

South Lanarkshire Community Planning Partnership

Working together to improve the quality of life for all in South Lanarkshire

Community Plan for South Lanarkshire 2017-2027

Annual Outcome Improvement Report 2021-22

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Introduction to Community Planning in South Lanarkshire

Preface

This document is for the people who live and work in South Lanarkshire. It shows the progress of the South Lanarkshire Community Planning Partnership during 2021-22 and gives examples of the work that we are doing to make a difference and how this has impacted on local people and communities.

What are we

All our Community Planning Partners are working together to make South Lanarkshire a better place to live and work. We work with each other and with communities to provide the best possible services that local people want and need. Further information can be found on the Community Planning Partnership website www.southlanarkshirecommunityplanning.org

Who are we?

Our partnership includes a wide range of national and local organisations. Some of these organisations you will know well. Our community partners lead on local planning and area-based Community Partnerships. A full list can be found on our <u>website</u>.

What are we trying to do?

Our Community Planning Partners are working together to make South Lanarkshire a better place to live, learn, play and work. Our aim is to work with communities to deliver better services targeted at reducing poverty and tackling inequalities and deprivation across South Lanarkshire. Further information can be found on the Community Planning Partnership website www.southlanarkshirecommunityplanning.org

How do I get involved?

There are many ways to get involved in your local community and influence the work of the partnership, for example, through volunteering, joining a local action group, helping to find out what matters in your area or getting involved in how decisions are made. More information can be found on the Community Planning website.

Overarching Aim:

The main purpose of the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) is to reduce poverty, deprivation and inequality.

Tackling poverty, deprivation and inequalities is not a new area of work for the partners in South Lanarkshire. From the start, the Community Planning Partnership has recognised the challenges for people experiencing disadvantage particularly in closing the opportunity gap for those communities that are the most deprived. Partners have further strengthened their commitment to this work by agreeing a single objective in the Community Plan (2017-2027) which is to "tackle poverty, deprivation and inequality".

In delivering this objective, the work of the partnership is informed by national research carried out by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation see www.irf.org.uk for more information. This is an independent social change organisation which is working to solve poverty. Partners work together on a range of actions under the following eight key themes.

- Inclusive Growth;
- Financial Inclusion;
- Supporting Parental Employment and Childcare;
- Improving Housing;
- Education, Skills and Development;
- Health Inequalities;
- · Safeguarding from Risk or Harm; and
- Improving the Local Environment and Communities.

To complement this work, plans have also been developed to improve the prospects and outcomes for our residents in relation to Children and Young People, Health and Social Care, Community Safety and Sustainable Economic Growth. For more information see www.southlanarkshirecommunityplanning.org/plans

Examples of the difference that our work makes

Employment rate

Our aim is to increase the employment rate in South Lanarkshire. This is one of the highest levels ever recorded. The gap between the South Lanarkshire rate and the Scottish average is the widest recorded for 11 years.

South Lanarkshire: 77.5%

Scotland: 73.1%

(January to December 2021, Source:- Annual Population Survey/Office for National Statistics (ONS)

(Note:- These figures include HMRC COVID-19 Furlough Schemes)

• Levels of pay (earnings, gross weekly median average)

Our aim is to increase levels of pay in South Lanarkshire. The level of median pay for residents working full time has increased for a 7th consecutive year, up by +4.9% since 2020, now at the highest level recorded. The gap between the South Lanarkshire rate and the Scottish average is the widest recorded for 13 years.

South Lanarkshire: £651 per week

Scotland: £622 per week

(Year 2021, Source:- Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings/ONS)

School Leavers Destinations

More than 96% of South Lanarkshire School leavers, left school and moved into a positive destination (employment, training, further and higher education) in 2020/21, one of the highest levels in Scotland (8th out of 32). For a 6th consecutive year, South Lanarkshire continues to record a higher rate of school leavers progressing to a positive destination than the Scottish average.

South Lanarkshire: 96.2%

Scotland: 95.5%

(Year 2020/21, Source:- School Leavers Destination statistics, Initial Survey, Scottish Government/Skills Development Scotland)

Community Plan Performance Highlights

There is a significant amount of work being undertaken by the partnership across South Lanarkshire to reduce poverty, deprivation and inequality. Community Planning Partnerships are required to show what will be different for communities at years one, three and ten of their improvement plan. This report and the linked documents consider how well the partnership has done in meeting the targets that were set for year five of the plan. The following gives examples of our performance where we have met targets in relation to some of the key areas of work that we are progressing.

- Inclusive Growth: 1,934 residents with multiple complex barriers were supported into work, education or training (significant increase from 477 in 2020-21)
- Financial Inclusion: South Lanarkshire Credit Union Adult Memberships has increased by 3.3% (24,385 members)
- Supporting Parental Employment and Childcare: Continued increase in the uptake of nursery places through Early Learning and Childcare for 2-year-old children rising from 471 children to 795 children
- Improving Housing: 98% of the council's housing stock met the Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing (EESSH1) an increase from 93.88%
- Education, Skills and Development: 925 GradU8 opportunities were available (compared to 500 in 2020-21) and 331 young people took part in the Foundation Apprenticeship Programme
- Health Inequalities: The Integrated Care Fund, through a partnership approach, funded 12 projects identifying a range of positive outcomes including health and wellbeing improvement and greater resilience and independence
- Safeguarding from Risk or Harm: Police Scotland and Medics against Violence delivered 25 drug education workshops to a total of 2,074 young people across targeted schools and areas in South Lanarkshire
- Improving the Local Environment and Communities: 4,786 Health Walks were delivered by the Get Walking Lanarkshire Programme during 2021-22

Community Plan Overall Performance at a glance

The following provides a summary of our performance against our priority measures. These are:-

- Children and families
- Community Safety
- Fair Work and Enterprise
- Health and Care
- Tackling Poverty, Deprivation and Inequality

The full CPP performance report can be accessed using the following link (web link to full Q4 IMPROVe Community Plan appendix to be added).

