



Council Offices, Almada Street
Hamilton, ML3 0AA

Tuesday, 17 August 2021

Dear Councillor

Executive Committee

The Members listed below are requested to attend a meeting of the above Committee to be held as follows:-

Date: Wednesday, 25 August 2021
Time: 10:00
Venue: By Microsoft Teams,

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

Yours sincerely

Cleland Sneddon
Chief Executive

Members

John Ross (Chair/ex officio), Maureen Chalmers (Depute Chair), Alex Allison, John Anderson, John Bradley, Robert Brown, Gerry Convery, Margaret Cooper, Poppy Corbett, Peter Craig, Maureen Devlin, Isobel Dorman, Joe Fagan, Allan Falconer, Lynsey Hamilton, Mark Horsham, Eileen Logan, Katy Loudon, Joe Lowe, Monique McAdams, Kenny McCreary, Jim McGuigan, Gladys Miller, Lynne Nailon, Richard Nelson, David Shearer, Jim Wardhaugh, Josh Wilson

Substitutes

Stephanie Callaghan, Andy Carmichael, George Greenshields, Ian Harrow, Graeme Horne, Martin Grant Hose, Ann Le Blond, Richard Lockhart, Hugh Macdonald, Catherine McClymont, Mark McGeever, Graham Scott, Collette Stevenson, Margaret B Walker, David Watson

BUSINESS

- 1 **Declaration of Interests**
- 2 **Minutes of Previous Meeting** 5 - 16
Minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 23 June 2021 submitted for approval as a correct record. (Copy attached)

Monitoring Item(s)

- 3 **Revenue Budget Monitoring for Period 4: 1 April 2021 to 16 July 2021** 17 - 28
Report dated 3 August 2021 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources). (Copy attached)
- 4 **Capital Programme 2021/2022 Update and Monitoring for Period 4 – 1 April 2021 to 16 July 2021** 29 - 36
Report dated 4 August 2021 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources). (Copy attached)
- 5 **Additional Funding from Scottish Government and Other External Sources** 37 - 40
Report dated 26 July 2021 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources). (Copy attached)

Item(s) for Decision

- 6 **Land and Property Transfers and Disposals** 41 - 46
Report dated 28 July 2021 by the Executive Director (Housing and Technical Resources). (Copy attached)
- 7 **Local Child Poverty Action Report 2021** 47 - 120
Report dated 28 July 2021 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources). (Copy attached)
- 8 **End of Current Council and Preparations for the New Council** 121 - 128
Report dated 1 August 2021 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources). (Copy attached)
- 9 **Risk and Audit Scrutiny Committee - Appointment of Chair** 129 - 130
Report dated 10 August 2021 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources). (Copy attached)

Item(s) for Noting

- 10 **School Clothing Grants** 131 - 134
Report dated 22 July 2021 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources). (Copy attached)

Urgent Business

- 11 **Urgent Business**
Any other items of business which the Chair decides are urgent.

For further information, please contact:-

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Minutes of meeting held via Microsoft Teams on 23 June 2021

Chair:

Councillor John Ross (ex officio)

Councillors Present:

Councillor Alex Allison, Councillor John Anderson, Councillor John Bradley, Councillor Robert Brown, Councillor Maureen Chalmers, Councillor Gerry Convery, Councillor Margaret Cooper, Councillor Poppy Corbett, Councillor Peter Craig, Councillor Maureen Devlin, Councillor Isobel Dorman, Councillor Joe Fagan, Councillor Allan Falconer, Councillor Lynsey Hamilton, Councillor Mark Horsham (*substitute for Councillor Stephanie Callaghan*), Councillor Eileen Logan, Councillor Katy Loudon, Councillor Joe Lowe, Councillor Monique McAdams, Councillor Kenny McCreary, Councillor Jim McGuigan, Councillor Gladys Miller, Councillor Lynne Nailon, Councillor Richard Nelson, Councillor David Shearer, Councillor Jim Wardhaugh, Councillor Josh Wilson

Councillor's Apology:

Councillor Stephanie Callaghan

Attending:

Chief Executive's Service

C Sneddon, Chief Executive

Community and Enterprise Resources

M McGlynn, Executive Director

Education Resources

C McKenzie, Head of Education (Broad General Education)

Finance and Corporate Resources

P Manning, Executive Director; T Little, Head of Communications and Strategy; P MacRae, Administration Adviser; G McCann, Head of Administration and Legal Services; K McLeod, Administration Assistant; K McVeigh, Head of Personnel Services; S Somerville, Administration Manager

Housing and Technical Resources

D Lowe, Executive Director

Health and Social Care/Social Work Resources

M Hayward, Interim Chief Officer; L Purdie, Head of Children and Justice Services

Also Attending:

South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture

D Booth, General Manager

1 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 26 May 2021 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

The Committee decided: that the minutes be approved as a correct record.

3 Revenue Budget Outturn 2020/2021

A report dated 26 May 2021 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the overall financial position of the Council's General Fund Revenue Account and Housing Revenue Account for the period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.

The General Fund Revenue Account, including COVID-19 and approved transfers to reserves, showed an underspend of £2.595 million which was an improvement of £0.432 million on the figure previously reported to Committee. This was due to increased income from Council Tax (£0.272 million) together with reduced spend across Resources and Centrally Held Budgets (£0.160 million).

The outturn underspend of £2.595 million included non-COVID transfers to reserves of £37.508 million. This included the transfers to reserves approved as part of the probable outturn which, when adjusted for minor movements, amounted to £24.626 million. The revised transfers were detailed in Appendix 3 to the report.

The outturn underspend also included a number of proposed outturn transfers to reserves totalling £12.942 million. The carry forward of those monies in reserves would allow committed areas of spend to be incurred in 2021/2022. The main reasons for the additional outturn transfer requests, which did not include COVID funding transfers, were highlighted in the report and detailed in Appendix 4 to the report.

The overall outturn position included a commitment of £0.236 million within Social Work Resources and £0.585 million in Housing and Technical Resources in relation to the Integrated Joint Board (IJB). This reflected the proposal to allow the IJB to retain this non-recurring underspend within its reserves, earmarked for future care costs, as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report.

