Action Report for 2023/24.
Community Planning Delivery Partners:	All partners
Key Recommendations/ Decisions/Action Required from Partners:	The Board is asked to approve the following recommendations:- (1) to note the progress in developing the latest Child Poverty Action Report and approve the content of the document; and (2) to agree to submit the final draft to the Scottish Government and publish on the CPP website (in ODT format) as per legislation requirements.
Risks/Challenges:	Reducing resources available to meet the needs of children and families.
Links to Community Plan Ambitions/Principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Improving health and tackling inequalities; ◆ Promoting sustainable and inclusive communities and opportunities for all through life; ◆ Ensuring sustainable economic recovery and development; and ◆ Tackling poverty.
Summary of Report:	<p>This is our sixth annual LCPAR since the implementation of the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 and first under the guidance of our Child Poverty Commitment.</p> <p>The report is organised under the three main drivers to address child poverty:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Income from benefits • Help with the cost of living, and

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Income from employment. <p>The report contains highlights of the partners' activity to mitigate child poverty for South Lanarkshire's children, young people and families.</p> <p>The content of the report has been approved by South Lanarkshire Council's Corporate Management Team and NHS Lanarkshire Population Health Group.</p>
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Report

Report to:	Partnership Board
Date of Meeting:	4 December 2024
Report by:	Director, Health and Social Care, South Lanarkshire University Health and Social Care Partnership Executive Director (Education Resources) South Lanarkshire Council

Subject:	Local Child Poverty Action Report
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ update the Partnership Board on the content of the South Lanarkshire Child Poverty Action Report for 2023/2024

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Partnership Board is asked to approve the following recommendations:-

- (1) to note the progress in developing the latest Child Poverty Action Report and approve the content of the document; and
- (2) to agree to submit the final draft to the Scottish Government and publish on the CPP website (in Open Document Text format (ODT)) as per legislation requirements.

3. Background

3.1. The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 introduced a new requirement for local authorities and relevant health boards to prepare Local Child Poverty Action Reports (LCPAR) as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of each reporting year.

3.2. The purpose of the LCPARs is to describe any measures taken in the area of the local authority during the reporting year and planned activity for the year ahead that seek to address and mitigate child poverty.

3.3. The work described in the report is expected to contribute to the 4 national income based child poverty reduction targets to be achieved by 2030:-

- (1) Less than 10% of children are in relative poverty;
- (2) Less than 5% of children are in absolute poverty;
- (3) Less than 5% of children are in combined low income and material deprivation; and

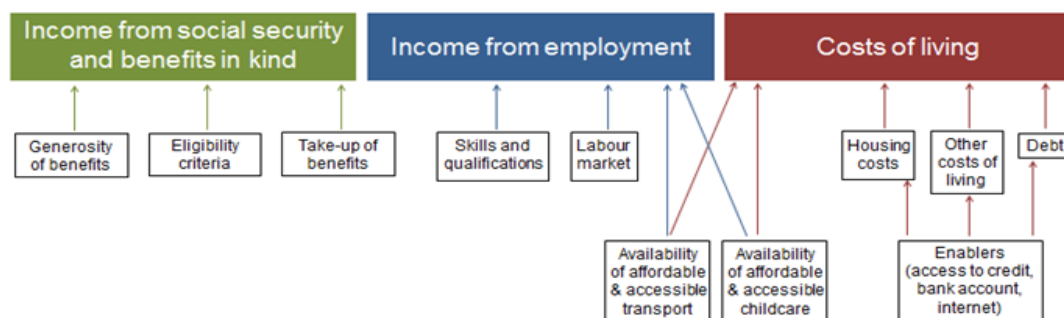
(4) Less than 5% of children are in persistent poverty.

- 3.4. The Scottish Government made it clear that the introduction of the requirement to produce LCPARs signals an imperative to undertake new activity and a new approach to tackling Child Poverty; effectively a step-change in tackling child poverty. Where local partners are continuing with existing activity, they should be clear about the supporting evidence base indicating its effectiveness.
- 3.5. Feedback on South Lanarkshire's LCPAR from the Improvement Service and Public Health Scotland continues to be positive and any areas for strengthening are being addressed as much as possible in this year's LCPAR. Written comments on our 2022/23 report are detailed in Appendix 1 to the report
- 3.6. South Lanarkshire Council, NHS Lanarkshire agreed at the CPP Board meeting of 6 June 2018 to produce a single LCPAR, recognising a collective effort would be more effective.
- 3.7. The Child Poverty Working Group established in 2018 continues to be the main mechanism used to produce the plan. This group meet at least on a quarterly basis to ensure that the work around the plan remains relevant and focussed on the key actions to address child poverty in South Lanarkshire.
- 3.8. In March 2022, the Scottish Government published the second stage of the delivery plan for 2022-2026. This second delivery plan included a commitment to support the work of two Local Pathfinders – one operating in Glasgow and one in Dundee.
- 3.9. These Pathfinders, designed and implemented at a local level, aim to provide person-centred support to families most at risk of poverty. The Pathfinders seek to make it easier for families to access services as part of a proactive attempt to improve the system as a whole and move away from a disaggregated service provision. As such, they aim to tackle child poverty both by directly supporting families at risk, and also by driving system change in the way in which families are supported.
- 3.10. South Lanarkshire had indicated in 2021 that we were interested in being one of the Pathfinders, due to our developmental work with the Improvement Service.

4. Scope of the Plan

- 4.1. Child poverty is caused by a complex blend of structural issues relating to macro-economic and political factors governing the labour market, employment and social security. Social factors make particular groups especially vulnerable to poverty, e.g. children, lone parents, disabled people and Black & Minority Ethnic (BME) groups. The following diagram from the Scottish Government provides an overview of what its research indicates are the main drivers of child poverty.

Drivers of child poverty targets



4.2. One area for improvement is the information gathered from those with lived experience of poverty. This has been key in identifying actions for the partners to develop however, we can be much better at supporting partners engage with families and communities in developing future actions.

5. The plan and ongoing activity

5.1. A draft of the LCPAR is attached at Appendix 2 to the report and highlights a range of work delivered across South Lanarkshire to address poverty challenges faced by families. The report reflects the aspirations of the Child Poverty Commitment and seeks to reflect the oversight of this work going forward and how it is embedded in much of what we do across a wide range of planning and delivery processes.

5.2. As the planning evolves and resourcing and capacity allows, we will continue to focus on areas for improvement, identified by the working group and from engagement processes.

5.3. In 2023, we were successful in a partnership bid to the Child Poverty Accelerator Fund (CPAF) to develop an initiative to support families where a child or young person has a disability. This test of change is being delivered by COVEY on behalf of our local partnership and learning from this work will be shared locally and nationally as part of this work

5.4. The work to establish a Neighbourhood Plan for East Kilbride South has the voice of children and families at its heart and includes the additionality of a child poverty lens informing developments. This work informed a bid to the national CPAF to test an 'Ask Once' model of service delivery.

5.5. Two bids were submitted to the CPAF phase two funding cycle, 2024/2025. One to develop an 'Ask Once' approach and the other bid 'Read With Me' (a parental literacy skills program), was submitted by Education Resources. Both bids were unsuccessful this time around.

5.6. A third CPAF bid for phase two to add capacity to the Money Matters Advice Service to dedicate time to support families access early take up of benefits by disabled children (where those children are showing signs of Autism, Aspergers or neurodivergent conditions) was developed but not submitted. This was due to the maximum number of bids any one organisation could make being limited to two.

5.7 An offer to bring the ideas and evidence of need from each of the bids to the Child Poverty Partnership Group for further discussion has been made. Time will be made on the next agenda to discuss what, if anything we can do to address the identified need from existing capacity.

5.8. We will continue to monitor challenges which may arise to mitigate an increase in child poverty, ensuring any new evidence and research informs our work and decision making. As part of our approach to developing activity, listening to the voices of families and communities experiencing poverty issues will be crucial and be a feature of future design of services.

6. Employee Implications

6.1. There are no immediate employee implications arising from this report.

7. Financial Implications

7.1. Any financial implications will be met within existing budgets.

8. Other Implications

8.1. The LCPAR continues to be a point of local and national scrutiny. This could have positive and/or negative impacts on perceptions of the council and its partners and a proactive PR approach will be required.

9. Integrated Impact Assessment and Consultation Requirements

9.1. In developing the new LCPAR, a new Equality Impact Assessment will be completed along with a Children's Rights Wellbeing Impact Assessment.

10. Children's Rights Considerations

10.1. A Children's Rights Wellbeing Impact Assessment will be completed as part of the work to develop the East Kilbride South Neighbourhood Plan.

10.2. Engaging children, young people and families in developing this work is central to our continuing commitment to the UNCRC and in particular the following Articles:

- ◆ **Article 6 (life, survival and development)** every child has the right to be kept safe from harm, the right to be alive, survive and develop through life;
- ◆ **Article 12 (respect for the views of the child)** every child has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters affecting them, and to have their views considered and taken seriously;
- ◆ **Article 13 (freedom of expression)** every child must be free to express their thoughts and opinions and to access all kinds of information, as long as it is within the law; and
- ◆ **Article 27 (adequate standard of living)** every child has the right to a safe place to live, food and clothing.

Carole McKenzie
Executive Director (Education Resources)
South Lanarkshire

Soumen Sengupta
Director (Health and Social Care)
South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership

13 November 2024

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South Lanarkshire
Partnership
Stronger together

14



South Lanarkshire's Joint Local Child Poverty Action Report 2023–2024

Providing the best start
and brighter future for
children, young people
and families in
South Lanarkshire





Content section

Section 1. Foreword 4

Section 2. The current context 6-7

Section 3. Our plan and its progress

- Income from benefits 8-13
- Cost of living 14-22
- Income from employment 23-27

Section 4. Monitoring of progress and delivering on our ambitions 28-29

Section 5. Our priorities for 2024/25 30



Section 1 - Foreword

Welcome to South Lanarkshire's 2024 Local Child Poverty Action Report. As a partnership of many statutory and non-statutory agencies our shared aim is to support families manage increasing financial challenges and work together to identify what more we can do to make things better for families financially. Our report reflects our work over the past 12 months and what we have been able to do to support families cope with the current cost of living challenges and also how we look to improve that support moving forward.

We know many children and families continue to experience poverty in their lives to some degree and often face difficult financial choices on a day-to-day basis. This often restricts opportunities for families in many important areas of life, having a detrimental impact on health, participation in education and poor housing conditions. It can also have an adverse effect on families' involvement in our communities, pursuing hobbies and interests, or being able to experience a holiday as a family.

Our aspiration for families continues to be that they experience the best start in life and achieve the best possible outcomes in health, education, employment

and feel safe and engaged in the communities where they live. To support this aim, our partners work with families and local communities to identify practical solutions to the things that can bring real change for the better in people's lives.

Working to mitigate child poverty and poverty in general is unlikely to be achieved in isolation. Across South Lanarkshire we are taking a practical approach where actions to address poverty are embedded in all that we do. The diagram below explains the connections across the various processes to tackle poverty and reduce its impact on children, young people and families.



Taking a whole family approach to tackling poverty and improving wellbeing is essential to achieving the best possible outcomes for families. To successfully achieve a sustained reduction in child poverty and break its damaging cycle, we work with partners to provide the sustained and holistic support that families need to improve their wider wellbeing and facilitate improved life chances.

We will continue to use the 'key drivers of poverty reduction' as our organisers for this work:

- ▶ Income from social security and benefits
- ▶ Cost of living, and:
- ▶ Income from employment

The foundation of our work continues to be built upon:

- ▶ Providing the right opportunities and integrated support to parents and young adults to enter and sustain progress in work
- ▶ Supporting families to live dignified lives with their basic needs met, and:
- ▶ Doing everything we possibly can, to ensure our next generation thrives

We firmly endorse our child poverty commitment that:

'We will provide support to South Lanarkshire's families in order to tackle child poverty head on, through an offer of the right support, at the right time and delivered in the right way.'

Moving forward, our work will be guided by the three main drivers to address poverty and we will work with families to deliver support differently and more effectively where we can.