Status of priority measures



Status	Definition
Blue	The action to achieve change has been completed
Green	On course to achieve the target or complete the action as planned/the timescale or target has been met as per expectations
Amber	There has been minor slippage against timescale or minor shortfall against target
Red	There has been major slippage against timescale or major shortfall against target
To be reported later	For some measures, the statistics are not yet available to allow us to say whether the target has been reached or not. These will be reported when available
Contextual	A small number of measures are included for "information only", to set performance information in context

Most improved measures	Least improved measures
Increase numbers of Living Wage Accredited local employers	Numbers of new enterprises/businesses established
Number of residents with multiple complex barriers supported into work, education or training	Numbers of new enterprises/businesses sustained
Promote and support sustainable food growing initiatives to increase the provision of high quality good growing schemes	40% of eligible women (BMI of 30 or more) are referred to the Healthy Lifestyle in Pregnancy Service by March 2022
Early Learning and Childcare (Education Resources) will continue to work with a range of professionals and services who will have contact with eligible families and will promote free Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) for two year olds	Consider support for innovative and sustainable methods of improving the accessibility of rural public transport services and look to support community-centred approaches

Tackling Poverty, Deprivation and Inequalities how we are making a difference

Inclusive Growth

Why is this important?

Inclusive growth is about strengthening South Lanarkshire's economy, bringing jobs and opportunities to local people, encouraging growth and investment, and supporting the transition to a low carbon economy. Our aim is to make sure the benefits of economic output are shared across our communities and inequalities are tackled to improve opportunities and the quality of life for everyone. The South Lanarkshire economy like UK, Scottish, Glasgow City Region economies, are all facing real challenges from the shocks of the global pandemic; our country's new international trading position, and the climate emergency, all of which impact our lives now and for the foreseeable future. The need for inclusive growth - an economy in which everyone can participate and benefit from – is more important than ever, so maximising opportunities across all communities must underpin our approach.

Support for Business - South Lanarkshire Council How are we doing?

Whilst UK and Scottish Government business support programmes helped to mitigate the financial impact of COVID-19 on business activity, the economic landscape that business will operate in moving forward has changed and we recognise that we and our partners must play a significant role in our economic recovery.

We have increased the supports available to help businesses to help them to recover and assist them to diversify and grow in response to today's challenges. These include:

- Resources to help administer our enhanced and more flexible programme of local business support grants;
- Promotion of South Lanarkshire as a place to live, work, invest and visit;
- Enhanced support for the tourism sector;
- Additional capacity in the External Funding Team to take advantage of new and emerging sources of funding;
- Support for sustainable economic development and the "green" economy; and
- Additional support for social enterprises.

Throughout 2021-22, 2,679 businesses have been supported by South Lanarkshire Council (SLC) business support and with Business Gateway advice with 1,095 jobs created or sustained, in addition to Scottish Government grants administered by Economic Development.

While we have sought to support the businesses in South Lanarkshire to recover from the effects of the global COVID-19 pandemic, we also supported businesses forced to close or operate under strict restrictions. For the period from December 2021 to March 2022, we awarded 552 COVID business support and ventilation grants worth £22.79million to eligible businesses in the hospitality and leisure sectors.

Community Wealth Building aims to redirect wealth back into the local economy, and places control and benefits into the hands of local people. We are working to increase procurement spend with local small and medium enterprises and prioritise the identification of opportunities to increase the level of spend with South Lanarkshire businesses. Changes to how we work will enable increased spend on works contracts up to £2million. This is supported through activity to increase awareness amongst Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs); promote registration with Public Contracts Scotland; and the take up of free support from the Supplier Development Programme, Business Gateway to increase capacity and ensure businesses can compete.

The importance of our town centres and the role they play in our communities and in economic recovery cannot be understated. We have secured over

£6.6m of capital funding since 2019-20, with an additional £5m committed over the next 5 years which has attracted additional investment to maximise opportunities for growth, £10m additional private sector investment directly linked to council investment, with more coming forward through the development of a pipeline of projects for future years.

Priority Next Steps

- Deliver on the new five-year Economic Strategy for South Lanarkshire.
- Lead on two major town centre studies, one which will set the direction and investment priorities for our town centres over the next 10 years and the other is a Net Zero study to help us to work towards net zero, meet our carbon reduction targets and lead the way in changing the way town centres address these challenges.
- Continued promotion of Business Support Grants to new and established businesses based in the South Lanarkshire area.
- Work with partners to create a calendar of "in person" events offering businesses the chance to hear from local success stories, peer to peer networking and learning.
- Work with partners and stakeholders to complete an Investment Plan for South Lanarkshire which will support future projects and investments. We will inform applications for funding through the UK Shared Prosperity and Levelling UP Funds.

Feedback from local businesses

Mannering Industrial, Bothwell:

"We are a 2nd generation family business which started out in 1986. When COVID hit in March 2020 it was a very scary time for us (as it was for most businesses). We were very lucky that we were able to redirect our business into other areas and had a very successful year. When things returned to a level of normality we had attained new customers and moved into new emerging markets. Our challenge however now was that we needed more staff and space to grow as we were struggling to operate in our existing premises. Moving was essential but the budget was tight. We managed to secure funding to allow us to purchase a new unit however this left us with little money to make it fit for purpose and customise it as a functioning warehouse.

The South Lanarkshire Business Grant was a lifeline for a small business like us and allowed us to get a lot of the essential work carried out. We were able to purchase racking for the warehouse, use an electrician to install lighting which was also eco-friendly, and we were able to get essential infrastructure jobs completed. Ultimately, we were able to move into a functioning unit a lot sooner than we would have been able to without the grant. We used local businesses and since moving to the area have now employed 2 more people. We are so grateful that we were successful in receiving this grant award."

Kip McGrath. Education Centre. East Kilbride:

"Access to the small business grant allowed us to purchase additional computers which enabled us to accommodate more students, we were able to substantially enhance our advertising to include a wall sign, window signs and a standalone A board. This has helped us to substantially exceed our forecast in student numbers."

Further Information

South Lanarkshire means business

Community wealth building - Cities and regions - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)

Financial Inclusion

Why is this important?

Financial wellbeing impacts on all aspects of our lives including our general health and wellbeing and on our quality of life. It can affect the choices and opportunities we have, and our aim is to improve financial wellbeing for those who are struggling or failing to get by or are financially vulnerable. Our focus is on low income households through awareness and uptake of benefits and entitlements; tackling debt and promoting Credit Union saving and affordable borrowing options; reducing costs including fuel bills; and supporting financial know-how from school onwards.