The position on COVID expenditure in 2020/2021 was break-even. Total COVID spend was £35.488 million which had been managed by using Scottish Government funding of £35.488 million. Total COVID funding available amounted to £66.978 million, therefore, £31.490 million was available to be carried forward into 2021/2022.

It was proposed that consideration be given to transferring the final underspend of £2.595 million to reserves for the following purposes:-

- ◆ replacement for financial management, HR, payroll, purchasing and procurement system (£1.000 million)
- ◆ committee room audio visual equipment upgrades (£0.150 million)
- ◆ COVID related expenditure in 2021/2022 (£1.445 million)

If the proposal was approved, those monies would be transferred to reserves for use in 2021/2022 and the Council would return a break-even position for 2020/2021.

As at 31 March 2021, the Housing Revenue Account showed a break-even position. This was after a transfer to reserves of £2.569 million, which was £0.849 million less than budgeted. Details of the variances across the Housing Revenue Account were given in Appendix 6 to the report and were primarily due an underspend on property costs and under recovery of income.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that it be noted that across Resources, Corporate Items and Council Tax, the Council showed an outturn underspend of £2.595 million, after proposed transfers to reserves, as detailed in section 6.1 and Appendix 1 to the report;
- (2) that it be noted that the probable outturn transfers, approved by members, had been revised to £24.626 million as detailed in Appendix 3 to the report;

- (3) that the Resources' requests for transfers to reserves which reflected the impact of COVID on the Resources' ability to spend on commitments against specific streams of funding during the final part of the year, totalling £12.942 million, as detailed in Appendix 4 to the report, be approved;
- (4) that, as proposed in section 5.5 of the report, approval be given for the underspend in the budget delegated to the IJB (£0.236 million and £0.585 million) to be held in the Council's balance sheet for its use in 2021/2022;
- (5) that it be noted that, after using Scottish Government funding, the position on COVID expenditure was break-even, with a carry forward of funding of £31.490 million;
- (6) that the £31.490 million underspend on COVID funding, as detailed in section 7.2 of the report, be transferred to reserves for use on COVID expenditure in 2021/2022;
- (7) that the £2.595 million underspend, after proposed transfers to reserves, be allocated as detailed in section 8.2 of the report, resulting in a break-even position for the Council; and
- (8) that the break-even position on the Housing Revenue Account be noted.

4 Capital Budget Monitoring Final Outturn – 2020/2021

A report dated 2 June 2021 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the:-

- ◆ outturn position of the General Services and Housing Capital Programmes for the year ended 31 March 2021
- ◆ proportion of the programmes from 2020/2021, expressed in financial terms, which had been carried forward for the year 2021/2022

The total spend on the General Services Capital Programme in 2020/2021, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, amounted to £69.548 million. The main projects showing an underspend were detailed in Appendix 2 to the report. The underspend reflected a variation from the expected timing of project spend in 2020/2021 and funding would be carried forward into the 2021/2022 financial year.

Reflecting the spend in 2020/2021 and the requirement for the balance of the budget available to be carried forward to undertake approved projects, £11.100 million would be carried forward into the financial year 2021/2022.

Expenditure on the Housing Capital Programme for 2020/2021 was £49.362 million, against a budget of £48.172 million. The net overspend of £1.190 million was as a result of accelerated spend on the provision of additional housing supply, offset by an underspend on other Housing Investment Programme projects which had been delayed as a result of COVID-19.

Housing and Technical Resources had received additional one off income totalling £1.882 million, however, due to reduced level of spend and, therefore, income received on both mortgage to rent and open market purchases, the net impact was additional income of £0.798 million in 2020/2021. Taking account of the year end overspend position of £1.190 million and the additional income of £0.798 million, £0.392 million required to be accelerated from future years' Housing Programmes in 2020/2021. In order to accommodate this, and to reflect the profile of spend expected on the Housing Investment Programme in the coming years, it was proposed that the 2021/2022 programme be reduced by £6.441 million and the 2022/2023 allocation be increased by £6.049 million.

The level of overall spend anticipated in 2021/2022 for both the General Services and Housing Programmes was the subject of a separate report to this meeting of the Committee.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the outturn on the 2020/21 General Services Programme of £69.548 million, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, be noted;
- (2) that the carry forward of 2020/2021 projects into the 2021/2022 General Services Capital Programme, totalling £11.100 million, be approved;
- (3) that the outturn on the 2020/2021 Housing Capital Programme of £49.362 million be noted;
- (4) that it be noted that £0.392 million was required to balance the 2020/2021 Housing Capital Programme and that the reprofiling of the budget for future years' Housing Capital Programmes, as detailed in the report, be approved; and
- (5) that it be noted that the level of overall spend anticipated in 2021/2022, for both General Services and Housing Programmes, was the subject of a separate report to this Committee.

5 Revenue Budget Monitoring Period 2 - 1 April 2021 to 21 May 2021

A report dated 3 June 2021 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the overall financial position of the Council's General Fund Revenue Account and Housing Revenue Account for the period 1 April to 21 May 2021.

The Council had received additional COVID funding of £25.394 million. This funding would be used to manage the costs of COVID in the current year. The Council had carried forward £31.490 million of unspent COVID funding from 2020/2021 and this was available to assist in managing costs during the year. This was split between Specific Funding of £14.290 million and General, or non specific, funding of £17.199 million. The carry forward of those monies into 2021/2022 formed part of the 2020/2021 outturn position.

The total COVID net expenditure at 21 May 2021 amounted to £1.294 million. This had been assumed as fully funded from the 2021/2022 allocation of £25.394 million, resulting in a break-even position. The position would continue to be monitored and reported throughout the year.

At 21 May 2021, the position on the General Fund Revenue Account, was an overspend of £0.007 million. This included a breakeven position on COVID spend and income. The Housing Revenue Account showed a breakeven position at 21 May 2021.