The following commitments underline this approach:

- ▶ We will make sure any policy development and future service delivery is influenced by the voice of children, young people and families experiencing poverty
- ▶ Our third sector and voluntary organisations with their strong links to communities will be more involved at all levels
- ▶ We will use available data to improve our shared understanding of the impact of poverty at household and locality level

- ▶ We will seek to deliver holistic, wraparound services which are as accessible as possible to families experiencing poverty.
- ▶ We will work to eliminate stigma connected with child poverty and financial struggles
- ▶ We will use our combined resources effectively to ensure we deliver services which promote wellbeing, prevent adversity, and provide the right help at the right time to those who need it
- ▶ We will report on agreed short, medium and long-term outcomes

As part of this continued step change journey, South Lanarkshire's Commitment to tackle child poverty is closely aligned to the national delivery plan on tackling child poverty 'Best Start Bright Futures'. These in turn are linked to our 2023/26 Children's Services Plan and the wide range of strategies and plans that are shown in the diagram above. At the centre of all of this is the voice of our children, young people and families which drives our planning and delivery processes.

Lastly, we wish to thank all the partners and staff from our statutory, voluntary and community sectors who are committed to making things better for our families. The commitment and dedication to enable families to achieve best possible outcomes is very much a crucial factor in our success.



Cllr Joe Fagan
Leader of South Lanarkshire Council



Martin Hill
Chair of NHS Lanarkshire Board

Section 2 - The current context

The Scottish Government has placed a great deal of emphasis on the role that the new Social Security Scotland benefits system will play in lifting and keeping children out of poverty. The Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2024/25 annual report estimates that the Scottish Child Payment alone will help keep 60,000 children out of relative poverty in Scotland over the coming year. This would equate to around 3,500 children in South Lanarkshire.

Targeted benefits, such as the Scottish Child Disability Payment and Best Start Foods/Best Start Grants, enjoy higher rates of uptake in South Lanarkshire when compared to the Scottish average. The latest uptake figures for Scottish Child Disability Payment indicates that 1,645 children with a disability in South Lanarkshire benefited from the new payment, above the Scottish average, while 18,380 successful applications were made by parents/prospective parents for Best Start Grants/ Best Start Foods, again above the Scottish average.

Most recent information shows that South Lanarkshire parents have received a total of £27.7 million in Scottish Child Payments since the introduction of the benefit in 2021 (6% of the Scottish total payments), while parents with disabled children have received a total of £28.5 million through the Scottish Child Disability Payment (7% of total Scottish payments), This is higher than would be expected compared to other authorities and the areas share of the national population.

The most recent figures available would suggest that just under a third of all children, or 17,530 in South Lanarkshire are currently in receipt of the Scottish Child payment, just below the Scottish average.

We are aware that there are increasing incidences of children being affected by homelessness situations across South Lanarkshire. The number of families experiencing homelessness continues to increase and over the last year 305 families experienced temporary accommodation situations at some point compared to 245 the previous year.

The latest figures on School Leavers Destinations indicate that the gap between school leavers from the most deprived communities in South Lanarkshire and the least deprived communities, entering a positive

destination on leaving school (for example, entering into employment, further/ higher education or training) has closed to just 2.9%, an improvement on the previous year and better than the Scottish average gap of 3.7%.

The percentage of care experienced young people entering a positive destination on leaving school, has increased over the previous year to 92.9%, the highest level ever recorded and 4.6% above the Scottish average of 87.9%.

Breastfeeding is widely recognised as the most complete form of nutrition for babies. The former UNICEF Executive Director stated that “breastfeeding is a natural ‘safety net’ against the worst effects of poverty”. More babies across South Lanarkshire are now being breastfed and being given the best possible start in life as a result of a range of initiatives. The most recent data shows that South Lanarkshire has a breastfeeding initiation rate of 57.1%, with over 38% of babies still being breastfed by the time they are eight weeks old. This represents a welcome steady increase in breastfeeding since 2017.

This data reflects our understanding that children, young people and families, and the agencies that work alongside them, are living and operating in an environment where the cost of living is having an adverse impact on many families. Increases in the cost of fuel and food mean that many family budgets are under pressure to meet the essential costs. As a result, we are seeing a rise in the number of families seeking help from our council benefits advice service Money Matters and the Citizen Advice Bureau. We are also seeing an increase in referrals for help to local community foodbanks and groups and organisations such as Healthy Valleys, Community Links and the Machan Trust.

Continued challenges across public sector funding create uncertainty over available resources and capacity to support families going forward and inequalities within communities continue to be a concern. We know that some groups are affected more than others by this, including the priority groups identified below:

- ▶ one-parent families
- ▶ a household where someone is disabled
- ▶ families with three or more children
- ▶ minority ethnic families
- ▶ families with a child under one year old
- ▶ families where the mother is under 25 years of age.

In addition, we know that care experienced people are directly impacted by these changes in a disproportionate way.

We bear all of these groups in mind when writing this report and when we are planning how we can use our available resources to best support families.

As part of our Child Poverty Commitment, we are focussed on improving services for families where we can and have identified some key areas where we will do this. Our Commitment maps out our approach, and we will report on our progress on an annual basis as part of our reporting duty, but more importantly as part of our accountability to our children, young people and families.

Our work on child poverty does not happen in isolation and the national delivery plan “Best Start, Bright Futures” identifies targeted resources such as the Scottish Child Payment and other financial support. It also details funding streams such as the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund, which is being used to increase help and support to children, young people and families earlier and in a more joined up way, for example, through the four newly established local Family Hubs, Pathfinders initiative and in the delivery of early parenting support. We have also been successful in bidding into the Child Poverty Accelerator Fund and have been able to implement a test of change aimed at supporting families who have a child or young person with a disability.

Our pledge is to make sure that these resources are best used to create a meaningful change in the way we plan and deliver services and support to make a difference to the lives of children, young people and families in South Lanarkshire. This includes working towards the national aim of 5% of our spend on health and social care being on preventative measures by 2030.

South Lanarkshire’s Community Plan and the Council Plan ‘Connect’ share the vision of improving the life chances of everyone in South Lanarkshire. All the partners involved locally are working to make sure that we are supporting families as best we can to overcome the impact of poverty, learning together about what works best, and acting sustainably to support our communities and our environment for the future.

Our work on neighbourhood planning with communities who are facing the greatest inequalities and are supported to deliver their own priorities is very much part of this vision. Much of this work involves children, young people and families in very practical ways, helping people support each other and making sure that available resources are used to the best effect in our communities.

Examples of this work are included within this report, and we continue to recognise the importance of community led activity in shaping our services and in making sure that we do all we can do to help improve the lives of children, young people and families throughout South Lanarkshire.

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)

All Children and young people in Scotland, under the age of 18, have protected rights under The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024. This requires all Scotland’s public authorities to take proactive steps to ensure the protection of children’s rights in their decision-making and service delivery and makes it unlawful for public authorities, including NHS Lanarkshire and South Lanarkshire Council, to act incompatibly with the UNCRC. As a partnership we are committed to upholding children’s rights and reporting on our activity. Key actions will include assessing current compatibility, ensuring children’s voices are listened to in relation to decisions that affect them, implementing a new child friendly complaints procedure and developing more child friendly information.



Section 3 - Our plan and its progress

This section provides highlights of the work undertaken in relation to each of our priority themes:

Driver 1:

Progress on increasing income from benefits

Support from the Citizen's Advice

The four Citizen's Advice offices across South Lanarkshire have played a vital role in helping families with cost-of-living challenges over the past year. They have supported a record number of 2,875 families receive benefits advice, an increase of around two thirds compared to the previous year. In addition, 718 families have benefited from a Financial Health Check, an increase of more than 50% compared to last year.

As part of support to families, Citizen's Advice successfully helped 139 families secure a Scottish Welfare Fund payment, almost double the number supported in the previous year. Around two thirds of the applications made were used to help cover food and energy payments. Overall, families received over £1.2 million in unclaimed benefits and financial gains during 2023/24, an increase of 29% compared to the previous year.



Case Study – Clydesdale Citizen's Advice

Clydesdale Citizen's Advice worked with a single parent of two children 15 and 17 with significant health issues that meant that she could not work. The parent was in receipt of Universal Credit, Adult Disability Payment for herself, as well as Scottish Child Payment and Child Benefit for one of her children.

One of the children had been in and out of hospital with health problems, while the other had left school recently and had not secured a positive destination yet. The circumstances had put severe pressure on the household income, not helped by the reduction in benefits due to the older child leaving school.

As an initial response to the crisis, Citizen's Advice made a referral to the Clydesdale Foodbank for an emergency food parcel and fuel vouchers for the family. The adviser offered the parent the option of contacting Routes to Work South (an employability project) and the local careers office for the older child, in order to get support for securing employment or accessing or training.

The parent was unaware of the help available for her child to secure work/ training and was grateful from the information given. The parent was also grateful for the food parcel and fuel voucher as this provided immediate help to the problem of not being able to feed her children or to heat her home.

Case Study – Citizen’s Advice supporting refugees

The parent was referred to Clydesdale Citizen’s Advice by her Midwife as part of the routine enquiry approach. The parent had lived in Scotland for six years, was Turkish, and had refugee status. She was pregnant with her second child, her husband only worked part time and was in receipt of Universal Credit to top up the family income. The client was also in receipt of the Scottish Child Payment and Child Benefit for her first child.

The adviser completed a Best Start Grant application and Best Start Food application online with the parent and explained how the Best Start Foods and Best Start Grants scheme worked, and how much it was worth weekly now and when the baby was born.

The adviser also completed an application on behalf of the family for a Baby Box and ran through the details of the benefits of this. The parent was advised to come back once her baby was born in order to carry out a further benefit check, to reflect her new circumstances and to ensure that she was claiming all she was entitled to. As a result, the family benefited from a financial gain of £3,808.

The parent was also confused as to how to fill in the maternity certificate due to her limited understanding of the application process, but because of the support provided by the advisor, she was able to understand the schemes and how they worked better.

The parent was very relieved that she was able to come and get the full support of Citizen’s Advice, which helped reduce the confusion and apprehension that she initially felt when she came into the Bureau.

Money Matters Advice Service

South Lanarkshire Council’s dedicated Money Matters Advice Service supported 2,673 families over the last year, a small decrease on the 2,752 from the previous year, however the level of need of individual families being referred, appears to have increased. Through the help of Money Matters, families have benefited from an additional £5.58 million in financial gains. This included over half a million pounds in debt that was written off during the same period, a 60% increase on the previous year. Asking for help to manage debt issues has increased substantially over the last 12 months. The total debt dealt with for families was £3.55 million, a 56% increase on 2022/23.

Money Matters helped with 711 welfare benefit cases that related directly to children or young people, including maternity benefits, that generated £1.61 million in financial gains, including 186 Scottish Child Payment cases, 143 Child Benefit/Child Tax Credit, 164 Child Disability Payment, 89 for Best Start Grants/ Best Start Foods, and 17 for Free School Meals/ Clothing Grants.

The Money Matters Community Wellbeing Team also made nearly 1800 referrals for emergency energy vouchers for families an increase of nearly a quarter and over 500 foodbank referrals, which is almost double the previous year. The ‘Cash First Scheme,’ that gives people £50 cash payments when they are experiencing food or fuel poverty, was launched in October 2023 and since then 631 payments were made to families.

Section 3 - Our plan and its progress

Case study – Money Matters Advice Service

Money Matters supported a lone parent with three children aged under six. The parent requested a full benefit check as she was struggling financially and wanted to know if she was entitled to any other benefits.

The adviser completed the benefit check with the client to identify that she was initially in receipt of Universal Credit for herself and two of her children, Child Benefit and the Scottish Child Payment for the first two children. On querying why she did not receive Child Benefit and Scottish Child Payment for the other child, the parent advised that she could not claim any benefits for the additional child due to the ‘two child restriction.’

The adviser assisted in submitting claims for Child Benefit and Scottish Child Payment for the additional child and further identified that the youngest child was autistic and not in receipt of a disability benefit. An additional application was made for Child Disability Payment (unaffected by the two-child restriction). The Child Disability Payment application was successful, being awarded at the high rate and the adviser also identified that the parent was entitled to Carers Allowance, which was also awarded.

As a result of the support offered, the family’s household income increased by over £370 per week. This allowed more financial freedom to meet housing, heating and food costs as well as provide for her, including more money for activities and wellbeing.

The parent fed back that the resulting increase in income was “life changing” for her and her family.



Expanding the Routine Enquiry approach

Young mothers under 25 and families with children under the age of one, have both been identified by the Scottish Government, as two of the family types most at risk of experiencing child poverty. The Routine Enquiry of Finances approach is now a well-established practice in South Lanarkshire, where NHS maternity and health visiting staff can refer pregnant women or new mothers deemed most at risk of poverty onto local money advice services.