Doctor's (GP) Community Link Worker (CLW) programme How are we doing?

A GP Community Link Worker (CLW) programme has been created across Lanarkshire. A CLW works with GP practices across South Lanarkshire. They are non-medically trained workers who helps patient to find and engage with other services. They offer non-medical support to patients, enabling them to set goals and access relevant non-medical resources or services in their community. They aim to support patients to overcome barriers and take greater control of their health and wellbeing.

Evidence shows that financial insecurity and poverty can have a significant negative impact on health outcomes and is one of the primary reasons why people present at their GP Surgeries. In April 2022, NHS Lanarkshire introduced a Financial Wellbeing Advisor (FWA) Service as part of GP CLW programme delivered by Cambuslang/Rutherglen, Clydesdale, East Kilbride and Hamilton Citizen Advice Bureaus and the council's Money Matters Advice Service who entered into a 2-year agreement to create a pathway for referrals from the programme. Other key points to note are:-

- The Financial Wellbeing Advisory Service has been successfully aligned to the GP Community Link Worker programme;
- There are excellent communication routes with service providers with robust referral systems and processes in place;
- · Analysis of the impact and success of the FWA service is currently underway; and
- From April 2021-March 2022, 597 referrals were made to the service resulting in a client financial gain of £305,272.

Priority Next Steps

We will analyse performance information gathered during the first year to review the effectiveness and efficiency of the service and inform any required improvements.

Further Information

Alliance Scotland – Links Worker Programme https://www.alliance-scotland.org.uk/in-the-community/national-link-programme/

Supporting Parental Employment and Childcare

Why is this important?

Children of working families have better outcomes in terms of long-term education and employment chances. Employment and increased employability opportunities provide a route out of poverty, help to increase self-esteem and resilience and make a positive contribution to mental health and emotional wellbeing. However, having a job does not always guarantee a route out of poverty and parents need to be able to access high quality jobs with a decent rate of pay and enough hours to meet their family's needs. Over half of all families living in poverty have at least one parent working. High quality early learning and childcare provision, especially in more disadvantaged areas, provides the flexibility parents need to work, train or study to increase their employment chances.

Childcare Provision How are we doing?

Due to the impact of COVID, the Scottish Government extended the full implementation of the 1140 hours funded early learning and childcare by 1 year. 100% of eligible children are now being provided with their 1140 hours of funded childcare. We also delivered 40 modern apprenticeships and 10 foundation apprenticeships in Early Years and Childcare. South Lanarkshire Council has created a 'Funding Follows the Child' process and arranges for the funding to be paid to the provider that parents choose. Approximately 70% of parents request a place in a local authority childcare setting and approximately 30% requesting a place in a funded provider setting. We have engaged with partner childcare providers to increase the number of providers to further support the roll-out of funded childcare to meet the needs of communities. Currently we have 107 funded providers who are supported in South Lanarkshire.

Over the last year we have seen a continued increase in the uptake of nursery places for 2-year-old children, rising from 471 children to 795 children. This represents a yearly increase of 9.8% of the population being provided with a nursery place at any one time. Over the year, we have provided a nursery place for 1,111 2-year-old children, when they turn three they progress into their 3-year-old place allowing us to allocate the now empty place to another 2-year-old child. This has seen a total of 33.7% of our 2-year-old population accessing a nursery place over the last year.

In addition, over the last year we have opened 8 new establishments, 7 of which provided additional places for 2-year-old children. These new settings provide an additional 160 FTE childcare places for 2-year-old children.

Priority Next Steps

The employability landscape is continuing to be uncertain due to the continued evolving nature of the COVID-19 pandemic. We have identified the development of an integrated approach to supporting parental employability as a key area for development that features a closer connectivity between childcare provision, delivery of employability opportunities, benefits support and a focus on health and wellbeing.

Further information

Applying for an early learning and childcare place - South Lanarkshire Council

South Lanarkshire's Local Child Poverty Action Report www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/downloads/download/996/child_poverty_action_report

Parental Employment Support - South Lanarkshire Council

Improving Housing

Why is this important?

Providing good quality housing that meets people's differing needs now and, in the future, and which they can afford, is vital to ensuring the health and wellbeing of communities across South Lanarkshire. South Lanarkshire Council works closely with local people within communities and a range of other partners to improve the supply and condition of housing in South Lanarkshire and reduce levels of fuel poverty. We make sure that existing council homes are maintained to the required standards and new homes meet modern standards in relation to ease of access, space and energy efficiency. As well as providing good quality affordable homes for rent that are suitable to people's needs, we also work with housing partners to deliver a range of other services aimed at improving the lives of people in South Lanarkshire. An area of focus is working with people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, including those most vulnerable within the community. Our aim is to provide advice, information and assistance to help prevent homelessness.

Working together to tackle homelessness

How are we doing?

In 2019, the South Lanarkshire Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan (RRTP) was launched with the aim of further strengthening the existing partnership approach to tackling and preventing homelessness and helping those who become homeless to access the home they need to rebuild their lives. Rapid rehousing is defined as a housing-led approach for people experiencing homelessness with a focus on ensuring they reach a settled home as quickly as possible, whilst limiting the amount of time spent in temporary accommodation.

During 2021-22, partnership working though the RRTP has delivered several successes. Despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, South Lanarkshire Council and its housing partners continued to increase the supply of affordable housing in South Lanarkshire, delivering a total of 657 additional homes in 2021-22. Partners continue to work together to meet the housing needs of homeless households with 53% of all vacant council homes and 33% of Registered Social Landlord vacant homes allocated to homeless households during the last year.

This has had a positive impact on the levels of homelessness with a 21% reduction in the number of people on the housing register who are homeless, from 969 households in 2020-21 to 765 in 2021-22.

Figures for long-term homelessness have also improved, with 25% fewer households living in temporary accommodation for more than 12 months and a 22% reduction in time spent in temporary accommodation by households with children. Since the launch of the RRTP three years ago, there has been a 65% reduction in long term homelessness.

The HomeStart service, which supports and assists all new council tenants to set up and maintain their tenancy, continues to provide a range of advice and practical assistance on finance and making community connections.