Officers responded to a member's question in relation to roads and footpath repairs and undertook to respond to one specific member issue.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the 2021/2022 COVID position, as detailed in section 4.1 of the report, be noted;
- (2) that the total net expenditure of £1.294 million in relation to COVID-19, offset by Government Grant included in the Council's position as at 21 May 2021, be noted;
- (3) that the net overspend of £0.007 million on the General Fund Revenue Account at 21 May 2021, after COVID-19 spend and funding, be noted; and

(4) that the breakeven position on the Housing Revenue Account at 21 May 2021 be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 28 April 2021 (Paragraph 4)]

6 Capital Budget 2021/2022 and Monitoring for Period 2 - 1 April 2021 to 21 May 2021

A report dated 8 June 2021 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted:-

- ◆ consolidating the capital budget monitoring to provide a Council-wide summary of the 2021/2022 Capital Programme, including 2020/2021 carry forward
- ◆ updating members on progress of the Capital Programme for the period 1 April 2021 to 21 May 2021

The proposed Capital Programme for 2021/2022 totalled £85.066 million. This represented a movement of £0.178 million from the list of projects totalling £85.244 million approved by the Executive Committee on 4 November 2020. The revised figure of £85.066 million included:-

- ◆ adjustments approved by the Executive Committee during 2020/2021
- ◆ additional funded projects
- ◆ accounting adjustments
- ◆ the outcome of an exercise to identify the anticipated level of spend for the year

The full programme of projects was detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, while the additional funded projects were shown in Appendix 2. Details of the movement in the Programme were provided in Appendix 3 to the report and Appendix 4 detailed the funding available to support the Programme.

2 projects which had received Committee approval, the Newton Farm Primary School extension and the SWiS Plus replacement project, required to be funded from borrowing and approval was sought to borrow to fund those additional costs.

At 21 May 2021, £4.072 million had been spent on the General Fund Capital Programme and £7.483 million had been spent on the Housing Capital Programme, in line with the respective budgets for the period.

The base budget for the Housing Capital Programme for 2021/2022 totalled £94.360 million. Programmed funding for the year also amounted to £94.360 million and this, together with funding sources, was detailed at Appendix 5 to the report.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the General Fund Capital Programme, detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, and the Housing Capital Programme, detailed in Appendix 5 to the report, be approved;
- (2) that the additional borrowing required to fund the extension to Newton Farm Primary School (£3.430 million) and the replacement of SWiS Plus (£2.634 million), detailed in Appendix 3 to the report, be approved;
- (3) that it be noted that monitoring and reporting arrangements were underway for all of the Council's Capital Programmes for 2021/2022; and

- (4) that it be noted that the revised programmes would be monitored by the Financial Resources Scrutiny Forum.

[Reference: Minutes of 28 April 2021 (Paragraph 3)]

7 Additional Funding from Scottish Government and Other External Sources

A report dated 3 June 2021 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on additional revenue funding, totalling £8.011 million, which had been made available to the Council by the Scottish Government and other external sources.

The funding had been allocated as follows:-

Revenue Funding

Resource	2021/2022 (£m)
Education Resources	8.011
Total	8.011

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 26 May 2021 (Paragraph 3)]

8 Workforce Monitoring Information - April 2020 to March 2021 Yearly Summary

A report dated 18 May 2021 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on workforce monitoring information relating to the Council for the period April 2020 to March 2021 as follows:-

- ◆ attendance statistics
- ◆ occupational health statistics
- ◆ accident/incident statistics
- ◆ disciplinary hearings, grievances and Dignity at Work cases
- ◆ employee development
- ◆ labour turnover/analysis of leavers and exit interviews
- ◆ recruitment monitoring
- ◆ staffing watch as at 13 March 2021

Officers responded to members' questions on various aspects of the report.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 16 December 2020 (Paragraph 6)]

9 Revenue Budget Strategy 2022/2023 and Savings Requirement

A report dated 8 June 2021 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the Budget Strategy and Savings Requirement for 2022/2023.

Details were provided on:-

- ◆ government grant estimations
- ◆ other budget movements
- ◆ summary of budget gap
- ◆ corporate solutions for consideration
- ◆ the level of savings requirement
- ◆ next steps in considering the 2022/2023 revenue budget
- ◆ the reinstatement of temporary solutions

Taking into account an assumed reduction of 1% in Government Grant, the increase in council tax property numbers, the additional expenditure items detailed in the report and the funding for pay award costs, the resulting budget gap in 2022/2023 amounted to £54.403 million, before corporate solutions. To address the budget gap, corporate solutions had been identified for consideration, reflecting the previously approved use of reserves as a result of the Loans Fund Review, the use of investments monies identified for 2021/2022 and the level of council tax, and those were detailed in the report.

An increase of 3.5% in Council Tax Band D levels or a government grant allocation of £4.882 million as a replacement for income that could have been raised through increasing council tax would mean total corporate solutions for 2022/2023 of £44.986 million and this would reduce the core savings requirement to £9.417 million in 2022/2023. If the council tax level was not increased, the savings requirement would be £14.299 million. It was proposed that officers commence work on a package of savings for 2022/2023 to the value of £9.4 million.

The 2022/2023 budget included a number of solutions which were temporary in nature and which would require to be reinstated in future years. Those were detailed in Table 4 within the report.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the Revenue Budget Strategy for 2022/2023 detailed in the report, resulting in a Budget Gap of £54.403 million before corporate solutions, be approved;
- (2) that the corporate solutions for 2022/2023, including the use of reserves, resulting in a revised budget gap of £9.4 million, be approved;
- (3) that the next steps detailed in the report, including the identification of £9.4 million of savings, be approved; and
- (4) that the reinstatements, detailed in Table 4 of the report, be noted.

10 Land and Property Transfers and Disposals

A report dated 10 June 2021 by the Executive Director (Housing and Technical Resources) was submitted on actions required in respect of land and property transactions.

The recommendations had been made in terms of agreed procedures for dealing with surplus land and property.

The Committee decided:

that the land at the following locations, as detailed in Appendix A to the report, be declared surplus to Council requirements:-

- ◆ 50 Annbank Street, Larkhall (61 square metres)
- ◆ 83 Machan Road, Larkhall (39 square metres)
- ◆ 40 MacDairmid Drive, Hamilton (75 square metres)

11 Cross Party Working Group Review of South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture - Outcomes

A report dated 3 June 2021 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the outcomes from the Cross Party Working Group (CPWG) review of South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture (SLLC) following the conclusion of the work of the Group.

The key findings from the Group focused on the following areas:-

- ◆ governance
- ◆ pricing
- ◆ partnership
- ◆ SLLC estate
- ◆ community asset transfer

The Group had concluded that the current SLLC governance model was outdated and that new governance arrangements required to be developed whereby SLLC was converted to a Scottish charitable incorporated organisation (SCIO). Further details of the proposed governance arrangements were provided in the report.