During the last year 808 referrals were made to Money Matters by NHS staff. Through the help given families have benefited from £667K in financial gains, having a substantially positive impact on their lives.

As part of this work NHS Lanarkshire employed a Health Improvement Senior and commissioned a part time Money Advisor from Money Matters to build capacity around routine enquiry and workforce development across the organisation.

During this period 174 NHS Lanarkshire staff received training, of which three staff teams received an in-depth routine enquiry session, which they are now implementing in practice. The team have also attended 13 events, engaging with staff, patients and carers to provide advice, signposting or directing referrals for financial support. Although not always specifically targeted at child poverty priority groups, many of individual staff members or patients supported have had parental or other caring responsibilities for children and they have been supported to maximise their income in an NHS setting, where they may not otherwise have reached out for help.

NHS Lanarkshire South Family Nurse Partnership

The NHS Lanarkshire Family Nurse Partnership Programme is a programme designed to support first-time young mums and their families, aged 19 and under, who are pregnant with their first child. The evidence based programme provides support to families to break intergenerational cycles of poor outcomes and this support, delivered by nurses helps to:

- ▶ Improve pregnancy and birth outcomes;
- ▶ Improve child health and development and readiness for school; and
- ▶ Improve parents’ capacity.

Support is provided from early pregnancy until the baby is two years old and the unique relationships built over this time, allows a safe space for sensitive conversations on a variety of topics. Financial worries is a common concern, often caused by the change in circumstances.

Family Nurse Partnership Case Study – Using Routine Enquiry approach to support young mothers

In early pregnancy a young expectant mum aged 18, enrolled in the Family Nurse Partnership. The mum engaged with her family nurse throughout her pregnancy and the birth of her child. She was initially in a joint tenancy with her partner but due to relationship issues left the home and was staying with a family member, she registered as homeless with the council and was waiting to be assessed for suitable accommodation.

The parent had been experiencing relationship, tenancy and financial issues and her family nurse was able to support her to navigate the housing and benefits system to secure a stable home for herself and child and maximise her income.

This support included help with changing Universal Credit circumstances, including adding the child element to her claim and making a claim for child benefit.

The parent was also supported to contact Social Security Scotland to make an application for Best Start Grant and the Scottish Child Payment and will further be supported to apply for a single adult council tax reduction via the local authority when her own tenancy is sustained.



Glasgow Royal Hospital for Children Project

A financial advice service has been provided for parents with children on location at the Royal Hospital for Children in Glasgow for a number of years and has been celebrated as a model of effective partnership working. Over the last year 28 families with children who have disabilities from South Lanarkshire were referred to the Money Advice Service Glasgow. Through the intervention, more than £212K in financial gains were secured for the families, an increase of 9% on the gain in the previous year.

Young Patient's Family Fund

The Young Patient's Family Fund is a Scottish Government fund to help families with the costs of visiting and providing essential care that supports the health and wellbeing of their child whilst in hospital. The fund works to remove some of the financial barriers for families visiting a baby, child or young person in hospital. Parents and siblings can reclaim expenses for travel, food and overnight accommodation costs associated with visiting a child under 18 years old in hospital.

To encourage uptake of the fund, NHS Lanarkshire staff have made information available through social media platforms, and within staff newsletters and briefings, to ensure staff on site are aware of the fund and how to help families access it.

In 2023/24 NHS Lanarkshire paediatric and neonatal units received funding, which meant 20 families from South Lanarkshire were able to make claims via the paediatric unit and were reimbursed a total of £6,907.86. Additional monies were used to support families via the neonatal unit.



Section 3 - Our plan and its progress

GP Community Link Worker Programme/ Financial Wellbeing Providers

The programme is aimed at helping primary care teams support people to live well in their communities. A worker engages directly with parents who are experiencing challenges affecting their health and wellbeing and helps them access additional support. As part of the approach by the Link Workers, referrals are made to Citizen's Advice and Money Matters. Any parent that discloses financial, debt or benefit worries can be referred onto these support services.

Over the last year 1,642 referrals were made by Community Links Workers, a 153% increase on the number referred the previous year, with almost 9 in 10 families continuing to engage with staff after initial referrals. As a result of this support, families have benefited from additional income of over £563K.

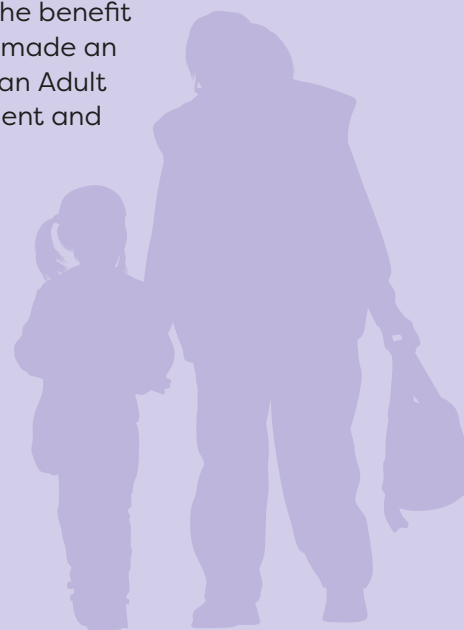


Case Study - Community Link Worker support

A lone parent with three children, one of whom has additional support needs was referred to the Community Link Worker by the GP. The patient was experiencing financial pressures and struggling to find enough money to purchase food for her family. The parent also disclosed she has some debt, which she is struggling to pay back.

The worker made an urgent referral for emergency food provision and also signposted the parent to the council to make an application to the Scottish Welfare Fund. The worker also referred the parent to Money Matters for benefits advice to ensure income is maximised and recommended the patient approach the Citizen's Advice to discuss and devise a debt repayment plan. The link worker also suggested making an application for Child Disability Payment due to the ongoing costs and support required to care for the child with additional support needs.

The parent was very grateful for the help she had received and explained that she had applied and received a community care and crisis grant, she had also received an emergency food parcel. The parent also shared that following the benefit check, she had made an application for an Adult Disability payment and was awaiting a decision from Social Security Scotland.



Social Security Scotland benefits and actions

Since the introduction of the Scottish Child Payment in 2022, just under 20,000 children in South Lanarkshire have benefited from the new payment, this represents more than a third of the population under the age of 16 and just below the Scottish average. Over 7,000 of these children, live in the 20% most deprived communities.

South Lanarkshire families have received almost £25 million in benefits through the Scottish Child Payment, since the payment was introduced, around 6% of the total Scottish payments.

The Scottish Child Disability payment was established in 2023, to provide extra support to families with disabled children under the age of 16. Since the introduction of this benefit, Social Security Scotland has approved 2,455 applications from families with disabled children, around 82% of the total applications received, which is higher than the Scottish average (80%). Families in South Lanarkshire with disabled children have benefited from an additional £44.3 million up to 31st March this year.

Social Security Scotland continue to promote their child focused benefits and provide information and promotions online to stakeholders. Invites to information sessions are regularly sent to stakeholders, to ensure partners are kept up to date with new developments and opportunities to pass onto families. Media campaigns are continuing and are targeted at client groups, such as low-income families. Social Security Scotland continue to help clients directly via appointment with resources to support with tasks such as application completion, information around appeals, and to signpost the community to the support that the benefits provide.

Supporting Care Experienced Young People manage money better

All care experienced young people are supported to budget for themselves through advocacy support, help from the Promise Team and from other corporate parents. Young people are offered dedicated support including using the available food larder, managing their savings and accessing welfare and benefit advice through Money Matters. Young people have also benefited from an initiative called 'Winter Wishes' which provided one-off cash awards to help with the additional cost of living demands between December and February and further help was provided for young people gaining their own tenancy.

Maximising Child Trusts Funds for care experienced young people

Young people over 16 have been supported to actively manage their Child Trust Fund and/or Junior ISA savings accounts, which are currently administered by the Share Foundation. The council have been working with Share Scotland to identify any unclaimed ISAs and to make sure that young people get the financial benefits they are entitled to.

Eighteen young people took part in financial education courses. All the young people who participated benefited financially in some way and a total of £9,850 was provided to those completing courses. Four young people gained £1,500 for their Child Trust Fund as a result of their participation. In addition, a number of contributions were made to young people's savings accounts/Junior ISAs. For example, £1,500 has been added to the account of a young person who has been adopted, £2,430 has been added to five accounts of young people currently in care.

Making the most of benefits advice

All care experienced young people are supported to receive financial help in the form of awareness raising about benefit entitlement, financial education and budgeting. The Money Matters Advice Service meet with young people in the Care Hub on a regular basis and offer drop-in sessions or dedicated appointments when needed. As a result, care experienced young people are building their confidence with managing their money and budgeting and beginning to access additional entitlements.

As a result of the financial support young people have been offered, over 70% say that they are now better informed and more confident about financial planning as a result.



Section 3 - Our plan and its progress

Driver 2: Progress on minimising the effects of Cost-of-Living rises

Increased uptake of funded and early learning and childcare entitlement for 2 and 3 year olds - South Lanarkshire Council Early Years Learning and Childcare

The Early Learning and Childcare service has continued to work with partners to encourage and maximise uptake of free childcare entitlements for two- and three-year-old children. There has been a 13.6% increase in the number of 2-year-olds taking up the offer of up to 1,140 hours of free, funded childcare per year. Now just under 30% of all 2-year-olds in South Lanarkshire are taking advantage of the entitlement, the highest percentage on record.

Reducing the cost of the school day initiatives

Following the publication of a Cost of the School Day Policy, a new, complimentary guidance booklet was produced for South Lanarkshire schools in March 2024. Education Resources hosted a conference dedicated to the issue of the Cost of the School Day, the first of its kind to be hosted in South Lanarkshire. This was featured on the Child Poverty Action Group website, detailing 10 key proposals; <https://cpag.org.uk/news/south-lanarkshire-council-launches-their-cost-school-day-guidance>

A Cost of the School Day Position Statement has been implemented in 80% of schools and it is intended that at least 60% of schools will have a Cost of the School Day Policy in place by October 2024.

Participatory Budgeting in Schools

All South Lanarkshire schools who receive Pupil Equity Funding have contributed at least 5% to participatory budgeting activities this year. Schools have been working to improve engagement with children, parents and staff to ensure that the priorities of school communities better inform how the budget is spent. Pupils and parents from all of these schools have contributed to informing which activities for pupils are offered.

Case Study – Lanark Primary School

Lanark Primary School used 5% of their allocated Pupil Equity Fund monies (£2,430) on participatory budgeting. The school identified families to contact directly, to gather their thoughts and suggestions of how the budget could best be spent. After discussion and narrowing down to four ideas, these went to the school community to vote on. These suggestions were:

1. School trip contributions to reduce costs for all families
2. Free fruit for snack times
3. After school clubs (especially cooking and gardening)
4. Fidget toys and sensory resources

The majority vote went to maintain a zero or reduced cost for class trips (40%) and running more after school clubs (38%). It was agreed to fund both as far as possible.

In terms of participating in the process, 100% of staff and pupils voted and 77% of parents voted. At Lanark Primary, 31% of pupils reside in the 40% most deprived areas and/or are entitled to free school meals.

One positive outcome of this participatory budgeting process so far is that all primary seven pupils have attended at least two after school clubs supported by the fund.

Maximising the uptake of School benefits – free school meals and clothing grants

On average 69% of primary pupils eligible for a free school meal have taken up a meal option, an increase of 2% on the previous year. While around 40% of secondary pupils who were eligible for a free school meal, took a free meal, again amounting to a 2% increase. More than half a million free meals were provided for pre-school age children and nurseries during the past 12 months, well in excess of the target for the year.

The number of pupils in South Lanarkshire primary and secondary schools benefiting from clothing grants was 12,353, or more than 1 in 4 children, which is a slight decrease on the previous two years.

Case Study - Carstairs Junction Early Learning and Childcare supporting families

Carstairs Junction Primary Early Learning and Childcare has a strong focus on equity, ensuring there are no cost barriers to engagement and participation. All decisions are underpinned by their Cost of the School Day policy and their termly community newsletter signposts families to financial and wellbeing support in their local area.

The school's 'Grab Rail' is available for families to access pre-loved uniform items. This resource is accessible daily and is highlighted to families through the establishment's newsletter on a regular basis. They also have seasonal items for parents to access, such as Halloween costumes and winter clothing, in recognition of the additional financial pressures these items may place on families.

Staff know the families very well and sensitively identify where additional supports may be required. Families are supported to access funding through the Greggs Hardship Fund for families requiring financial support for clothing and household goods etc.