There has also been a continued growth of the Housing First approach which has proved successful as a method of helping people who are homeless and who have multiple and enduring support needs. The approach aims to provide these households with a secure home quickly and ensure they are supported to live in their home.

The council continues to use the process of converting temporary accommodation to permanent tenancies if the household is settled, known as 'flipping' the tenancy. A further 21 households chose this option in 2021-22 bringing the total number of flipped tenancies to 75 since the implementation of the RRTP in 2019. This approach has made a difference to many homeless households, providing them with a secure and stable home. One family who were delighted to have their temporary accommodation 'flipped' to a permanent tenancy was the Scott* family. The family, and eight-year-old son, Jamie, had become very settled in the property.

The Scott Family Story*

Jamie had developed severe anxiety due to witnessing violence against his mum in her previous relationship and would not let her out of his sight and had become very isolated, not willing to mix with other children. After the family were allocated their temporary accommodation, Jamie became settled, started going to the park and socialising with other children and his schoolwork began to improve.

The family's Housing Support Officer identified that this was a positive move for the family and subsequent discussions resulted in the property being offered to them as a permanent settled home, providing a positive solution to their homelessness.

Ms Scott said, "This really worked in my benefit, I couldn't believe my luck and I'm over the moon, my neighbours are pleased there is someone in the house permanently, I am a happy customer."

(* names have been changed)

Priority Next Steps

In the year ahead, the council will continue to work with partners to prevent and reduce homelessness and will take forward the actions detailed within the plan, including continuing to:-

- Deliver new affordable homes for rent across South Lanarkshire;
- Convert temporary accommodation to permanent tenancies where it is appropriate to do so;
- Continue to focus housing allocations on households who are homeless;
- · Reduce long-term homelessness;
- Focus on homelessness prevention activities, particularly for households with children; and
- Provide support and assistance to new tenants, including those most at risk of homelessness.

Further information

South Lanarkshire Rapid Re-Housing Transition Plan 2019-2024:

www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/12664/rapid rehousing transition plan 2019-2014.pdf

Education, Skills and Development

Why is this important?

In October 2021, the Scottish Government published its report on 'Education Recovery: Key Actions and Next Steps. The report recognised that some learners will have suffered adverse consequences, whether in terms of their health and wellbeing or their attainment. The pandemic has continued to bring into sharp focus some of the inequalities that persist in our education system, as has been the case in countries all over the world. It also highlighted that the impacts of the pandemic on our children and young people could not be addressed by the education system alone. The focus on education recovery is one part of a strategic approach to recovery from COVID and must be closely aligned to the work on wider issues, which are set out in the Scottish Government's 'Covid Recovery Strategy for a Fairer Scotland'.

We offer a range of youth employability programmes, with support available for young people who need help moving on from school to training, college or a job. Our focus is on ensuring that those young people who live in our most deprived areas have the same opportunities to progress into further education and work as those from the least deprived areas.

COVID recovery and Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) within schools How are we doing?

As part of South Lanarkshire's response to these challenges a Supporting Learning Recovery and Renewal programme has been developed and is being delivered over 2021-22 and 2022-23 and includes the following elements:-

Out of School Hours Study Support

• Targeted study support opportunities across primary, secondary and additional support needs (ASN) schools. Sessions can take place both during the school day or after school.

Tutoring programme

• A bank of tutors has been recruited to offer tutoring support to all care experienced young people in in years 4,5 and 6.

Sensational Summer Clubs

• 14 summer clubs were established in targeted areas including through partnerships with voluntary sector organisations to provide a range of additional activities provided to engage children, young people and families.

Building and improving the digital offer

• A range of digital inclusion activities designed to support pupils and their families to improve access to learning.

Expansion of the Pathfinder Initiative

• The expansion of the pathfinder initiative, targeting young people and their families on the edge of care through flexible support, to all secondary schools.

GradU8 Work Experience

• The development of a one day per week work experience opportunity as part of the senior phase work-based learning offer.

Scottish mentoring and Leadership Program

• Extension of mentoring programmes (MCR Pathways) to 3 additional schools.

Literacy and numeracy support

• Create a Recovery Support Team in each Learning Community consisting of three timetabled or targeted School Support Assistants.

In addition to the initiatives above, South Lanarkshire Council continues to provide a range of work-based options to pupils in the senior phase to support progression into positive destinations. This includes a range of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) opportunities. We support young people to take part in level 6 Foundation Apprenticeships in a range of STEM subjects including Engineering Systems, Scientific Technologies, Civil Engineering, Hardware Support and Software Development.

The council has also invested significantly in Level 5 vocational learning opportunities and the GradU8 programme provides opportunities for young people to take part in engineering and construction programmes, delivered in partnership with New College Lanarkshire, South Lanarkshire College and Glasgow Kelvin College.



Priority Next Steps

- The Learning and Recovery Renewal Programme projects are all being delivered for a further academic year during 2022/2023.
- The Youth Employability Team will work with South Lanarkshire College, New College Lanarkshire and the Glasgow colleges to provide opportunities for a range of STEM subjects at SCQF levels 5 and 6. Recruitment took place during the summer term and young people start a range of opportunities in September 2023 including Foundation Apprenticeships and GradU8.

Further information

Youth Employability Service Youth employability - South Lanarkshire Council

Health Inequalities

Why is this important?

Health inequalities remains one of the highest priorities for all Community Planning Partners. Many factors combine to affect the health of individuals and communities. Factors such as where we live, our genes, income, education, gender, relationships with others such as family and friends and access to health services all have considerable impacts on health and whether people are healthy or not.

The partnership is committed to actions such as improving health in the early years of life, reducing the impact of substance misuse, promotion of good mental health and supporting carers. An area of focus is physical inactivity, which is one of the leading causes of early death in Scotland. Evidence shows that even small increases in activity can help to prevent and treat long-term illness and improve the quality of our life.

Improve health during pregnancy How are we doing?