The Group also reviewed SLLC's current pricing system and concluded that it was over complicated and did not reflect market conditions. It proposed that the pricing policy be revised and that the Council retain the final decision on concessionary pricing schemes. However, it also proposed that SLLC be given scope to adjust commercial pricing without prior approval of the Council.

The Group recognised a need to develop strong relationships with the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) and arrangements were now in place whereby SLLC's General Manager was included on the Community Planning Partnership Board to ensure closer alignment between SLLC priorities and those of the Council and the CPP.

With regard to the SLLC estate, the Group considered that, currently, it was important that the Council retain the level of community assets and proposed that the Council continue to manage the SLLC estate in line with the resources available. It did, however, recognise the keen interest in community asset transfer and the Council's commitment to facilitating community ownership of public assets. In this regard, in partnership with SLLC, it was proposed that the Council undertake proactive consultation and engagement to harness community interest and support the capacity and sustainability of community organisations.

Officers responded to members' questions on various aspects of the report including membership the SLLC Board and arrangements for community asset transfer.

The Committee recommended to the Council:

- (1) that the governance arrangements, detailed in section 4 of the report, be approved;
- (2) that the pricing arrangements, detailed in section 5 of the report, be approved; and

- (3) that the proposal that the Council further consult and engage with community groups to promote community asset transfer, as detailed in section 8 of the report, be approved.

[Reference Minutes of 29 May 2019 (Paragraph 7)]

12 Glengowan Primary School Extension - Full Business Case GCR City Deal - Larkhall Community Growth Area

A report dated 9 June 2021 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the Full Business Case (FBC) for the Glengowan Primary School Extension element of the Larkhall Community Growth Area City Deal project.

Governance arrangements for the City Deal Initiative were defined within the associated City Deal Assurance Framework. This set out the requirements for the development of Business Cases for individual projects. The Larkhall CGA had received approval at both Strategic and Outline Business Case stages and a Full Business Case had now been produced for the Glengowan Primary School Extension element of the Larkhall CGA project.

The Glengowan Primary School Extension project would:-

- ◆ provide an additional 402 square metres, 2 storey extension to the existing school and a 63 square metres classroom created by reconfiguring the existing building layout at a cost of £2.796 million
- ◆ deliver a total of 3 classrooms with associated storage, toilet and circulation space, increasing the capacity from 271 to 361 pupils together with new nursery provision for up to 48 pupils with stand alone entrance, storage, kitchen, toilet and soft surface outdoor play area

The FBC continued to make the case for the Larkhall CGA project in terms of:-

- ◆ strategic fit
- ◆ commercial case
- ◆ economic case
- ◆ financial case
- ◆ management case

The Executive Summary of the FBC was attached as Appendix 1 to the report. The production of the FBC provided the basis for full delivery and construction of the school extension. If approved by Committee, the FBC for the project would then be considered by the Glasgow City Region Deal Programme Management Office which had delegated powers to confirm its approval under the Assurance Framework.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the Glengowan Primary School extension Full Business Case be approved; and
- (2) that grant funding be sought in accordance with City Deal grant distribution process outlined in the Assurance Framework.

13 Glasgow City Region Climate Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan

A report dated 15 June 2021 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on:-

- ◆ the adoption of the Glasgow City Region Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan
- ◆ a proposed extension of the funding commitment for Climate Ready Clyde to 2025/2026

The Council was a core partner of Climate Ready Clyde, a cross sector initiative funded by its 15 member organisations and supported by the Scottish Government to create a shared vision, strategy and action plan to adapt to the impacts of climate change and build a climate resilient Glasgow City Region.

Public consultation had been undertaken on the draft adaptation strategy, developed by Climate Ready Clyde, and, following the consultation process, an updated version of the strategy had been approved by the City Region Cabinet for subsequent endorsement by partners, including the Council.

Details were provided on the objectives contained in the strategy, which would be in place until 2030, together with its aims and the 5 place based priorities for adaptation.

A Strategic Action Plan had also been developed, covering the period 2021 to 2025, which contained 16 Flagship Actions. Those were large scale, strategic and high ambition actions where there was strong consensus on the need for progress. Details of the individual Flagship Actions were provided in the report. Delivering the Strategy and Action Plan would require increased public funding in the years ahead.

The Council had also been asked to continue its financial support to the Climate Ready Clyde partnership to allow for secretariat support in the implementation, monitoring and reporting of the Strategy. It was anticipated that the cost over the next 5 years would be in the region of £47,500, based on the current annual contribution of £9,500.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that, following approval at the City Region Cabinet meeting on 1 June 2021, the Climate Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan be endorsed by the Council; and
- (2) that extension of the funding commitment to Climate Ready Clyde for the next 5 years to support delivery of the Strategy and Action Plan be approved.

14 South Lanarkshire Anti-social Behaviour Strategy 2019 to 2023 Annual Review 2020/2021

A report dated 15 June 2021 by the Executive Director (Housing and Technical Resources) was submitted on the 2020/2021 annual review of the South Lanarkshire Anti-social Behaviour Strategy 2019 to 2023.

The Strategy, approved by this Committee in November 2019, had been developed to ensure that effective progress was achieved in relation to key national and local outcomes set out in the South Lanarkshire Community Plan. To support the achievement of the relevant outcomes, the strategy was constructed around the following 6 strategic outcomes:-

- ◆ “people behave responsibly in their attitude to alcohol and the impact of drug misuse is reduced
- ◆ people behave responsibly in relation to fire safety
- ◆ the impact of domestic noise is reduced

- ◆ illegally discarded litter and household waste is reduced, improving the safety and attractiveness of communities
- ◆ levels of disorder are reduced, improving safety within communities
- ◆ partners engage with residents to promote and improve the availability of and access to services for those affected by anti-social behaviour”

The 2020/2021 review of the strategy identified that, in the first 17 months, good progress had been made and a summary of progress against each of the 6 strategic outcomes was provided in the report and in the review document, attached as an appendix to the report. Ongoing restrictions relating to the COVID-19 pandemic had impacted on progress in some of the actions and measures in the strategy, as well as on reporting arrangements and those were detailed in the report. The annual review had also confirmed that no changes were required to the existing action plan.