The school are aware of individual family circumstances and are flexible with drop off and pick up times to ensure no child is impacted by factors such as the local transport network.

Promoting Active Travel among young people

There has been a small increase in the percentage of children using active travel to get to school over the past year, that means that more than 60% of children are now travelling to school using some form of either active or sustainable travel. There has been a 6% increase in the number of schools producing an Active Travel Plan, from 78 last year, to 83 schools this year; the highest number ever recorded.

A further 55 schools are aiming to complete a plan during the course of 2024, contributing towards pupils' overall health and wellbeing. Throughout the year, there were some excellent examples of schools and nurseries who had completed their School Travel Plan and continue to deliver important road safety messages throughout the school year.

As of 31st March 2024, 74% of young people under the age of 22 in South Lanarkshire had signed up for free concessionary bus travel, higher than the Scottish average of 72%.

Case Study - Cairns Primary School, Cambuslang

An action from Cairns Primary School Travel Plan was 'Park and Stride,' with the school focusing on this campaign aim of improving safety within the school car park and on Ivy Bank Avenue, which is the road on approach to the school car park.

Due to limited car parking spaces, the message of Park and Stride was incorporated in a leaflet designed to ask car users to think about their journey. Those who had to drive, were asked to park away from the school and walk the remaining distance.

The Junior Road Safety Officer Team launched their Park and Stride message at the parent's evening in November, where they had a stall to which they communicated to all parents and carers who attended to encourage safe and sustainable travel.

Section 3 - Our plan and its progress

Case Study – Spittal Primary School, Rutherglen

The Junior Road Safety Officer Team spoke at the school's assembly to promote 'Be Safe, Be Seen' and how to keep safe. They presented an informative PowerPoint presentation on how to keep safe. The School Travel Plan Award was handed over and pupils heard about the key messages of being safe and being seen.

Road Safety Simone was in attendance and presented a selection of pupils with Road Safety Calendar Competition 'Highly Commended' certificates, from this year's competition.

The school have on-loan the Little Parking Buddies to alleviate parking issues near the junction and near the school car park entrance and exit.

Case Study – Supporting Families initiative

The Supporting Families Rock Up and Ride Cycling Programme is aimed at children aged 7-14 years, delivering on the Scottish Government's promise to provide access to bikes for school age children who could otherwise not afford them.

17 children attended five sessions delivered by the Supporting Families initiative. Each child was provided with a bike, helmet and safety equipment. Siblings, along with parents and carers also participated, with positive feedback received from all involved.

"Amazing opportunity, both of us really enjoyed it. My child is over the moon with his new bike."

"I'm grateful for this programme and the opportunity for my kids to have their first bikes and I can't thank the staff enough for their support and patience."



Tackling food poverty outwith regular school hours/ Holiday Hunger programmes and Breakfast Clubs

125 out of 126 primary schools are now offering a free breakfast to pupils, the highest number on record. During the year to December 2023 an average of 54,197 pupils per week have benefited from a free breakfast, helping to start the school day on a positive and healthy note. This is a 5% increase on last year.

The Machan Trust

The Machan Trust, in partnership with the council's Community Resources have been supporting Cost of the School Day activities, hosted in Larkhall schools. This includes support for breakfast clubs in four local Primary Schools, lunch clubs in secondary schools, specifically supporting children with additional support needs and anxiety and Easter/Summer Holiday Hubs.

This dedicated local support helps to minimise the difficulties that school holiday periods pose for families in terms of childcare costs and many of the parent feedback comments directly addressed the service filling that gap.

“Brilliant organisation, helped me work more hours during the holidays and being self-employed I always struggle in Summer with the schools off.”

“I was so grateful for having this support with having three young school age children.”

“Great service for people who work and do not have a lot of family support. Keeps children interacting with other children while on Summer break.”

Reducing housing costs for families

Increasing the supply of affordable homes for families

Housing and Technical Resources were able to support families by matching their needs to available properties including the following support:

- ▶ allocating fifty new council homes to families with children, including seven properties for families who have children with disabilities or neurodiversity issues
- ▶ supporting inclusiveness for larger families by building 27 larger homes across sites in Larkhall and Hamilton
- ▶ freeing up a further 22 council homes for families with children
- ▶ providing 104 additional new build homes for social rent, and
- ▶ securing 165 homes through the council's Market Purchase Scheme, which provides opportunities to support families who have particular requirements by providing them with an affordable home that meets their needs in an area they would like to live.

The council's Housing and Technical Resources have also been leading on the development of local masterplans in a number of areas including East Kilbride and Hamilton town centres, that have a strong focus on affordable housing to meet the needs of local communities, including families.



Section 3 - Our plan and its progress

Maintaining affordable rents for council tenants

To inform the 2024/25 budget setting process, a consultation was undertaken comprising of an online survey, social media posts and presentations to local tenant focus groups, gypsy/travellers and the homelessness service user group. In total there were 1273 responses received during this consultation. This helped to inform South Lanarkshire Council that set an average rent of £79.27 per week, which continues to remain lower than the Scottish Local Authority average of £82.40.

Supporting the housing needs of minority groups

The council continues to support households with children within the two council operated Gypsy/ Traveller sites in South Lanarkshire. Children and young people from the Gypsy/Traveller site at Shawlands Crescent in Larkhall have been working with the council to design and create a new play area on the site. The new park utilised the area of the former, disused play park on the site, with residents helping to clear the area before construction started.

A key part of the project has been to improve the communal space available for families to spend more time outdoors, which is an important part of Gypsy/ Traveller culture. Special consultation meetings were held with children to design the parks layout and choose the various pieces of equipment, with the final designs agreed with all residents.

A young person on the site said:

'It's really cool to have this here, I really like the climbing frame which I picked. It's amazing to see'

One resident said:

'The new play park is brilliant. I wish we had something like this on our doorstep when we were growing up.'

The project is part of the latest round of investment in the council's two sites that aim to improve the lives of Gypsy/Travellers, aligning with national approaches to reduce the longstanding discrimination faced by members of the Gypsy/Traveller community.

Reducing energy costs for families

Money Matters and Citizen's Advice have supported over 10,000 households with energy advice during the last year, a 154% increase on the numbers who were looking for energy advice in 2022/23. As part of this support Citizen's Advice have helped nearly 1,500 families with energy or energy debt advice, a 122% increase on the previous year. This has resulted in families benefitting from £682,000 in financial gains and benefits, a 157% increase on the amount secured compared to the previous year. In addition to this support, local foodbanks have issued 2,279 fuel and energy vouchers to families, a 12% increase on last year.

The council have utilised national Energy Efficient Scotland funding to make improvements to 34 privately owned and 11 council properties which aim to improve the heating efficiency for households and reduce the energy required to heat them.

The council launched the new Energy Company Obligation Scheme, which helped over 100 privately owned properties to benefit from energy efficient improvements at no cost to the family. Utilising existing resources within Housing and Technical Resources to administer and monitor the scheme, funding is drawn from national energy companies for use by local contractors to instal improvements to homes. Work to date has included new heating, insulation and solar systems with an initial focus on the scheme to support households who are vulnerable to the cold, including those with young children.

The Scottish Government are currently developing a new Social Housing Net Zero Standard that is expected to be introduced in 2024/25. Until this standard is in place, guidance requires the council to monitor and report on performance in relation to energy efficiency of the housing stock. Improving fuel and thermal efficiency within homes and reducing energy costs for families is a key part of this. In 2023/24 over 95% of the council's housing stock passed this standard.

Community Links

Community Links have hosted a variety of community-based activities aimed at increasing energy saving among families in the Blantyre, Larkhall and Hamilton areas. These activities included the distribution of energy saving devices such as slow cookers, air fryers, LED bulbs and draught excluders. Devices were distributed to over 140 families, making a real difference to help parents and carers manage their energy costs.

“I absolutely love the devices given, especially the air fryer and slow cooker, it has made life with three young children easier and I’ve noticed a difference in my electricity costs. I really appreciate it, thank you very much.”

“It was brilliant. I couldn’t believe what we received. We use the air fryer all the time. The draft excluders and light bulbs were magic too and have saved us loads of money. Thank you!”

Reducing homelessness and the threat of homelessness among families, children and young people

The council continues to work with local partners to address the challenge of homelessness, reduce the number of homeless households and minimise the impact on children and families wherever possible. Despite this dedicated support, the number of families experiencing homelessness continues to increase and in the last year 305 families had to rely on temporary accommodation at some stage, this is compared to 245 families the previous year.

However, significant progress was made in terms of the number of urgent homeless applicants allocated a property. There were 433 properties allocated to families compared to 358 last year, 15 properties allocated to 16 -17 year olds, which is similar to last year and 278 properties allocated to 18-25 year olds compared to 222 previously, a positive increase. The council were also able to help two families converting their temporary accommodation tenancies to a Scottish Secure Tenancy, allowing them to remain in their home permanently.

Tenancy Sustainment Fund

The Tenancy Sustainment Fund, introduced in 2020 helps to support tenants to maintain their rent payments in order to sustain their tenancy and prevent homelessness. This year a total of 493 awards were made from the fund with awards totalling over £100,00 helping children and families.

Supporting care experienced young people to plan for and move to independent living in the community

Planning for suitable accommodation for young people

Housing and Social Work staff have been working closely to better understand the needs of young people moving into their first independent living home and to make sure they are offered the best option possible. Every young person leaving a care situation is supported by an independent plan that informs what accommodation is offered and the support they get to move into their new home. Young people have told us that this support is valuable in helping them move into their first home.

In the last year 43 young people were provided with their first home, an increase of more than 40% on last year and 43 new applications were received, a drop of around 10% on the previous year.

Supporting young people in their home

We are developing a multi-agency approach to providing care experienced young people the best home possible to make sure that they are satisfied with their home when they get it and are supported to make sure it continues to meet their needs. This includes making sure training is provided for third sector agencies and having a clear plan to engage young people in the process.

We have recently secured additional funding from the Big Lottery to work in partnership with Barnardos to put in place a new Youth Housing Support Project that will provide dedicated support for young care experienced people getting their first independent home.

Developing a Throughcare Housing Protocol

Housing and Social Work have been working closely with the Champions Board young people to develop and implement a Throughcare Protocol, which was launched in January 2024. The protocol means that young people moving into their first tenancy will get the right support they require at the right time to create a safe, affordable and comfortable home environment.

Section 3 - Our plan and its progress

Improved digital inclusion amongst families in the most deprived areas

Five Digital Inclusion Hubs are now established in South Lanarkshire, supported by the Good Things Foundation, who have developed an interactive map to direct people to their nearest hub for digital support; www.goodthingsfoundation.org/our-network-services-map.

The hubs have helped the distribution of 720 SIM cards through local foodbanks, allowing free mobile internet access to foodbank users and their families.

As part of the Pupil Equity Funding participatory budgeting approach, Neilsland Primary School worked with pupils to tackle digital exclusion and upgrade IT equipment which led to positive outcomes for learners.

Case Study – Digital Inclusion in Neilsland Primary School, Hamilton

Neilsland Primary School is in an area of high deprivation, where almost all classes have a majority of children from SIMD 1 and 2 and/or entitled to free school meals.

Consultation on options for using their Pupil Equity Fund spending took place with children, staff and parents/carers, with favoured ideas being around new Chromebooks and also stationary stations in each classroom.

As a result of the participation process, the school aimed to improve engagement levels of targeted pupils and increase their punctuality and attendance. Positive results were recorded in both areas by February 2024. 93.6% of targeted pupils increased their engagement in reading, 90.4% increased their engagement in writing and 94.2% increased their engagement in numeracy as a result of the addition of the new Chromebooks

In addition, the number of children being late for school has decreased gradually from 13% in February 2023 to 9% in February 2024.

Reducing food poverty

Foodbanks across South Lanarkshire have helped to feed over 25,500 children and young people through emergency food parcels over the last year, a 14% increase on the previous year and the highest number ever recorded. Many of these referrals have come from working in partnership with Money Matters and Citizen's Advice, who have referred almost 5,000 households for emergency food assistance, an increase of 37% over the previous year.

In line with dignity and cash first principals, local foodbanks have been looking at more sustainable alternatives to distributing emergency food parcels. The majority of foodbanks in South Lanarkshire are now issuing cash or supermarket vouchers to allow users greater choice to purchase their own food, as well as the ability to buy healthier and more nutritional food items, such as dairy products, fresh meat and vegetables.