A multidisciplinary service consisting of a specialist midwife (0.4 WTE), dietitian and physiotherapist is delivered across Lanarkshire. We have changed how the service is accessed following the pandemic. Service users are given the option to attend virtually via the NHS Near Me platform. The option to attend with the team face to face following all local COVID-19 guidelines is still available as well as telephone calls if preferred. We reviewed this to check if it was suitable and meeting the needs of the service users. The results showed: a reduced need for travel; convenience of being able to attend appointments from their own home; and the ability to still see health professionals on screen at times when restrictions were in place. Service users were hugely supportive and beneficial of this approach. A number highlighted that they were pleased the Healthy Lifestyle in Pregnancy Service (HLiP) support had continued throughout the pandemic, especially when so many other services had proven difficult to engage with. One noted that '...at least you were getting to speak to someone' and another stated the use of Near Me had'...been absolutely great... especially with COVID going on, a lot of people have only been getting phone calls...'. In terms of progress towards the key performance indicators, in 2021-22, 15% of eligible women (BMI of 30 or more) were referred to the service (target 40%) and 22% engaged (target 30%). During this time, awareness raising and update training sessions for staff have been unable to take place due to staff capacity to attend training. Maternity staff have also had periods of reduced face to face activity due to restrictions and may not have had the same opportunity to discuss referral to the service. Midwifery input to the service has also been reduced.

Priority Next Steps

We will resume staff training to raise awareness of the service and support staff to raise the issue and refer appropriately to the service. "Meet the Team" videos have been created and are available on the website for staff to use as part of the discussion. A social media campaign is underway. Recruitment of a specialist midwife to the remaining 0.2WTE will commence in April 2022 bringing the service back to full capacity. We will improve the links between Gestational Diabetes Service, including dietitians and Adult Weight Management service to increase referral routes.

Further information

NHS Lanarkshire's Healthy Lifestyles in Pregnancy Service https://www.nhslanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk/services/healthy-lifestyles-in-pregnancy-service/

Safeguarding from Risk or Harm

Why is this important?

Public protection involves working with both victims and offenders to reduce the risk of harm from abuse, exploitation and neglect to children, adults and the public. Public protection needs agencies in South Lanarkshire to work together to raise awareness and understanding, and co-ordinate an effective response that provides people at risk with the support needed to reduce the risk in their lives. In South Lanarkshire, this work is overseen by a dedicated public protection team which promotes effective partnership working between the Adult and Child Protection Committees, Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) and the Gender Based Violence Partnership. One area of focus is child protection. It is everyone's responsibility to ensure children and young people are safe and protected from harm. When children and young people do not feel safe and supported, they are unlikely to reach their full potential and take advantage of the available opportunities available to them.

Protection of Children and Young People How are we doing?

The vision of the Child Protection Committee is: 'All children and young people in South Lanarkshire have the right to be cared for and be protected from abuse and harm in a safe environment where their rights are respected. All agencies work together in a collaborative way to promote the safety and wellbeing of children and young people in South Lanarkshire'.

We continue to provide evidence through multi-agency case file audits that children and young people are listened to, understood and respected. From birth, we are improving how we actively listen and consider what children, young people and babies tell us about their world. Our work has included a revised Participation and Engagement Strategy.

We found continuing evidence in the use of the National Risk Framework to Support the Assessment of Children & Young People (2012) and its application in reflecting risk factors including the use of the Resilience Matrix. We carried out further detailed analysis in 2020 and identified areas for improvement in translating the findings of the resilience matrix into the child's plan. We continue to implement the actions of the Child Protection Improvement Programme (2017) as they occur and have improved our strategies to minimise harm.

Learning and development provides the multi-agency workforce with the knowledge, tools and skills to ensure best practice is achieved. We routinely self-evaluate our training, learning and development opportunities to ensure it meets both local and national need in getting it right for the child protection workforce and children, young people and families in South Lanarkshire. We include lessons learned from significant case reviews and legislative changes as they occur.

Despite the challenges faced by the pandemic we have continued to deliver learning opportunities to the child protection workforce in creative ways.

Best Practice Example: Our Initial and Significant Case Review (SCR) process is robust and supported by our model called "A Practical Approach to Conducting SCRs in South Lanarkshire". Our methodology based on learning together with supports for staff from the outset, recently featured as a practice change example in the Case Reviews (2018-2021) and can be viewed on pages 62-63 via the link provided.

Priority Next Steps

- We will implement the Child Protection Committees Guidance by 2023 (published September 2021). We will work with other partnerships within the West of Scotland to do this. https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-guidance-child-protection-scotland-2021/
- We will implement the guidance from the Child Protection Committees Learning Review (published September 2021). https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-guidance-child-protection-committees-undertaking-learning-reviews/
- We will implement the new Getting it right for every Child guidance. Once the guidance is published, we will inform and support the workforce to implement it.
- We will continue to progress the Quality Assurance Agenda to ensure that the work undertaken has the positive impact essential to the safety and wellbeing of children and young people.

Further Information

https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200140/education and learning/1269/child protection

Improving the Local Environment and Communities

Why is this important?

The quality of the environment in which we live and our ability to take part in community life and influence what happens in our communities is key to addressing inequalities and tackling poverty. Within this theme we are working in partnership to build community participation and involvement and produce local plans to address poor outcomes; become more sustainable; tackle digital exclusion; and improve transport to ensure people can access the services and opportunities they require.

Local Community Partnerships How are we doing?

As part of a shared commitment to fully engage communities in the process of community planning in Lanarkshire, the South Lanarkshire Community Planning Partnership Board is fully supporting the development of locality-based structures to help build interconnections between communities, neighbourhood planning priorities and the wider work of the Board. The newly formed groups will sit within Community Planning structures and have a strategic role, acting as an intermediary between communities, neighbourhood groups and the Community Planning Partnership Board. Ensuring that communities are represented, influential and fully engaged in community planning.

The groups will act as a consultative group for service redesign and new service delivery proposals from partners and will contribute to problem solving through the identification of challenges requiring joint solutions or interventions. They will oversee the work to produce Neighbourhood Planning Annual Reports as required by the Community Empowerment Act and promote co-production by involving communities of place and interest in the design and delivery of public services.

Although at different stages of development across the four localities in South Lanarkshire, work is well underway in the Cambuslang and Rutherglen and Clydesdale localities where Community Partnerships have been formed. The groups are meeting regularly identifying their shared priorities, presenting update reports at CPP Board meetings and in June 2022, a representative from each of the Community Partnerships joined the Community Planning Partnership Strategic Board on behalf of their group.