The review document would be submitted to the meeting of the Safer South Lanarkshire Board to be held on 13 September 2021 for noting.

Officers responded to members’ questions on various aspects of the report.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the progress identified in the first review of the Anti-social Behaviour Strategy 2019 to 2023, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, be noted; and
- (2) that the outcome of the first review of the Anti-social Behaviour Strategy 2019 to 2023 be reported to the Safer South Lanarkshire Board on 13 September 2021 for noting.

[Reference: Minutes of 6 November 2019 (Paragraph 7)]

15 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

Report

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Report to:	Executive Committee
Date of Meeting:	25 August 2021
Report by:	Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

Subject:	Revenue Budget Monitoring for Period 4: 1 April 2021 to 16 July 2021
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:

- ◆ advise the Committee on the overall financial position of the Council's General Fund Revenue Account and Housing Revenue Account for the period 1 April 2021 to 16 July 2021.

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):

- (1) that 2021/2022 COVID-19 position (section 4.5 and Appendix 1), be noted;
- (2) that the total net expenditure of £2.247 million, after specific funding in relation to COVID-19, offset by Government Grant included in the Council's position as at 16 July 2021 (section 4.8) be noted;
- (3) that the net overspend of £0.364 million on the General Fund Revenue Account at 16 July 2021, after COVID-19 spend and funding (section 5.1 and Appendix 2), be noted; and
- (4) that the breakeven position on the Housing Revenue Account at 16 July 2021 (section 6 and Appendix 4 of the report), be noted.

3. Background

3.1. General Fund Position

The report will summarise the actual expenditure and income to 16 July 2021 compared with the budget for the same period. This includes spend to date due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

3.2. The 2021/2022 in-year costs of the pandemic to 16 July 2021 are detailed in section 4 while the Council's General Fund position is detailed in section 5. The Housing Revenue Account position to 16 July 2021 is summarised in section 6.

4. 2021/2022 COVID-19 Position

4.1. Following confirmation of the year end position, an exercise has been carried out to look at the funding available and the potential COVID-19 cost pressures moving into 2021/2022.

4.2. **Funding:** In addition to the £31.490 million of COVID-19 funding approved by the Committee to be carried forward from 2020/2021, the Council has been notified of further funding totalling £25.585 million in relation to its share of the £259 million of flexible funding and £60 million for Education announced in the Budget, as well as funding for the new Family and Low Income Pandemic payments to support eligible

households. This takes the total COVID-19 funding to £57.075 million in 2021/2022. Table 1 provides a summary of the funding.

Table 1 – Funding Summary

	Specific £m	Non specific £m	Total £m
Reserves c/f from 20/21	15.535	15.955	31.490
New Funding	9.651	15.934	25.585
Total Funding	25.186	31.889	57.075

- 4.3. As can be seen in Table 1, £25.186 million of this is specific funding in respect of Education for recovery, teachers, logistics and digital inclusion, Flexible Funding in relation to the Business Support and Financial Insecurity and Flexible Funding being used to assist eligible households and third sector organisations. It is anticipated that all of this funding will be spent.
- 4.4. This leaves **£31.889 million** of funding to meet the potential costs detailed in section 5 of the report and also ongoing costs into 2022/2023 and the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on areas such as demand for children and families' placements. It is considered highly likely that recurring costs will be faced in 2022/2023 with a low likelihood of additional COVID related funding being provided.
- 4.5. **Costs:** The costs that have been identified for 2021/2022 are summarised in Table 2 below. These reflect the costs that will be met from the non-specific funding. The costs have been estimated for the full year, however, may change should the approach to social distancing and PPE requirements change.

Table 2: Estimated 2021/2022 Costs of COVID-19

	Full Year Costs £m
Additional Costs	15.343
Loss of Income	3.236
Total Costs	18.579
Less: Spend Not Made	(0.380)
Total <i>(excludes SLLC and Adults and Older People)</i>	18.199

- 4.6. A breakdown is shown in Appendix 1. These are the estimated costs for 2021/2022 only. As noted in section 4.4, there are likely to be further recurring costs into 2022/2023. There is a low likelihood of additional COVID related funding being provided.
- 4.7. **COVID-19 Current Position as at 16 July 2021:** The total COVID-19 net expenditure before funding as at 16 July 2021 is £6.759 million. **This is an increase of £5.465 million on the period 2 figure (ended 21 May 2021).** These costs are partially offset by specific funding of £4.512 million, leaving costs of £2.247 million to be met from the non-specific funding.
- 4.8. A summary of the current position is included in Table 3 with a full breakdown included in Appendix 3.

Table 3: Analysis of COVID-19 expenditure at 16 July 2021 (Period 4)

	As at 16 July 2021 £m	Movement from period 2 (21 May 2021) £m
Additional Resource Spend	5.979	5.101
Lost Income	0.861	0.439
Less: Unspent Budget	(0.081)	(0.075)
Total Net Expenditure inc. in Resources	6.759	5.465
Specific Funding Utilised	(4.512)	(4.147)
Net COVID-19 Expenditure	2.247	1.318
Non Specific Funding Utilised	(2.247)	(1.318)
Net COVID-19 Expenditure	-	-

4.9. The COVID-19 costs above exclude the costs in relation to Adults and Older People which is included within the Mobilisation Plan which is submitted to the Scottish Government. The assumption is that this will continue to be fully funded by the Scottish Government. The spend to period 4 in relation to the Social Work Mobilisation Plan is £4.405 million.

4.10. **Social Care:** As part of the charges being made to the mobilisation plan, an amount for Care at Home is included. It has been observed that as part of re-mobilisation of services, hospitals are seeing presentation of service users with a much higher requirement for packages of Care at Home on discharge. The estimate for the year was around £0.700 million, with additional pressures in supported living, direct payments and unachieved savings. The total full year estimated pressure at period 3 was reported as £2.4m with the mobilisation plan providing funding to cover these COVID-19 related costs.

4.11. In addition, over the last few weeks, Adults and Older People Services are reporting a significant concern around unmet need in Care at Home and increasing delays in hospital and recruitment for Care at Home staffing has been authorised to be funded by the mobilisation plan this year at a cost of up to £1.9m. Also, the full year costs of additional care home placements that have now resulted from interim care home placement made to manage delayed discharges are resulting in an in year pressure of £1.2m. Again, this will be charged to the mobilisation plan. Planning for future year budgets is ongoing with the Service and the Chief Financial Officer of the Integration Joint Board.