As part of this change in approach, local food banks have distributed 1,485 supermarket/retail/fresh food vouchers to clients, a 143% increase on the number distributed during 2022/23.

Local third sector organisation, Healthy Valleys organised nine Cooking on a Budget Courses for children and young people during the past year.

Promoting healthy living among children and families living in poverty

Over the past year help has been provided to families experiencing cost of living challenges to access opportunities to participate in sport, leisure and cultural opportunities. South Lanarkshire Councils Employability Service in partnership with South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture were successful in a bid to the Scottish Government's Tackling Child Poverty Fund, securing funding for 225 free leisure passes targeted at low-income families.

The free passes allowed both families and children access to leisure facilities including local gyms, swimming, and skating, supporting and improving health and wellbeing and providing valuable time together as a family.

Reduce costs associated with health harming behaviours

The NHS Lanarkshire 'Quit Your Way' Service, is a programme that supports people to stop smoking, and is available to anyone in Lanarkshire who wants to quit, but with targeted work focussed on pregnant women, living in areas of higher deprivation. Pregnant women and families are offered a referral to financial wellbeing providers to maximise their income and this year, eight advisors from Money Matters participated in Smoking and Poverty Training. This mutual referral method helps with a 'no wrong door approach' and the positive relationships built between services provides a benefit to families.

One of the main targets of the Quit Your Way model is to evidence how families are saving money by stopping smoking and advise on how savings can spend on household necessities. The project has found that quitting smoking saves people a significant amount of money. On average a pack of 20 cigarettes in the UK costs £14.59. This means quitting smoking will save people £102.13 per week, £408.52 per month and £4902.24 per year if they smoke 20 cigarettes per day.

The most recent evidence shows that in South Lanarkshire, 8.2% of pregnant women are smoking in pregnancy, lower than the Scottish average of 11%. Between April and September 2023, six pregnant women living in the most deprived areas successfully quit smoking within 12 weeks of their pregnancy.

Case Study – Rhy and Lauren stopping smoking

Rhy wanted to stop smoking for health reasons, including to improve health for starting a family. Rhy and Lauren were spending approximately £100 per week on cigarettes before they quit. He found out about the Quit Your Way Service at the local pharmacy, spotting a Quit Your Way jar of tar on the pharmacy counter, which he felt looked disgusting. The tar jar prompted Rhy to ask more questions and found out about the free stop smoking support available in store. Rhy then shared with his partner Lauren what he had found out about the Quit Your Way Pharmacy Service. Both Rhy and Lauren had tried to stop smoking in the past on their own. Rhy had quit attempts with and without using nicotine replacement products and Lauren tried to stop before without using any nicotine replacement products. Triggers of having a bad day, life and work stress had made stopping smoking more difficult in the past. After the conversation in store, the following week, both Rhy and Lauren returned to the same local pharmacy and signed up for stop smoking support, agreeing to stop smoking together.

As well as getting weekly face to face brief behavioural support from Heather the pharmacist, both Rhy and Lauren used combination therapy of nicotine replacement patches and nicotine replacement mini lozenges over the 12-week period,

with Lauren mainly using mini lozenges in the end with additional two weeks supply as required. Along with using nicotine products during their quit attempt, they also put in place coping strategies and distractions to help them deal with cravings, withdrawal symptoms and other life stressors. Lauren felt cleaning was a very good distraction, while Rhy avoided going outside at break times to limit any temptations.

Both Rhy and Lauren stopped smoking and are now 'proud' that they are 15 months' smoke-free. They are most proud that they were able to welcome a baby boy, Desmond, who is now four months old, and they are all enjoying the benefits of a smoke-free home together. They also shared that stopping smoking together was helpful and nice to do as a couple as it made a difference to their own successes to becoming smoke-free.

With the money they saved from quitting smoking they have been able to buy items for their new baby. Lauren says they used to have financial difficulties at the end of every month, but now they don't worry about money. The nicotine replacement products helped both Rhy and Lauren with cravings and withdrawal symptoms throughout their journey and they no longer use products. Both agreed going 'solo' was much more difficult and stressful compared with getting help and support and using the available nicotine replacement products.

“Don't do it alone – get support, its more stressful otherwise.”

Section 3 - Our plan and its progress

Breastfeeding

Families are benefiting from support to encourage new mothers to breastfeed their babies, including access to breastfeeding groups. Additionally, there has been a range of promotional events and training opportunities, and information on breastfeeding and associated policy being embedded into the NHS Lanarkshire induction for new staff. This year, new ways to ensure timely support for families in financial crisis to maximise breastfeeding and/or provision of formula milk has been explored by staff and work will continue over the next year at least.

South Lanarkshire Council has commenced a working group and is working towards achieving Bronze level in the Breastfeeding Friendly Scotland Local Authority Award. This includes all council premises signing up to the scheme.

Evidence based approach to tackling child poverty through Neighbourhood Planning

South Lanarkshire Council's Community Planning Partnership and Community Engagement Team have implemented an area-based approach to tackling child poverty, in the form of a dedicated Neighbourhood Plan in East Kilbride, the first of its kind in Scotland.

Data from East Kilbride highlighted that the areas of; Crosshouse, Greenhills and Whitehills ranked highest on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation in East Kilbride. After discussion, the community stakeholder group agreed that door-step engagement should focus on the more deprived area in Whitehills. Residents in these areas would be least likely to engage in other consultation methods, and the Neighbourhood Plan addressed inequalities in the area.

Local data showed that almost two thirds of the data zones have a rate for child poverty (before housing costs) above the Scottish average and almost two thirds of children living in poverty in the area live in a household where one or both parents work. This is greater than either the South Lanarkshire (63%) or Scottish (64%) average. East Kilbride recorded the highest number of families referred to local foodbanks accounting for just under two thirds of the South Lanarkshire total.

An online survey, door-to-door conversations, pop-up events and engagement sessions in local primary schools helped gather a strong understanding of experiences of living in the area and what the community would like to see change in the future. By targeting a small geographical area in this way, with higher-than-average rates of child poverty, the aim of this work is to reduce the number and percentage of children living in poverty in the area.

Targeted priority family type approach to tackling child poverty – Paths away from Poverty

Paths away from Poverty is funded by the Scottish Government's Child Poverty Accelerator Fund and is supporting families where there is a child or a young person in the household with a disability. While this project is in the early stages of development (it will run until March 2025 working with at least 10 families) it is beginning to identify potentially more effective ways to engage and support families to deal with financial, wellbeing and inclusion challenges.

Support is delivered primarily through a key worker relationship, with workers for the project being provided by third sector organisation COVEY. The project is currently supporting five families address and find solutions to a range of challenges with a number of families ready to be referred for support.

Already benefits to the families have included; improved financial wellbeing through help with urgent financial wellbeing assessments, improved health and wellbeing as a result of strengthened relationships with NHS Lanarkshire, CAMHS and local GPs, reduced social isolation with three families moving to weekly support and one young person benefiting from COVEY befriending support with other additional needs young people.

Families are sharing what has changed for them because of the support they have received, including increased engagement with support that they feel is helping towards personal plans and solutions and better outcomes for their children.



Driver 3 - Progress on maximising opportunities to increase income from employment

Driver 3: Income from Employment

Local Employability Partnership

South Lanarkshire Works is host to a Local Employability Partnership for organisations with a role in delivering opportunities to improve employability opportunities for young people and adults in our communities. A multi-agency Tackling Child Poverty subgroup has been established (South Lanarkshire Council, NHS Lanarkshire, Public Health Scotland, Clyde Gateway, Skills Development Scotland, and South Lanarkshire College) to specifically consider the role that local employability action/policy can play in lifting families out of poverty. The intention of the group is to bring together local partners with a stake in eradicating child poverty, through actions such as how to implement national policy directives at a local level, consider good practice from other local authorities, as well as to examining new methods, practical research and the use of data to ensure continuous improvement and how to take advantage of new opportunities for funding that are available.

This group share best practice and identify unmet need for the benefit of parents engaging with the Employability Service and stakeholders. Aligning and integrating each programme, to ensure that no-one is left behind on their individual employment journey.



Employability Service

South Lanarkshire Council's Employability Service deliver parental employment support through the No One Left Behind Tackling Child Poverty Funding from Scottish Government, to the six child poverty priority groups. Support is provided to all parents, with a range of programmes, activities and interventions which are participant led. Each parent has a dedicated key worker with a robust action plan to ensure a holistic approach. The Employability Service works with partners to make all parents employment journeys successful. Achievements from programmes are explained below:

Supporting Families programme

Supporting Families is a joint project between Clyde Gateway, South Lanarkshire Council and South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture that offer support to parents who need most help to access a job. Parents are supported with afterschool activity and access to childcare that frees up time to enable them to improve their employability options.

Parents are offered a wide range of help that support families' wellbeing in general and make it easier for them to progress their employment journey. This can include advice with housing concerns, financial support from One Parent Family Scotland and Money Matters, as well as engaging with English for Speakers of Other Languages courses. Parents are also benefiting from dedicated health and wellbeing activities, and parenting support from the local Family Support Hubs.

The Supporting Families programme is available to targeted nurseries and schools in Rutherglen, Cambuslang, Larkhall and Rigsid. Since October last year 27 parents have benefited from joined up support from South Lanarkshire Council's Employability Service.

Section 3 - Our plan and its progress

Case Study – Supporting Families, Westburn Nursery

A parent was referred by Westburn Nursery to help her find a job and assist with debt management. She was struggling with confidence, self-belief, and mental health and also faced financial difficulties and required support with benefits and money management. Over a three-month period, her barriers and challenges were addressed through a Holistic Needs Assessment.

During the initial meeting, the parent expressed her desire to train as a nurse. She had considered college courses but was unsure about the application process, having left school with no formal qualifications. Her recent experience caring for her grandmother and helping in a care home motivated her to pursue this career path.

She was referred to One Parent Families Scotland for benefits check to ensure she was receiving all the relevant benefits and support with money management. She needed a new fridge freezer, so One Parent Families applied for funding to assist with this. The key worker invited the parent to attend Health Walks at the nursery to improve her mental health and referred her to 'Rain or Shine' for clothing for her son.

The key worker spent several weeks getting to know her before discussing the possibility of applying for a Scottish Wider Access Programme Nursing course. These courses are designed for individuals with few or no formal qualifications who have been out of education for three to five years. The parent was enthusiastic about applying to Glasgow Clyde College Langside Campus due to its accessible location. The key worker reviewed her personal qualities and experiences, including caring for her grandmother and working in an elderly care home.

She was invited to an interview at the college and received an unconditional offer the following day. She was elated and could hardly believe she was going to college. The nursery has been supportive regarding her childcare needs, accommodating her college schedule.

“You’ve made me more confident; you’ve helped me believe in myself a lot more.

You’ve helped me so much; you’ve come into my life and changed it. You’ve stuck by my side, and we clicked right away. I can’t thank you enough and really appreciate you.”

Making It Work

Routes to Work South deliver the Making It Work programme, supporting parents increase their employability skills. The programme covers all of South Lanarkshire, offering each parent a bespoke, tailored service to suit their individual needs.

The programme includes personal and social development activities to build confidence and improve wellbeing. It also enhances employability skills through training and qualifications, bringing participants closer to their end goal of employment. By providing peer group support, childcare advice, with access to 'The Dressing Room' for interview clothing, the programme addresses various barriers to employment.

This year, the Cambuslang Training and Enterprise Centre base has opened the Cook and Learn Community Café, where two parents with lived experience have become employed.

These parents assist other participants in gaining skills and vocational qualifications, while also learning to cook on a budget. Participants can take home the ingredients to feed their families. The programme has seen 239 parents engage, 80 parents enter employment, one move into further education, and 31 obtain qualifications.

Case Study – Making It Work

A parent joined the Making It Work programme seeking employment. Her barriers to employment included living in a jobless household with dependent children, long-term unemployment, and low skills due to not working for years. Consequently, she lacked self-confidence and skills.

Upon joining the programme, the parent mentioned that her personal skills included baking, which she enjoyed. However, she felt she lacked the confidence to apply for jobs or attend interviews, having been out of the workforce since 2005 to care for her daughter, now 16 years old. Despite having a few health problems, she was determined not to let these hold her back from moving into employment.

The Routes to Work advisor supported the parent in building an up-to-date CV, assisted with job searching and matching jobs to her interests and skills and helped her apply for suitable vacancies. Additionally, she was supported in tailoring her CV for each role she applied for and was given access to a 'My Job Scotland' account. The parent was also provided with a 'better off in work' calculation to understand how employment would affect her current situation.