"I welcome the opportunity to be part of the Cambuslang and Rutherglen Community Partnership, I am really enjoying working alongside representatives from the four Community councils across Cambuslang and Rutherglen and the four Our Place Our Plan Stakeholder Groups. Although we are relatively new, our role is to act as an intermediary to ensure that communities are properly and meaningfully engaged, involved and influential in community planning and the work of the South Lanarkshire Community Planning Partnership Board."

Cheryl Burnett, Springhall and Whitlawburn OPOP Stakeholder and member of the Cambuslang and Rutherglen Community Partnership.

Priority Next Steps

We will continue in our work to develop the Community Partnerships.

Neighbourhood Planning

How are we doing?

One of the ways we involve communities is through Neighbourhood Planning. We now have six completed neighbourhood plans (can be viewed at: https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/cp/info/26/community_plan_and_neighbourhood_plans) and another two in progress. Neighbourhood Plans involve communities in real and meaningful ways and has been a catalyst for positive change in these communities.

Fernhill is one of the latest communities to start the process of creating a Neighbourhood Plan, after just completing an engagement session where 646 residents shared their hopes and aspirations for Fernhill. There were several ways to engage in the process, doorstep conversations, community drop box, online or in person. The plan is currently being designed with local people using the results from the recent engagement exercise and will be launched this summer.

Whitehill

Development of a Neighbourhood Plan in Whitehill, Hamilton has picked up pace following the recruitment of a Development Officer. The community consultation (like the process described previously) has been concluded and a draft Neighbourhood Plan has been agreed by the local Stakeholder Group. Information sharing amongst local groups has also been improved because of the stakeholder group meetings. Following several online meetings, and in response to the groups wishes, the first face-to-face meeting of local people, groups and service providers took place in April, to progress publication of the plan and deliver the desired outcomes identified in the community consultation.

Low Waters and Eddlewood

The Neighbourhood Planning Stakeholder Group in Eddlewood and Low Waters, Hamilton was reconvened at the end of March, with great enthusiasm and commitment for the process and the work to be delivered. Resources exist to support the process, and this will ensure efficient progress to the community consultation stage. Meetings have been scheduled in response to stakeholder preferences and will continue to progress the work towards consultation, publishing of the local plan and addressing needs and issues identified by the communities.

Priority Next Steps

Progress is ongoing with the existing neighbourhood plans in Hillhouse, Udston and Burnbank; Strutherhill and Birkenshaw; Springhall and Whitlawburn; Burnhill; Cambuslang East; Fairhill and Blantyre. Sustaining existing support to these communities to maintain and monitor the level of progress and success gained through Neighbourhood Planning is important to continue to improve outcomes for these areas.

How can you get involved?

If you would like more information or would like to get more involved in your community, please email us at communities@southlanarkshire.gov.uk or phone 0303 123 1017

Further information

South Lanarkshire Community Planning Partnership Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015
National Standards for Community Engagement

Community Participation and Engagement

Why is this important?

Our work as a partnership is intended to improve outcomes for people who live in South Lanarkshire and there is much evidence that when people are involved in decisions about services which affect them, outcomes are improved. As a partnership, we want to find ways to speak to communities and encourage them to act themselves and to have an influence on service delivery in their locality.

The Community Empowerment Act 2015 (www.gov.scot/publications/community-empowerment-scotland-act-summary/) means that legally the partnership has to place communities at the centre of its process, and work alongside them to produce locality plans which we call Neighbourhood Plans in areas which face the greatest inequalities. In South Lanarkshire we are ambitious to extend this beyond the legal requirements and listen to and involve communities in a real and meaningful way. The Act also sets out other requirements for public bodies such as Community Asset Transfers and Participation Requests.

During the year, many consultation and engagement activities were carried out by partners with communities in the South Lanarkshire area. The following sections in the report highlight some areas of this work.

Having Community Conversations that Matter!

Community Plan 2022-2032 How are we doing?

Between March and August 2021, partners spoke with communities throughout South Lanarkshire to identify what were the main priorities for their neighbourhoods. This involved asking residents to answer some short, open questions on their priorities. We promoted the survey online, through news and social media, by word of mouth, by asking groups and partners to help spread the word, and by being out and about at shopping centres and other places people passed by, when it was safe to do this and using the precautions we needed to. We had special versions co-designed with young people and available in British Sign Language and supplied paper or translated versions when people needed. When the survey closed on 8 August, over 3,300 people had answered our questions.

We looked at what people told us, and some themes emerged around Education and Learning, Communities and Environment, Health Inequalities, Housing and Land, Children and Young People and Jobs and Businesses. We kept looking more in depth at what we had been told while we held Community Conversations to ask more about these themes. These face-to-face conversations took place online due to the pandemic between August to October 2021. They included over 200 residents taking part in 27 in-depth conversations on these early themes. Partners had other informal conversations with groups they were in contact with as well.

Feedback from the conversations gave us three cross-cutting themes around the impact of poverty, recovery from the pandemic and sustainable development. We also looked at what we already knew from work such as Neighbourhood Planning, where smaller communities within South Lanarkshire work together to identify their priorities, and the Lived Experience Fund which offers small grants to groups to help them tell the story about what life is like for the people they work with. We also looked at the feedback from the community conference which we held in December 2019 and finally we used the facts and figures which we know about South Lanarkshire.

This told us that the 'Places' where people live were at the core of what mattered to them, and that they were keen on making sure the 'People' who lived there were supported, that we make 'Progress' to recover from the pandemic and learn together how we can do things in better ways, and that we protect our 'Planet' for the future.

A group of staff from the partnership came together and helped write the plan and the ambitions within it. We hope that the next time we write our plan, we will have community members as part of our writing group.

Further information

South Lanarkshire Community Plan 2022-2023

https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/cp/info/26/community_plan_and_neighbourhood_plans/80/community_plan_2022-2032

Participatory Budgeting

How are we doing?

The Participatory Budgeting (PB) process has been adopted across nine neighbourhood planning areas which share £40,000 (share given is based on population size). A variety of approaches based on local circumstances are being used. In some areas, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this resulted in restricting meaningful engagement and they chose to carry over their allocation from 2020-21 to this year. This year 3,124 local people have had their say on how money should be spent within their community. The breakdown of the Participatory Budgeting Process awards by area is shown below:

Blantyre: £5,600: Spend was deferred until 2022-2023.