4.12. Whilst these costs are being charged to Mobilisation plan for 2021/2022, there is a risk that if these packages are prolonged, this will be an additional pressure moving into 2022/2023 where no additional funding for Mobilisation may be available.

5. 2021/2022 General Services Position (excluding COVID-19)

5.1. General Services Current Position as at 16 July 2021

As at 16 July 2021, the position on the General Services budget is an overspend of £0.364 million (Appendix 2). This includes a break-even position on COVID-19 spend and income referred to in section 4.9.

5.2. The majority of the overspend of £0.364 million relates to Social Work Resources. The Resource has identified pressures within Children and Families Services due to the number of residential school/external placements and fostering and adoption

placements in the early part of the current year. The estimate of the potential full year pressure is approximately £1.000 million over the £1.4m already identified as COVID-19 related spend. The position to date (as at period 16 July) is an overspend of £0.326 million. The additional costs will be reviewed to assess the extent that these costs are as a result of the pandemic.

5.3. Additional Funding

The Scottish Government have notified the Council of a number of funding allocations for 2021/2022. Community and Enterprise Resources have been notified of 2021/2022 Scottish Government funding of £0.401 million to support the delivery of the Scottish Milk and Healthy Snack Scheme.

5.4. Education Resources have been notified of 2021/2022 Scottish Government funding of £0.678 million (an additional £0.296 million) in relation to a Minimum School Clothing Grant, a £1.292 million allocation from the £20 million Pupil Equity Fund Premium introduced in 2021/2022 to further the education recovery in relation to disadvantaged young people and Scottish Attainment Challenge Funding for Care Experienced Children and Young People of £0.635 million.

5.5. Finance and Corporate Resources have received £2.469 million of Youth Guarantee funding and Housing and Technical Resources have received £2.828 million of Energy Efficiency Scotland - Area Based Scheme funding. Finally, Social Work Resources have been notified of funding for Community Justice Services Pandemic Recovery funding of £0.612 million.

5.6. These amounts have been added to the budgets in Appendix 2.

6. Housing Revenue Account Position

6.1. As at 16 July 2021, Appendix 4 of the report shows a breakeven position against the phased budget on the Housing Revenue Account.

7. Employee Implications

7.1. None.

8. Financial Implications

8.1. As detailed within 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 in this report.

10. Other Implications

10.1. The main risk associated with the Council's Revenue Budget is that there is an overspend. The risk has been assessed as low given the detailed budget management applied across the Resources. The risk is managed through four weekly Budget Monitoring Meetings at which any variance is analysed. In addition, the probable outturn exercise ensures early warning for corrective action to be taken where appropriate.

11. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

11.1. 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.

11.2. There is also no requirement to undertake any consultation in terms of the information contained in this report.

Paul Manning
Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

3 August 2021

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- ◆ Accountable, Effective, Efficient and Transparent

Previous References

- ◆ None

List of Background Papers

- ◆ Financial ledger and budget monitoring results to 16 July 2021

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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E-mail: lorraine.o'hagan@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

COVID-19 Costs 2021/2022	Community and Enterprise	Education	Finance and Corporate	Housing and Technical	Social Work	Total £m
Projected Costs	4.297	2.063	0.652	0.331	1.400	8.743
Lost Income	2.577	0.139	0.020	0.500	-	3.236
Total Costs	6.874	2.202	0.672	0.831	1.400	11.979
Less: Spend Not Made	(0.380)	-	-	-	-	(0.380)
Net Cost to the Council in 2021/2022	6.494	2.202	0.672	0.831	1.400	11.599
Add: Savings Not Achievable	-	-	-	-	-	0.000
Add: SLLC (early estimate)					-	5.400
Add: Property Services for capital	-	-	-	-	-	1.200
Balance	6.494	2.202	0.672	0.831	1.400	18.199

Funding available						£m
Reserves – carried forward (non-specific)						15.955
New Funding						15.934
Total funding available						31.889

SOUTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

Revenue Budget Monitoring Report

Period Ended 16 July 2021 (No.4)

<u>Committee</u>	Annual Budget	Annual Forecast Transfers	Annual Forecast Variance Transfers	Budget Proportion To 16/07/21	Actual to Period 4 16/07/21	Variance to 16/07/21	
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Departments:							
Community and Enterprise Resources	115.709	115.709	0.000	24.822	26.287	(1.465)	over
Facilities, Waste and Grounds	70.884	70.884	0.000	13.738	13.922	(0.184)	over
Fleet, Environmental and Projects	(0.710)	(0.710)	0.000	0.166	0.391	(0.225)	over
Leisure and Culture Services	19.470	19.470	0.000	4.850	4.830	0.020	under
Planning and Economic Development	5.870	5.870	0.000	0.083	0.021	0.062	under
Roads	20.195	20.195	0.000	5.985	6.399	(0.414)	over
COVID-19	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.724	(0.724)	over
Education Resources	363.525	363.525	0.000	100.118	100.292	(0.174)	over
Education	352.164	352.164	0.000	97.100	97.199	(0.099)	over
COVID-19	11.361	11.361	0.000	3.018	3.093	(0.075)	over
Finance and Corporate Resources	36.651	36.651	0.000	15.549	17.264	(1.715)	over
Finance Services - Strategy	1.877	1.877	0.000	0.987	0.977	0.010	under
Finance Services - Transactions	12.246	12.246	0.000	4.820	4.855	(0.035)	over
Audit and Compliance Services	0.324	0.324	0.000	0.184	0.182	0.002	under
Information Technology Services	5.266	5.266	0.000	4.857	4.857	0.000	-
Communications and Strategy Services	0.884	0.884	0.000	0.440	0.440	0.000	-
Administration and Licensing Services	4.047	4.047	0.000	1.738	1.745	(0.007)	over
Personnel Services	12.007	12.007	0.000	2.523	2.542	(0.019)	over
COVID-19	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.666	(1.666)	over
Housing and Technical Resources	16.359	16.359	0.000	5.247	5.348	(0.101)	over
Housing Services	8.234	8.234	0.000	3.508	3.508	0.000	-
Property Services	8.125	8.125	0.000	1.739	1.739	0.000	-
COVID-19	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.101	(0.101)	over
Social Work Resources	175.808	175.808	0.000	46.147	46.797	(0.650)	over
Performance and Support Services	7.903	7.903	0.000	2.086	2.015	0.071	under
Children and Families	34.380	34.380	0.000	9.365	9.691	(0.326)	over
Adults and Older People	131.940	131.940	0.000	34.413	34.413	0.000	-
Justice and Substance Misuse	1.585	1.585	0.000	0.283	0.283	0.000	-
COVID-19	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.395	(0.395)	over
Joint Boards	2.155	2.155	0.000	0.702	0.702	0.000	-
	710.207	710.207	0.000	192.585	196.690	(4.105)	over