The parent applied for several care assistant roles and secured an interview in March for a Domestic Day Care role with South Lanarkshire Council. She felt the interview went very well, but two weeks later, her mother passed away after a heart attack. She took this loss badly and was not well enough to progress to the next interview stage. She was signed off by her doctor to recover over the next few weeks and contacted the advisor a few weeks later, ready to move forward with her employment journey and get her life back on track. The advisor assisted the parent with the application process and interview skills, and she subsequently secured an interview with NHS Lanarkshire for a cleaning role that she was then offered and was "over the moon."

Demonstrator Project Programme

Parents have been benefiting from the Demonstrator Programme, which is a place-based project designed to offer parents real employment experience in a live work setting. The project is run by NHS Lanarkshire and its commissioned Facilities Management service. The council's Employability Service funds the wage subsidies for up to six months, including the costs of job start payments that bridge the gap until the first wage is received and a contribution to the NHS costs. Parents have benefited from experience in real posts that suit their childcare commitments, with progression towards suitable long-term employment, if possible.

During the last year the project started with 19 parents in South Lanarkshire, and to date 17 are still engaging with the programme. As a result of the experience six parents are still learning from their placement, four have signed up to NHS Staff Bank (to select shifts that suit around their childcare), three have progressed into employment and a further seven are due to start permanent employment. Two parents have completed their work placement and continue to search for suitable jobs.

As a result of the benefits to participants, the project will be continued and it is planned to extend the opportunities to include Carstairs State Hospital, which would suit parents within the rural community and to South Lanarkshire Council, specifically targeting cleaning and catering roles, with the opportunity to apply for permanent positions during the six-month placement.

The Demonstrator Programme is a project that supports the work of NHS Lanarkshire as an Anchor Organisation, working to make a difference to health and wellbeing outcomes and reduce inequalities through work across five pillars.

Section 3 - Our plan and its progress

Case Study – Demonstrator Programme



A parent was referred to Routes to Work South by Jobcentre Plus as he was unemployed and seeking employment opportunities. He was supported to apply for the Demonstrator Programme.

The parent was unemployed with two children, one of whom is disabled. He needed a job that would allow him to help his wife care for their children outside of school hours. Previously a nurse overseas, he wanted to transition into an administrative role due to a previous personal experience.

He was offered a position on the Demonstrator Programme as an Admin Officer with hours that suited his childcare needs, which provided him the opportunity to work in a comfortable setting, earn a steady income while still being available for family commitments.

Efforts were made to improve the parent's CV and support job searches to help him find suitable employment. He was assisted in applying for NHS Staff Bank shifts, which suited his childcare needs. Initially placed in an admin role within an Intensive Care Unit setting, he found the environment triggering due to a previous personal experience. The NHS Employability Team and management were very supportive and worked to relocate him to a more suitable location.

The parent reported that the supportive environment significantly improved his health. He also received a £300 job start payment to assist with clothing, transport, and other expenses until his first pay. To help him remain in work, the Employability Team worked closely with him to find a suitable location and later secure employment that matched the needs of the whole family. The parent now works covering Admin Staff Bank shifts, which he can select to suit family requirements and earns a monthly salary that fits his circumstances.

“The opportunity to train and develop myself has been very beneficial. My health has improved as it is a supportive environment, and everyone is very helpful. I would say get yourself signed up; get all the support you need as there are so many opportunities that you might not realise could help you get into work.”

In Work Upskilling

A number of employed parents have been benefiting from in-work support through the Upskilling Programme, which offers training and qualifications to help parents become financially more stable, gain increased hours and achieve higher wages, promotions and permanent posts.

Parents have been helped to sustain and secure advanced employment while improving their

employability skills and wellbeing, helping to achieve financial security and become better off.

Since September last year 59 parents have been supported with 42 parents undergoing their Scottish Vocational Qualification level 2/3 in Health and Social Care. 16 parents completed accredited training in practical areas such as forklift licence, HGV licence and First Aid certificate.

Case Study – Parental in Work Upskilling

A parent of two children who was employed as a drainage engineer with limited career progression due to a lack of qualifications and training was seeking to enhance his career prospects. He reached out to South Lanarkshire Council's Employability team and was referred to the Upskilling Team for support.

It was identified that obtaining an HGV driving licence would significantly broaden his career opportunities. With an agreement from his manager, the parent was promised a promotion upon completing this training.

The Upskilling Team sourced and funded the HGV training and maintained regular contact to ensure he attended medical appointments and received the necessary training materials. The parent was delighted at securing a funded place with a training provider for his driver training and tests as he was not able to finance the training himself. The upskilling

advisor kept in contact with the parent's manager to ensure he could attend medical exams, training sessions, and tests.

The training opportunity has boosted his confidence, enabling him to successfully secure a job as a drainage technician at a higher rate of pay. Once he passes his HGV test, he will be offered a promoted position with an increased salary, improving his career opportunities and financial situation further, benefiting both himself and his young family.

“The Upskilling team has given me the freedom to secure a position within a thriving business and undertake training that not only provides me with an additional qualification but also allows for career progression and greater financial freedom for my family and me.”

Support for the living wage and fair work practices

As part of the Community Wealth Building approach, we have worked to ensure that all anchor organisations and community planning partners including the council and NHS Lanarkshire have adopted the living wage, living hours and fair work practices.

During last year South Lanarkshire obtained 35 new living wage accredited employers making a total of 175 accredited employers. Throughout the year the group continued to promote the living wage campaign by attending events and using social media messages to raise awareness including supporting the Living Wage Week in November 2023.

Creating opportunities for employment and upskilling with third sector partners

Voluntary Action South Lanarkshire

Voluntary Action South Lanarkshire are engaging with our parents to create bespoke volunteering opportunities that suit the start of their employment journey and childcare needs. So far 13 parents have begun their volunteering journey.

The Employability Service aims to assist each parent in achieving increased income through enhanced employment opportunities, such as paid placements, volunteering, training, and qualifications, as well as in-work support. Additionally, it offers holistic guidance to continue their employability journey, addressing the needs of the entire household and working to alleviate poverty.

Section 4 - Monitoring of progress and delivering on our ambitions

As a partnership, we take improvement seriously and continuously look to where we think we can deliver the best support to our children, young people and families. We are informed by a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, built around available data, the voices of children, young people and families and the views of our wider workforce. This assessment informs a range of planning and decision-making processes.

Our commitment to continuous improvement is built around activity designed to improve standards and services, for example:

- ▶ Producing our Local Child Poverty Action Report
- ▶ Implementing a clear Performance Framework that utilises measures to show the impact of our work

- ▶ Evaluating our work and using information to promote best practice across agencies
- ▶ Engaging children, young people and families to hear their views and experiences of accessing services, life circumstances, hopes and aspirations
- ▶ Using available data and other evidence to inform our joint planning and evaluation

By taking this approach to what we do, we can map our progress and refine our work to ensure we are doing the right things in the right way. Most importantly it helps us understand where we are making a positive difference for children, young people and families.

We have set a suite of measures that will help determine if we are being successful in this ambition. **These are:**

Indicator	Baseline	Most recent	Change 12 months
Percentage of children (0-15) living in relative poverty (after housing costs)	Baseline 2022 22.8% (SLC) 24.4% (Scotland)	2023 23.6% (SLC) 24.2% (Scotland)	SLC= +0.8% Scotland= -0.2%
Percentage of children in low-income families (before housing costs)	Baseline 2022 19.4% (SLC) 20.8% (Scotland)	2023 19.9% (SLC) 21.3% (Scotland)	SLC= +0.5% Scotland= +0.5%
Percentage of households with children not managing well financially	Baseline 2019 13% (SLC) 12% (Scotland)	2021 7% (SLC) 8% (Scotland)	SLC= -6% Scotland= -4%
Percentage of children living in families with limited resources after Housing costs	Baseline 2019 15.1% (SLC) 16.6% (Scotland)	2019 15.1% (SLC) 16.6% (Scotland)	No new data available
Percentage of fuel poor households	Baseline 2019 22% (SLC) 24% (Scotland)	2019 22% (SLC) 24% (Scotland)	Next data update expected early 2025

Three 'step change' areas

The three areas for development identified as step change activity in addition to our core priorities:

- 1.** Successful extension of routine enquiry and active referral beyond existing pathways.
- 2.** Developing holistic, wraparound support for parents to guide them through obstacles to employment (skills, childcare transport, mental health, benefit entitlement) and beyond.
- 3.** Implementing an 'Ask Once' test of change to identify better ways to deliver support to families experiencing poverty and money worries.

How will we achieve this?

- ▶ Continued use of 'Test of Change' methods to try new ways of working, with families at the centre of this work
- ▶ Increased joint working and the pooling of expertise and resources to deliver additional value through the Child Poverty Working Group and the organisations it represents
- ▶ Working with other partnership groups and networks to drive forward change activity such as the Whole Family Wellbeing and Keeping the Promise Thematic groups
- ▶ Commitment to an increasingly evidence based, outcome focused approach, which gives particular consideration to the needs of the priority groups at highest risk of child poverty
- ▶ Meaningful involvement of families with lived experience and the third sector in policy development, decision-making and delivery.



Section 5 - Our priorities for 2024/25 and the longer term

Income from benefits	Cost of living	Income from employment	Working together to deliver differently
An increase in the awareness of families about the benefits and entitlements they are eligible for	Reduction in financial barriers to education for school age children	Reduce the gap in school leavers entering a positive destination between most deprived 20% and least deprived 20% areas	The voice of children, young people and families experiencing poverty informs policy development and service design
Families are more aware of changes in available benefits	Reduced housing costs for families	Support care experienced school leavers sustain a positive destination	Support the third sector to be involved in the planning, implementation, and delivery of child poverty activity
Care experienced young people improve their understanding of money and available benefits	Increased uptake of funded and early learning and childcare entitlement for 2- and 3-year-olds	Increase employment support for low-income parents	Improve the use of data so that partners can build a shared understanding of poverty at household, neighbourhood, and locality level
	Improved digital inclusion amongst families in the most deprived areas	Employees being paid the living wage - parents	Deliver more holistic, wraparound, accessible support to families experiencing poverty
	Reduce Food Poverty	Employee upskilling - parents	Paths out of poverty Test of Change - Families with Disabilities
	Reduce costs associated with health harming behaviours		Develop an 'Ask Once' test of change in East Kilbride
	Increase the rate of breastfeeding at birth and at eight weeks and achieve the Breastfeeding Friendly Scotland Local Authority Bronze Award		

Useful links

The Local Housing Strategy 2022-2027

www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/local-housing-strategy

South Lanarkshire's Community Plan

www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/cp/CommunityPlan2022-2032

South Lanarkshire's Children's Services Plan 2023 -26, Working together making a difference

www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/childrens-services-plan

Children and Young People's Health Plan Lanarkshire

bit.ly/NHS-children-young-peoples-health-plan

Best Start, Bright Futures, the national child poverty delivery plan

bit.ly/tackling-child-poverty-delivery-plan

South Lanarkshire's Community Learning and Development Strategy and Action Plan

www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/community-learning-development-strategic-plan

Community Wealth Building Strategy

www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/community-wealth-building-strategy

'Connect' the Council Plan

www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/council-plan

South Lanarkshire Works

www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200201/south_lanarkshire_works

For further information:

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please contact us to discuss how we can best meet your needs.
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Email: equalities@southlanarkshire.gov.uk
www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk

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Report: South Lanarkshire Year 5 Local Child Poverty Action report
Information Feedback

Prepared by: Lizzy Hammond, Public Health Scotland

Background

The Child Poverty National Partners agreed to pilot a new processing arrangement for year five Local Child Poverty Action Reports (LCPARs) in which national partners were allocated reports to process and provide feedback if requested.

As part of the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017, local authorities and health boards are required to jointly prepare and publish annual LCPARs. These report on measures taken and measures proposed to contribute to child poverty targets; income maximisation measures for pregnant people and families with children; and measures for families whose income/expenditure is adversely affected because of a member's protected characteristics. Beyond these requirements, the process and content of reporting is at local leads' discretion.

In addition to the statutory requirements, the national partners use a framework to process the LCPARs. These topics are based around data and intelligence, lived experience, the range of policy levels, priority groups, use of outcomes and indicators, monitoring and evaluation, partnership working and capturing interesting practice.