Burnhill Neighbourhood Planning Group: £8,400 (2 years of funding); 218 votes cast; Burnhill Action Group was awarded money for outdoor play for young people and families to provide more social and recreational activities and to make environmental improvements through the development of a community garden.

Cambuslang East Neighbourhood Planning Group: £12,600 (2 years of funding); 895 votes cast; groups awarded money to provide more social and recreational activities include: SLLC -Sports HUB x3; Project 31 Outdoor Play; Halfway Bingo Club; Westburn Youth Project – Outdoor play sessions and an outing; Circuit Youth Project – Outdoor play and an outing for young people x2; Youth Family and Community Learning Bay and Toddler HUB x2; Youth Family and Community Learning – After School HUB x2; and Cambuslang Out of School Care – Easter/summer Programme. Halfway Community Council – Clean up; LEAP – Development of Community Garden; Westburn Youth Project – Memorial Garden Development; and Lightburn Early Learning Centre – Development of nursery garden were awarded money to make environmental improvements.

Fernhill Neighbourhood Planning Group: £5,600; 337 votes cast; groups awarded money to provide more social and recreational activities include: Fernhill Youth Project – Outing for young people; Fernhill Play Scheme – Activities for families during school holidays; Fernhill Soccer School – Support existing programme; Fernhill Bowlers – Outing; Fernhill Seniors – Outing; and the O'Hana Club – Activities for young people and families.

Hillhouse, Udston and Burnbank Neighbourhood Planning Group: £7,000; 1,228 votes cast; groups awarded money to provide more social and recreational activities include: Udston Primary Play for All; Terminal 1 HUB Youth Group; Hillhouse Link Tenants and Residents Association – Hillstop Café; Gilmour and Whitehill Parish and Harvest Church – Burnbank Community HUB; and the 17th Hamilton Brownies – Camp.

Springhall and Whitlawburn Neighbourhood Planning Group: £4,200; 446 votes cast: groups awarded money to provide more social and recreational activities include: Springhall and Whitlawburn Youth Development Team; WCRC Christmas event; Age Active; Cathkin Duke of Edinburgh Group; Youth, Family and Community Learning (YFCL) Family Learning Arts and Crafts; and Project 31.

Strutherhill and Birkenshaw Neighbourhood Planning Group: £4,200: Spend was deferred until 2022-2023. Money will be invested in existing live projects. Play and park developments, physical environmental improvements and the development of a bike initiative.

Whitehill Neighbourhood Planning Group: £3,500; 420 votes cast: groups awarded money to provide more social and recreational activities include: Whitehill Fun Day – provision of fun fair, games, entertainment, arts and crafts and catering; Games to bring the community back together - funding used to purchase a variety of board games/outdoor games equipment; Activity Packs for Older People and Children - packs with puzzles, crosswords, sudokus, pens, notepads and other games, to help to keep minds active and improve wellbeing; Forest School Programme - development of local school's Forest School programme to offer vulnerable young people the opportunity to build skills, self-confidence and new friendship groups; Healthy Body, Healthy Minds

Whitehill - funding took groups of teenagers from Whitehill, two times per week for fitness training, nutritional guidance, improving overall health and wellbeing within the community; Well Fit Project - allowed children to express ideas, thoughts and feelings while taking part in healthy activities and sports opportunities; and Staying out for the Summer - funding was used for a range of arts and crafts and sports/outside games equipment that was used with children and families at events and activity days over the school holidays in the local park.

How can you get involved?

If you would like more information or would like to get more involved in your community, please email us at communities@southlanarkshire.gov.uk or phone 0303 123 1017

Further information

Participatory Budgeting Scotland
PB Scotland
The Participatory Budgeting Charter for Scotland
The PB Charter for Scotland

Volunteering

Why is this important?

Over the past year, during the global pandemic and as we start to come out of it, volunteering has arguably become more essential than ever before. It is of demonstrable benefit to individuals and to the larger community. In 2021-22, volunteers have displayed exceptional generosity with their time, effort, and commitment right across the area. Responding tirelessly to needs in their local communities and beyond, volunteers have been a tremendous source of help and comfort to South Lanarkshire communities.

How are we doing?

As the Third Sector Interface for South Lanarkshire, Voluntary Action South Lanarkshire (VASLan) believes it is crucial for us to promote the benefits of volunteering across South Lanarkshire. We are committed to supporting as many people into volunteering as possible, and to providing help and advice to any volunteer involving organisations who need us. We collaborate with these organisations to always ensure best practice in volunteer management, and involve them in consultations, events and partnerships. This year we also worked with several Third Sector Organisations who were just getting started with their volunteering programme, ensuring that all required policies and procedures were in place to help them give the best possible support to their volunteers.

This year saw VASLan create and run the Transitional Support Programme for Young People as part of Scotland's Youth Guarantee Programme. Aimed at giving young people aged 16-24 the chance to succeed despite the economic impacts of COVID-19, the guarantee is designed to ensure everyone aged between 16 and 24 has the opportunity of work, education or training. For our 13-week programme we provided volunteering opportunities to the participants and worked with Third Sector Organisations across the region to find appropriate volunteering opportunities for them. We developed a bespoke training programme tailored to each participant that helped us address the specific barriers that they might experience when looking for work. We worked with each young person for 5 weeks of training to help overcome these barriers and then matched them to a volunteering role for 8 weeks to help break down those barriers further, gaining the young person much needed confidence, and letting them experience for themselves the many benefits of volunteering.

The following are some of the highlights of 2021-22:-

- 636 new volunteers were registered
- 1,442 volunteering placements were arranged
- 10 Saltire Group administrators approved
- 234 Saltire Volunteer registrations
- 14,787 Saltire hours logged
- 45 new volunteering opportunities created

Further information

Voluntary Action South Lanarkshire (VASLan) www.vaslan.org.uk

Ryan's Story



Ryan Conway is a volunteer at the Machan Trust. He told VASLan that being able to volunteer is a chance to give back to the community and to get an experience that he never had before. For Ryan, seeing the smiles of the people that he helped, having fun, and participating in events are the best thing that he got from volunteering.

"I feel like I'm making a difference," he said.