<u>Committee</u>	Annual Budget	Annual Forecast Transfers	Annual Forecast Variance Transfers	Budget Proportion to 16/07/21	Actual to Period 4 16/07/21	Variance to 16/07/21	
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Service Departments Total	710.207	710.207	0.000	192.585	196.690	(4.105)	over
CFCR	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	-
Loan Charges	38.592	38.592	0.000	11.026	11.026	0.000	-
Corporate Items	11.153	11.153	0.000	0.039	0.039	0.000	-
Corporate Items - COVID-19	29.346	29.346	0.000	3.741	0.000	3.741	under
Corporate Items - 2022/2023 Strategy	11.900	11.900	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	-
Total Expenditure	801.198	801.198	0.000	207.391	207.755	(0.364)	over
Council Tax	161.171	161.171	0.000	46.049	46.049	0.000	-
Less: Council Tax Reduction Scheme	(21.444)	(21.444)	0.000	(6.127)	(6.127)	0.000	-
Net Council Tax	139.727	139.727	0.000	39.922	39.922	0.000	-
General Revenue Grant	269.542	269.542	0.000	77.012	77.012	0.000	-
General Revenue Grant – COVID19	25.535	25.535	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	-
Non-Domestic Rates	319.312	319.312	0.000	91.232	91.232	0.000	-
Transfer from Reserves	47.082	47.082	0.000	47.082	47.082	0.000	-
Total Income	801.198	801.198	0.000	255.248	255.248	0.000	-
Net Expenditure / (Income)	0.000	0.000	0.000	(47.857)	(47.493)	(0.364)	over

SOUTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL
Revenue Budget Monitoring Report
Period Ended 16 July 2021 (No.4)

<u>Budget Category</u>	Annual Budget	Annual Forecast Transfers	Annual Forecast Variance Transfers	Budget Proportion to 16/07/21	Actual to Period 4 16/07/21	Variance to 16/07/21	
Service Departments:	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	
<u>Expenditure</u>							
Employee Cost	545.264	545.264	0.000	146.748	148.914	(2.166)	over
Property Costs	55.906	55.906	0.000	11.553	11.892	(0.339)	over
Supplies and Services	59.819	59.819	0.000	14.917	15.192	(0.275)	over
Transport Costs	40.952	40.952	0.000	10.296	10.676	(0.380)	over
Administration Costs	14.724	14.724	0.000	4.928	4.871	0.057	under
Payments to Other Bodies	110.113	110.113	0.000	41.403	42.313	(0.910)	over
Payments to Contractors	198.732	198.732	0.000	45.366	46.441	(1.075)	over
Transfer Payments	5.979	5.979	0.000	2.875	3.029	(0.154)	over
Housing Benefits	68.542	68.542	0.000	16.427	16.427	0.000	under
Financing Charges (controllable)	2.058	2.058	0.000	0.493	0.472	0.021	under
Total	1,102.089	1,102.089	0.000	295.006	300.227	(5.221)	over
Service Departments Total	1,102.089	1,102.089	0.000	295.006	300.227	(5.221)	over
CFCR	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	-
Loan Charges	38.592	38.592	0.000	11.026	11.026	0.000	-
Corporate Items	11.153	11.153	0.000	0.039	0.039	0.000	-
Corporate Items - COVID-19	29.346	29.346	0.000	3.741	0.000	3.741	under
Corporate Items - 22/23 Strategy	11.900	11.900	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	-
Total Expenditure	1,193.080	1,193.080	0.000	309.812	311.292	(1.480)	over
Income							
Housing Benefit Subsidy	64.158	64.158	0.000	15.301	15.301	0.000	-
Other Income	327.724	327.724	0.000	87.120	88.236	1.116	over rec
Council Tax (Net of Council Tax Reduction Scheme)	139.727	139.727	0.000	39.922	39.922	0.000	-
General Revenue Grant	269.542	269.542	0.000	77.012	77.012	0.000	-
General Revenue Grant - COVID-19	25.535	25.535	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	-
Non Domestic Rates	319.312	319.312	0.000	91.232	91.232	0.000	-
Transfer from Reserves	47.082	47.082	0.000	47.082	47.082	0.000	-
Total Income	1,193.080	1,193.080	0.000	357.669	358.785	1.116	over rec
Net Expenditure / (Income)	0.000	0.000	0.000	(47.857)	(47.493)	(0.364)	over

COVID-19 Expenditure**Summary**

Cost of COVID-19 2021/2022 (to 16 July 2021)	Costs Incurred	Lost Income	Less: Spend Not Made	Total Costs	Movement from P2
	£m	£m	£m	£m	
Community and Enterprise	0.724	0.749	(0.081)	1.392	0.805
Education	3.093	0.099	-	3.192	2.856
Finance and Corporate	1.666	0.013	-	1.679	1.591
Housing and Technical	0.101	0.000	0.000	0.101	0.031
Social Work	0.395	0.000	0.000	0.395	0.182
Net Resource Expenditure in 2021/2022	5.979	0.861	(0.081)	6.759	5.465
Specific Funding					
Education				(3.018)	(2.741)
Corporate Items				(1.494)	(1.406)
Total Specific Funding Utilised				(4.512)	(4.147)
Net Cost to be funded from Non-Specific Funding				2.247	1.318