Overall

South Lanarkshire's Local Child Poverty Action Report (LCPAR) demonstrates some good and interesting work around the three drivers of child poverty and policy areas with a good use of case studies.

There are commitments outlined in the report that we agree are areas to be strengthened and are noted below. They are very similar commitments and priorities made in the previous year 4 (2021/22) report. Therefore, it would be useful if this report included progress against these commitments and priorities and in future reports. These include:

- We will make sure that policy development and future service delivery is influenced by the voice of families experiencing poverty
- Our third sector organisations with their strong links to communities will be more involved and at strategic level
- We will make better use of existing data that could be used to improve a shared understanding of the impact of poverty at household and locality level
- We will deliver more holistic, wraparound support services which are as accessible as possible to families experiencing poverty

- We will develop shared short, medium and long term outcomes and identify the necessary resources to work collaboratively towards them, which adds value to our core offer of support to families

The report does state it is informed by a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) that informs planning and decision making based around data, the voices of children, young people and families and the views of our wider workforce. It would be useful to understand how the needs assessment informed the activities in the report.

There are some key activities in the report that have clearly supported families such as services to support income maximisation, childcare, housing and rent. The reach and overall impact of these on low-income families and progress on the previous year's performance relating to these is unclear. Some data is used to demonstrate impact mainly around the income maximisation but limited in other activities. There are activities where the clear link to the drivers of child poverty is less evident such as active travel and smoking cessation services.

Data and Intelligence

Limited data has been used to provide the 'picture' of child poverty in South Lanarkshire (it may be outlined in the joint strategic needs assessment noted in the report).

Data has been used in parts to provide context in some policy areas such as uptake of free school meals and emergency food provision by comparing uptake to the previous year or 'average rent' and 'rent increases' compared to the national average. However, it is not always clear from the report that links are drawn between the data and intelligence and the activities or priorities for action. For example, how has data been used to inform the priorities for 2023/24? Where services are only in one locality, what data and intelligence were used to inform this decision making?

Data has been used to show the number of families supported, financial gains and debt reduction from the services and activities to increase income from benefits. Data on some priorities families' accessing services were included such as lone parents, large families and families with a disabled child and figures were also presented for the number of the pregnant women or children under 5.

- How can the services assess reach of the service to all priority groups? Can the new case management and recording system for Money Matters include all priority groups?
- What is the cause of the increased referrals observed?

Given the impact of financial gains for families and the well-established routine enquiry in place in South Lanarkshire it is welcomed to see the extension of this service into Integrated Community Children's Nursing Team and the family hubs. It will be interesting for us and other local areas to hear how this is developing for local learning.

Lived experience

The report presented strong case studies throughout, the majority of which were from the priority groups. The case studies demonstrate the issues and complexities faced by families. In particular the case study for the Making It Work programme was successful in demonstrating impact where the outcome was employment for a priority family parent (disability and large family).

It is not clear how the voice of lived experience is used to inform planning and decision making however this has been identified in the commitments for next year.

Priority families

Priority families are referenced throughout the report but limited data is provided on the six priority family groups in South Lanarkshire. Figures have been presented on some priority families accessing services such as CAB and money advice which is welcomed. It would be useful to know if all of the priority family groups could be recorded in the systems and services already capturing some of the priority family group engagement and if consideration has been given to other key services to capture engagement of priority families as a measure of reach. For example, could engagement of each priority family group in the Supporting Families programme be monitored?

Some activities provide data on total number of people supported by the service where it would be helpful to include the number of families with children, even if not priority families accessing services e.g. GP Link Workers.

There were some examples provided of targeting priority families such as through routine enquiry by midwives, health visitors and first steps workers and Making It Work for Families, employment support programme supporting parents with health and disabilities. This consideration to priority families could be strengthened in other activities and the commitment to this has already been identified locally in the improvement approach.

Understanding progress and impact

Despite some good work, it is not clear from the report if progress is being made to contribute to child poverty targets. It would have been useful to see and update in the report on previous years commitments and priorities i.e. How these have been implemented and what progress and outcomes have been achieved.

The use of outcomes and a measurement framework with indicators to monitor progress and measure impact would be useful. The development of short, medium and long term outcomes has already been identified as has the implementation of a clear performance framework. If these have already been developed it might be useful to include an overview in the report or as an appendix.

The Supporting Families programme is a good example where impact has been evidenced, evaluated and will be rolled out to other areas.

There are some activities or services where there could be a clearer link drawn to child poverty and/or the impact demonstrated. For example, how was the money used and what was the outcome for low-income families as a result of the participatory budgeting work in schools. The report noted Carluke High School increased its allocation to participatory budgeting. Another example would be the impact of active travel programme such as the Big walk and wheel on low-income families.

An increase in uptake of several services was reported such as increased free school meal uptake, money matter telephone advice line (233% increase in referrals), referrals from staff to the money matters advice line (102% increase). It is useful if the report includes any information on why these changes have occurred such as awareness raising campaigns, staff training, systems changes etc.

Some figures are provided on the number of families being allocated affordable homes (108, 5 to families with a disabled child from 233 new homes and 19 families allocated from the 170 council homes as part of the Whitlawburn Regeneration Masterplan). It is unknown however, what this means in terms of family income or living costs and therefore impact on poverty. This is where the use of outcomes and indicators would be helpful. How many families (including priority families) are in need vs. number supported and what was the impact on household income or living costs?

Examples of interesting practice

There were a number of activities that were highlighted as interesting or good examples of practice. These were:

- Newly established family hubs – it would be interesting to hear more about these hubs.
- Financial advice in schools – there has been a lot of interest and promising work across Scotland with taking this approach.
- Continuing to build on work to support low-income households not eligible for 1140 hours funded childcare to apply for exemption to nursery fees and work with The Scottish Government and DWP to identify families that have not requested placements.
- Breakfast club operating in all primary schools
- Good links are drawn to housing policy areas such as supply of affordable homes, Whitlawburn regeneration Masterplan, rent charges, improvements in energy efficiency in council homes and community benefits provided from construction contracts: job provision, apprentices and training for local residents.
- Supporting Families programme in Rutherglen and Cambuslang areas – interesting programme that has been evaluated and impact evidenced.

- Working for Families programme – supporting parents with health or disability challenges to re-enter the workforce and/or progress to further education or training.
- Employment upskilling to support low wage and part time employees to move to living wage, increase hours, job progression. This is interesting practice and would be useful to know the outcomes of the programme. Has consideration been given to employers working in key industries/businesses employing low wage and part time employees?

NHS Contribution

NHS contribution – The routine enquiry and planned expansion is clearly aligned to the child poverty driver of income from social security and benefits in kind. It was not clear from the report of work NHS Lanarkshire are progressing within their role as an Anchor for example, to widen access to employment which supports fair work for families in South Lanarkshire.

Summary

South Lanarkshire has some good practice in key policy areas. It would be useful to consider or report on how the commitments and priorities identified are progressing and to allocate timescales to help progression. We agree that the commitments, in particular on data, lived experience, consideration to priority groups and developing outcomes and a performance framework will support South Lanarkshire develop plans that best support low-income families in its communities.



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Community Planning Board Bulletin

4 December 2024

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229

Overview and contents

Welcome to the CPP Board Bulletin, providing you with updates on key partnership activity relating to policy, strategy and service delivery.

December 2024 Update Contents

- South Lanarkshire Adult Protection Committee Biennial Report 2022-2024; and
- Strathclyde Regional Bus Strategy and Rural Bus Study Update

South Lanarkshire Adult Protection Committee Biennial Report 2022-2024

Background:

Section 46 of the Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 requires the Convenors of Adult Protection Committees (APCs) to produce a biennial report analysing, reviewing, and commenting on its functions and activities in the preceding two years.

The biennial report covers the following key areas:

- Data analysis;
- Outcomes, achievements and service improvements;
- Training, learning and development;
- Engagement, involvement and communication
- Challenges and areas for improvement; and
- Looking forward.

South Lanarkshire Adult Protection Committee Biennial Report 2022-2024

Data Analysis:

- During the reporting period the number of Adult Support and Protection (ASP) referrals has increased by 12% from 3,449 to 3,859 when comparing 2022/23 to 2023/24.
- The number of ASP investigations remains consistent with 1,553 undertaken in 2022/23 and 1,548 in 2023/24.
- The most recorded client group for investigations is Dementia with Infirmary/Frailty due to age, Mental Health and Physical Disability being the next most recorded.
- The most recorded principal harm type for investigations is physical harm at 592 in 2022/23 and 505 in 2023/24.
- Adults being harmed within their own home has increased from 868 in 2022/23 to 961 in 2023/24. Care homes remain the second highest location of harm albeit we have seen an 18% decrease in referrals from 547 to 446 respectively.

South Lanarkshire Adult Protection Committee Biennial Report 2022-2024

Examples of our work:

- The outcome of the ASP inspection highlighted areas of strength, development, and opportunities to improve services further. The inspectors noted that the strengths detailed within the report collectively outweighed areas for improvement.
- SLAPC Business Plan and Self Evaluation Strategy (2023-2025) sets out the priorities for addressing ASP in South Lanarkshire.
- SLAPC has designed, implemented and evaluated clear multi-agency adult protection policies, procedures, protocols and guidance to support the multi-agency workforce.
- SLAPC learning and development programme continues to offer a range of learning opportunities for the multi-agency workforce.
- SLAPC cascades public information and encourages community engagement in the ASP agenda in a variety of creative ways.
- SLAPC contributes to improved outcomes for the people of South Lanarkshire by promoting and facilitating links between the public protection disciplines.

South Lanarkshire Adult Protection Committee Biennial Report 2022-2024

Priorities 2024-2026:

1. Continue to strengthen our approach to continuous improvement including evidence of sustained improvements across the partnership.
2. Continue to work to support consistency of chronologies.
3. Continue to support consistency in ASP care home referrals.
4. Undertake an analysis of mental health and addiction cases.
5. Continue to support and collaborate with local partnerships on shared priorities.
6. Further strengthen the involvement of those with lived experiences.
7. Continue to increase awareness of ASP across the multi-agency workforce and the community.
8. Continue to promote a competent and confident workforce.
9. Continue to implement and review policies, procedures, and guidance to support staff.

A link to the report can be found here: [Adult Protection Committee Biennial Report 2022-2024](#)



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Further Information

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Lead Officer South Lanarkshire Adult Protection Committee

Strathclyde Regional Bus Strategy Update

Background:

- The need for the development of the Strathclyde Regional Bus Strategy (SRBS) which was identified through work undertaken in development of the new Regional Transport Strategy (RTS), including the Transport (Scotland) Act 2019 Scoping Option Assessment Study.
- The first stage in developing the SRBS was to prepare a Case for Change. The SRBS Case for Change consolidated and updated the evidence base for issues facing buses in the region, drawing upon work already carried out in the development of the RTS, as well as updated transport datasets and engagement with local authorities and bus operators carried out during August and September 2023.
- Following a progress update in December 2023, a report seeking approval to undertake a public consultation relating to the SRBS Options Development and Appraisal stage was approved by the SPT Partnership in March 2024 . A report on the initial findings of that consultation was presented to the SPT Partnership in June 2024.
- The consultation sought views on which the recommendations should be taken forward into the development of the final draft SRBS which will also be subject to public consultation. Having considered responses received from individuals and organisations, section 3 of the report sets out proposed actions following the consultation.

Strathclyde Regional Bus Strategy Update

Next Steps:

- SPT has sought to take an inclusive and transparent approach through the early stages of SRBS development, acknowledging the wide range of stakeholders affected by the outcomes from it: councils, operators, business organisations, other sectors and, above all, the people and communities of the west of Scotland.
- For example, the approach led to the recent consultation on the recommendations being added to the SRBS programme during the option development stage to accommodate the very large number of stakeholders whom it had become apparent wished to participate in and have their views heard in the SRBS development process and indeed, this was borne out in the resultant scale of response to the consultation.
- Further, and continuing to align with the inclusive and transparent approach adopted, the public consultation on the final draft SRBS will run for twelve weeks during early 2025.
- It is important to emphasise that the public consultation will cover the whole of the SRBS, ensuring respondents have the opportunity to offer their views or suggest alternative approaches on all elements of the final draft SRBS, given its significance and potential impact.