Volunteering is also helping him to learn a lot of new things and boost his social skills. He learned about diplomacy, presentation skills, and how to talk to people.

"I was given a lot of support by my VASLan mentors; Joanne and Becca from the Youth Guarantee Project have been great in giving me all the advice that I need," he added.

Ryan would encourage anyone thinking about volunteering to get involved "Volunteering is a highly recommended activity. If you have ever thought about it, take a leap and do it, because it is very rewarding."

Community Asset Transfer

Why is this important?

The Community Asset Transfer (CAT) process allows the council to work closely with their communities to develop services and provision that are responsive to the needs of residents. The legislation which was introduced in 2015 allows community bodies to apply to lease and purchase council owned assets. By capitalising on the local knowledge and expertise of those who live in these communities we can assist in the flexible usage of South Lanarkshire Council (SLC) assets and work together to make the greatest impact possible in the communities in which we serve.

How are we doing?

South Lanarkshire Council have now undertaken a number of successful CAT processes over the years including GROW 73 in Rutherglen, East Kilbride United in Kirktonholme and in this year we have had even more successful applications including Bothwell Futures, East Kilbride Men's Shed and Stonehouse Men's Shed as well as a number of others being approved, all allowing groups driven by and on behalf of the community to create innovative approaches to improving their own communities.

In recognition of the importance of the CAT process, a temporary Community Asset Transfer Officer has been appointed with a view to providing support and guidance to the large number of community organisations who are looking at the viability of the process for them. This post is supported by a grant fund which can be allocated to assist groups successfully complete the process.

How can you get involved?

Community Asset Transfer is open to any community-controlled body which has the relevant constitution or governance documentation and is wholly open to all members of the community they serve. Any group applying for a CAT must show they have organisational strength to take on and manage an asset, and that they are supported by the community which they serve. The CAT process is an exciting opportunity which can benefit any community but involves a lot of time and effort. In recognition of this, the CAT Officer can provide tailored support to each applicant organisation. This support can be augmented by assistance from other organisations, such as Voluntary Action South Lanarkshire (VASLan), Community Enterprise, Just Enterprise, Community Ownership Support Services and the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO).

Bothwell Futures – Bothwell Library

Bothwell Futures have recently completed the transfer of the former Bothwell Library premises into their ownership. They have exciting plans to develop the facility into a community hub which accommodates the library and allows for the development of activities that help improve the quality of life of local residents. The group decided on the move due to the condition of the building and the library's limited footfall.

Having officially completed the transfer in July, the group will be undertaking repair and renovation work over the next few months which is scheduled to be completed by November 2022.

Once their works are complete, Bothwell Futures will lease the specific book-reading area of the library back to South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture but will maintain the running of the full building and the new social space. In addition, the ambitious plans will also see the development of office rooms, with a new staircase and modern toilets also due to be built. The move promises to pave the way for the future of Bothwell residents and provide a social space for younger generations.

Kevin Moore, Chairman of Bothwell Futures:

"Once the repair works are complete, we will work to remodel the building inside to create a community hub of which the library will be an integral part of. One of the challenges we have in the Bothwell community is there is fairly limited buildings left that are available to the community. We developed a 20-year plan, and whatever assets we still had in the village, we wanted to try and retain them for the good of the community. And the first one that became obvious was the Bothwell Library building. The asset transfer process has run smoothly as South Lanarkshire Council worked with Bothwell Futures for the new plans to go ahead. So far, it's been a very good arrangement. We've worked really well together."

Further Information

For South Lanarkshire Council, anyone wishing to know more about the process is encouraged to contact the Community Asset Transfer Officer at: communityassets@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Community Empowerment Asset Transfer

https://www.gov.scot/policies/community-empowerment/asset-transfer/

Community Ownership Support Service https://dtascommunityownership.org.uk/

Participation Requests

How are we doing?

Participation requests are a formal way for community bodies to request to be involved in decisions and put forward their ideas on how services could be changed to improve outcomes for the community. Requests can be made to a range of public bodies including South Lanarkshire Council, NHS Lanarkshire, Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue, etc.

During 2021-22, none of the Community Planning Partners received a participation request.

To make a participation request, your group must meet some requirements including having a membership open to your community and working for community benefit. Your first step should be getting in touch with the public body you would like to work with for assistance in getting started.

This can identify if they are the right public body to contact and they can also help you to get advice and information about any existing consultations or decision-making processes that you could be involved in without needing to make a formal participation request.

Further information

Participation Requests:

www.gov.scot/policies/community-empowerment/participation-requests

Links with the National Performance Framework

Our Vision

To improve the quality of life for all in South Lanarkshire by ensuring equal access to opportunities and to services that meet people's needs.

Community Plan 10-year vision – Overarching Objective - Tackling Poverty, Deprivation and Inequalities

- Child Poverty
- Employment Deprivation
- Income Deprivation
- Inclusive Growth
- · Financial inclusion
- Supporting parental employment and childcare
- Improving Housing
- · Education, Skills and Development
- Health Inequalities
- · Safeguarding from Risk or Harm
- Improving the Local Environment and Communities

Key National Outcomes

- We grow up loved, safe and respected so that we realise our full potential
- We respect, protect and fulfil human rights and live free from discrimination
- We tackle poverty by sharing opportunities, wealth and power more equally
- · We live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe
- · We are healthy and active
- We are well educated, skilled and able to contribute to society
- · We have thriving and innovative businesses, with quality jobs and fair work for everyone
- We are creative and our vibrant and diverse cultures are expressed and enjoyed widely
- We value, enjoy, protect and enhance our environment
- We have a globally competitive, entrepreneurial, inclusive and sustainable economy

UN Sustainable Development Goals

- No poverty
- Zero hunger
- Good health and wellbeing
- Quality education
- Affordable and clean energy
- Decent work and economic growth
- Industry, innovation and infrastructure

- Reduced inequalities
- Sustainable cities and communities
- Peace, justice and strong institutions
- Climate change
- Gender equality
- Partnerships for the goals

If you need this information in another format or language, please contact us to discuss how we can best meet your needs. Phone: 0303 123 1015 or Email: equalities@southlanarkshire.gov.ukwww.southlanarkshire.gov.ukequalities@southlanarkshire.gov.uk<a href="mailto:e