Strathclyde Regional Bus Strategy Update

Next Steps, continued:

- SPT has sought to take an inclusive and transparent approach through the early stages of SRBS development, acknowledging the wide range of stakeholders affected by the outcomes from it: councils, operators, business organisations, other sectors and, above all, the people and communities of the west of Scotland.
- For example, the approach led to the recent consultation on the recommendations being added to the SRBS programme during the option development stage to accommodate the very large number of stakeholders whom it had become apparent wished to participate in and have their views heard in the SRBS development process and indeed, this was borne out in the resultant scale of response to the consultation.
- Further, and continuing to align with the inclusive and transparent approach adopted, the public consultation on the final draft SRBS will run for twelve weeks during early 2025.
- It is important to emphasise that the public consultation will cover the whole of the SRBS, ensuring respondents have the opportunity to offer their views or suggest alternative approaches on all elements of the final draft SRBS, given its significance and potential impact.
- In light of the above, the final SRBS will be presented to the SPT Partnership following the twelve-week public consultation noted above, and any adjustments made to the strategy arising from the consultation. Further details on the dates for the public consultation will be presented to the SPT Strategy and Programmes Committee in November.
- A link to the report can be found here: https://spt.production.d8.studio/media/termb3fe/sp060924_agenda7.pdf

Rural Bus Study Update

Background:

- The request for views on the Bus Service Improvement Partnership (BSIP) and franchising provisions of the 2019 Act arose from the Scottish Parliament's Energy and Transport Net Zero, (NZET) Committee undertaking pre-budget scrutiny of the Scottish Government's budget for 2025/26. In his letter, attached at Appendix 1 within the report, the Chair of the NZET Committee asked for SPT's views on two questions: "How you are planning to use these powers; and Whether any support or resource is required to do so and, if so, any further detail on this".

Outline of Proposals:

- SPT's response to the Committee is attached at Appendix 2 within the report. The key points of the response are as follows: "How you are planning to use these powers": Based on development, analysis and consultation undertaken to date, and subject to future development, consultation and final approval by SPT's Partnership board, the current status of the Strathclyde Regional Bus Strategy, will require SPT (and/or partners) to utilise the BSIP and the local service franchising provisions of the 2019 Act; and
- "Whether any support or resource is required to do so and, if so, any further detail on this": Yes, further support and resource – potentially, at significant levels will be required should the powers be utilised, including additional capital and revenue funding, reinstatement of the Bus Partnership Fund, and ensuring the process for utilisation of the provisions in practice is fit for purpose.
- A link to the report can be found here: https://spt.production.d8.studio/media/3zrbpejv/sp060924_agenda8.pdf



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Community Planning Partnership Board Executive Summary

Date of meeting:	4 December 2024
Subject:	South Lanarkshire Register of Information
Report by:	Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council
Contact for Further Information:	Jen Kerr, Community Engagement Manager, South Lanarkshire Council Tel: 0303 123 1017 Email: jennifer.kerr@southlanarkshire.gov.uk
Purpose of the Report:	♦ to provide the Partnership Board with a summary of the information circulated to Community Planning Partners.
Community Planning Delivery Partners:	All partners
Key Recommendations/ Decisions/Action Required from Partners:	The Board is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):- (1) that the content of the report be noted.
Risks/Challenges:	There are no risks or challenges associated with this report.
Links to Community Plan Ambitions/Principles:	♦ All ambitions/principles
Summary of Report:	♦ Details of information circulated to Community Planning Partners which gives partners an opportunity to seek clarification or an update on any matters contained therein

Report

Report to:	Partnership Board
Date of Meeting:	4 December 2024
Report by:	Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council

Subject:	South Lanarkshire Register of Information
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ provide the Partnership Board with a summary of the information circulated to Community Planning Partners

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Partnership Board is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the content of the report be noted.

3. Background

3.1. This report provides a summary of the information circulated to Community Planning Partners and gives partners an opportunity to seek clarification or an update on any matters contained therein.

4. Period covered – 24 August to 8 November 2024

4.1. Appendix 1 to the report provides a summary of the information circulated from 24 August to 8 November 2024.

5. Employee Implications

5.1. There are no employee implications associated with this report.

6. Financial Implications

6.1. There are no financial implications associated with this report.

7. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

7.1. There are no implications for climate change, sustainability, or the environment in terms of the information contained in this report.

8. Other Implications

8.1. There are no issues in terms of risk associated with this report.

9. Integrated Impact Assessment and Consultation Requirements

9.1. There are no Equality Impact Assessment or Consultation implications associated with this report.

Paul Manning
Chief Executive
South Lanarkshire Council

13 November 2024

Contact for Further Information

If you would like further information, please contact:-

Jen Kerr, Community Engagement Manager, South Lanarkshire Council

Tel: 0303 123 1017

Email: Jennifer.Kerr1@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Register of Information circulated to the Partnership

24 August to 8 November 2024

Date	Subject	Received From	Summary	Action taken
26/08/24	Wellbeing and Sustainable Development Bill: Consultation Analysis	Scottish Government	<p>Publication of the Scottish Government’s proposed Wellbeing and Sustainable Development Bill consultation analysis report which sought views from people and organisations across Scotland on several specific legislative measures to help inform the scope of any legislation required; and ensure that all decision-making is focused on achieving the National Outcomes for current and future generations:</p> <p>https://www.gov.scot/publications/wellbeing-sustainable-development-bill-consultation-analysis/</p>	Circulated to the Community Planning Progress Group for information.
27/08/24	Understanding Mental Health Stigma Workshop	South Lanarkshire University Health and Social Care Partnership	Details of the various Stigma Free Lanarkshire ‘Understanding Mental Health Stigma Workshops’ taking place from September 2024 to May 2025.	Circulated to the Community Planning Progress Group for information.
04/09/24	Strategic Commissioning Plan - Communications and Engagement Toolkit	South Lanarkshire University Health and Social Care Partnership	<p>Circulation of the Communications and Engagement Toolkit regarding the South Lanarkshire Strategic Commissioning Plan Consultation. The toolkit contains information that can be adapted to suit various engagement activities and provides dates and times of the consultation events taking place in September 2024 within the four South Lanarkshire localities.</p> <p>An easy-to-use online survey is now accessible to encourage all those with an interest to have their say – https://online1.snapsurveys.com/rkq0kk.</p>	Circulated to the Community Planning Progress Group for information.
04/09/24	Participation Blog	Scottish Government	<p>Circulation of Participation Blog with Louise Macdonald OBE, Director General Communities: Participation “Fundamental to democracy”: a discussion on public participation with Louise</p>	Circulated to the Community Planning Progress Group for information.

Date	Subject	Received From	Summary	Action taken
			Macdonald OBE, Director General Communities - Participation (blogs.gov.scot)	
23/09/24	Understanding Mental Health Stigma Workshop	Lanarkshire Links	Circulation of information on Stigma Free Lanarkshire's 'Understanding Mental Health Stigma Workshops' which are taking place online from 25 September 2024 to 27 May 2025.	Circulated to the Community Planning Progress Group for information.
24/09/24	Multi-Agency Partnership Approach to Mental Health Distress - Framework for Collaboration	Scottish Government	The Scottish Government are seeking views on the Framework for Collaboration being developed on Multi-Agency Partnership Approach to Mental Health Distress and aim to publish the framework and supporting action plan by the end of the year.	Circulated to the Community Planning Progress Group for information.
24/09/24	Challenge Poverty Week - Community Networking Event 9 October 2024	South Lanarkshire Council	Invitation to attend the Challenge Poverty Week Community Networking Event which is taking place on 9 October 2024 within the Hillhouse and Earnock Community Centre, Hamilton. This event will highlight the vital work that local groups and organisations are doing to tackle poverty and inequality in our local areas.	Circulated to the Community Planning Progress Group for information.
26/09/24	Community Interventions and Support Directory	Community Justice Scotland	Launch of Community Justice Scotland's 'Community Interventions and Support Directory'. This directory contains information about community justice support and court solutions available in each local authority across Scotland. It is hoped this will help with quickly identifying effective, community-based solutions when someone is being sentenced in court. The directory could also help the public better understand community sentences and identify where services are needed to fill gaps. https://communityjustice.scot/news/launch-community-interventions-and-support-directory/	Circulated to the Community Planning Progress Group for information.
04/10/24	Scottish Mental Health Arts Festival	South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership	Details of the National Scottish Mental Health Arts Festival which is taking place in Lanarkshire from October 2024: https://www.mhfestival.com/2024/10/spotlight-on-lanarkshire-2/	Circulated to the Community Planning Progress Group for information.

Date	Subject	Received From	Summary	Action taken
04/10/24	Sustainable Development Fund South Lanarkshire	SSE Renewables	Details of the current funding round of the Sustainable Development Fund which has a focus on empowering the local communities including support for community ownership and support for community action in the clean energy transition. This round of the fund has £600k and has a closing date of 15 January 2025.	Circulated to the Community Planning Progress Group for information.
09/10/24	Safe and Together One Day Overview Training	South Lanarkshire University Health and Social Care Partnership	Details of the Safe and Together One Day Overview Training events being hosted by South Lanarkshire Violence Against Women and Girls Partnership and Child Protection from November 2024 to February 2025. The training events provides participants with information about creating a domestic abuse-informed child protection system, the principles and components of the Safe and Together Model and information about the framework behind competency-building in child protection around domestic abuse.	Circulated to the Community Planning Progress Group for information.
10/10/24	Scottish Mental Health Arts Festival – Flash Report	South Lanarkshire University Health and Social Care Partnership	Flash report highlighting the National Scottish Mental Health Arts Festival which is taking place in Lanarkshire from October 2024.	Circulated to the Community Planning Progress Group for information.
16/10/24	Health and Wellbeing Support Toolkit	South Lanarkshire University Health and Social Care Partnership	Circulation of NHS Lanarkshire’s Health and Wellbeing Support Toolkit detailing the various health and wellbeing topics and the support and services available.	Circulated to the Community Planning Progress Group for information.
16/10/24	Scottish National Adaptation Plan 2024-2029 (SNAP3)	Scottish Government	Details of the SNAP 2024-29 which sets out a comprehensive suite of more than 200 actions and proposals for managing the current and future impacts of climate change in Scotland, and how this can be implemented at the community level: https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-national-adaptation-plan-2024-2029-2/	Circulated to the Community Planning Progress Group for information.
21/10/24	SLLC Resident Savings Options	South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture	Circulation of the SLLC Resident Savings Options 2025/26 Consultation to help inform decisions on	Circulated to the Community Planning Progress Group for

Date	Subject	Received From	Summary	Action taken
	2025-26		future leisure and cultural provision in South Lanarkshire.	information.
23/10/24	Transformation in Councils Report	Audit Scotland	Publication of Audit Scotland's Transformation in Councils report which looks at the role that transformation and collaboration can play in helping councils to achieve financial sustainability but also references the role of Community Planning. It will set the scene for the analysis of plans for transformation at an individual council level that will be captured as part of the Accounts Commission's Best Value thematic focus in the 2024/25 annual audit, with the national Best Value thematic report on transformation scheduled for 2026. Transformation in councils Audit Scotland	Circulated to the Community Planning Progress Group for information.
24/10/24	Health Improvement Breastfeeding Flash Report October 2024	South Lanarkshire University Health and Social Care Partnership	Flash report highlighting some of the activities and outputs relating to breastfeeding in recent months.	Circulated to the Community Planning Progress Group for information.
30/10/24	Navigating Demographic Change Publication	Improvement Service	Publication of the Improvement Service's Navigating Demographic Change briefing which highlights that Scotland's population is changing and explores how local authorities are responding to these demographic changes through mitigation and adaptation.	Circulated to the Community Planning Progress Group for information.
04/11/24	Voluntary Action South Lanarkshire (VASLan) Impact Case Study Report	VASLan	Publication of VASLan's Impact Case Study Report based on participant case studies related to the work funded by the Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund.	Circulated to the Community Planning Progress Group for information.
05/11/24	Young People not accessing Sexual Health Services Consultation	South Lanarkshire University Health and Social Care Partnership	NHS Lanarkshire are currently reviewing their Sexual Health Service for young people and are seeking views, in particular, of those young people who are currently not accessing the service. This will help to make the service more accessible to them. The consultation closed 14 November 2024.	Circulated to the Community Planning Progress Group for information.
05/11/24	Alcohol and Drug Services	Audit Scotland	Publication of the Alcohol and Drug Services report by Audit Scotland which details how effectively	Circulated to the Community Planning Progress Group for

Date	Subject	Received From	Summary	Action taken
			Scotland's Alcohol and Drug Services are delivering the Scottish Government's strategies: Alcohol and drug services Audit Scotland	information.