Detail**Additional Costs:**

Service	Description of Cost	Value £m	Movem't from P2
Community and Enterprise Resources			
FWG/Fleet & Environmental	Staffing costs supporting COVID-19 response	0.174	0.086
FWG/Fleet & Environmental/Roads	Cleaning, janitorial and utilities costs	0.031	0.014
FWG/Fleet & Environmental/Roads	Materials and PPE	0.025	0.011
FWG/Roads	Fleet costs including fuel supporting COVID-19 response	0.066	0.052
All Services	Telephones / Stationery	0.002	0.001
FWG	Increase in domestic waste tonnage	0.419	0.330
FWG	Webcast system and live webcasts	0.007	-
Education Resources			
Schools	Additional Staffing (General)	0.006	0.006
Schools	Additional Teachers	1.217	1.029
Support Services	Additional Support Assistants	0.080	0.067
Support Services	Additional Support Assistants – Lateral Flow Testing	0.081	0.068
Schools	Pathfinder Initiative	0.150	0.150
Schools / ELC	Additional Cleaning	1.338	1.338
Schools / ELC	Facilities Orders (Hand sanitisers / soap dispensers / bins / wipes / hand towels)	0.130	0.067
	Utilities – Additional Ventilation	0.069	0.069
Schools	Central Orders and Social Work Recharges (gloves / wipes / aprons / visors / masks / face coverings)	0.022	0.022
Finance and Corporate Resources			
Personnel Services	Foodbank expenditure	0.044	0.034
Finance (Transactions)	Self Isolation Payments	0.018	0.018
Finance (Transactions)	£100 Spring Hardship Payments	0.056	0.009

Service	Description of Cost	Value £m	Movem't from P2
Finance (Transactions)	Free School Meals - Easter	0.029	(0.002)
Finance (Transactions)	Family Pandemic Payments	0.981	0.981
Finance (Transactions) / IT	Staff Supporting COVID-19	0.117	0.117
Finance (Transactions)	Telephones / Paypoint / SMS Messages	0.002	0.002
Finance (Transactions)	Benefits in relation to temporary accommodation	0.059	0.059
Personnel Services	Support to Third Sector Organisations	0.360	0.360
Housing and Technical Resources			
Housing and Property Services	Homelessness accommodation and property related costs	0.101	0.031
Social Work Resources			
Children and Families	External and residential placements within Children and Family services.	0.395	0.182
Total Additional Costs as at Period 4		5.979	5.101

Lost Income:

Service	Description of Lost Income	Value £m	Movem't from P2
Community and Enterprise Resources			
Facilities, Waste and Grounds	Reduced school meals and coffee shop income	0.298	0.153
Facilities, Waste and Grounds	Care of Gardens	0.055	0.005
Fleet, Environmental and Projects	Reduced income from taxi inspections.	0.032	0.013
Roads	Reduced Parking income	0.364	0.215
Education Resources			
Instrumental Music Services	Reduced income from Music Tuition fees	0.059	-
Support Services	Privileged Transport / Playgroups	0.010	0.010
Early Years	Milk	0.030	0.030
Finance and Corporate Resources			
Licensing and Registration	Birth and death registration	0.013	0.013
Total Lost Income as at Period 4		0.861	0.439

Unspent Budget

Service	Description of Lost Income	Value £m	Movem't from P2
Community and Enterprise Resources			
Facilities, Waste and Grounds	Reduced expenditure on food purchases	(0.061)	(0.055)
Leisure	Firework Event	(0.020)	(0.020)
Unspent Budget as at Period 4		(0.081)	(0.075)

Net Cost of COVID-19 as at Period 4	6.759	5.465
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Specific Funding

Service		Value £m	Movem't from P2
Education Resources			
Education (t/f from reserves)	Education Recovery Teachers / Support	(1.297)	(1.096)
Education (t/f from reserves)	Loss of Learning Support	(0.150)	(0.150)
Education (t/f from reserves)	Logistics	(1.571)	(1.495)
Corporate Items – COVID-19			
Corporate Items (new)	Pandemic Payments	(0.981)	(0.981)
Corporate Items (T/f from reserves)	Financial Insecurities and Flexible Fund	(0.513)	(0.425)
Specific Funding Utilised as at Period 4		(4.512)	(4.147)

SOUTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL
Revenue Budget Monitoring Report
Period Ended 16 July 2021 (No.4)
Housing Revenue Account

	Annual Budget	Forecast for Year	Annual Forecast Variance	Budget Proportion to 16/07/21	Actual to Period 4 16/07/21	Variance to 16/07/21		%	Note
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m			
Employee Costs	14.090	14.090	0.000	3.833	3.697	0.136	under	3.5%	1
Property Costs	48.021	48.021	0.000	13.546	13.581	(0.035)	over	(0.3%)	
Supplies & Services	0.879	0.879	0.000	0.151	0.144	0.007	under	4.6%	
Transport & Plant	0.195	0.195	0.000	0.029	0.028	0.001	under	3.4%	
Administration Costs	5.645	5.645	0.000	0.164	0.163	0.001	under	0.6%	
Payments to Other Bodies	2.976	2.976	0.000	0.601	0.601	0.000	-	0.0%	
Payments to Contractors	0.100	0.100	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	-	n/a	
Transfer Payments	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	-	n/a	
Financing Charges	19.637	19.637	0.000	19.637	19.638	(0.001)	over	0.0%	
Total Controllable Expenditure	91.543	91.543	0.000	37.961	37.852	0.109	under	0.3%	
Total Controllable Income	(108.345)	(108.345)	0.000	(26.399)	(26.387)	(0.012)	under recovered	0.0%	
Transfer to/(from) Balance Sheet	(0.839)	(0.839)	0.000	(0.258)	(0.161)	(0.097)	under recovered	(37.6%)	2
Net Controllable Expenditure	(17.641)	(17.641)	0.000	11.304	11.304	0.000	-	0.0%	
Add: Non Controllable Budgets									
Financing Charges	17.641	17.641	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	-	0.0%	
Total Budget	0.000	0.000	0.000	11.304	11.304	0.000	-	0.0%	

Variance Explanations**1. Employee Costs**

This underspend reflects higher than anticipated staff turnover within the Service.

2. Transfer to / (from) Balance Sheet

The net underspend across expenditure has resulted in a lower transfer from reserves being required to date.

Report

4

Report to:	Executive Committee
Date of Meeting:	25 August 2021
Report by:	Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

Subject:	Capital Programme 2021/2022 Update and Monitoring for Period 4 – 1 April 2021 to 16 July 2021
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ update the Executive Committee of progress on the General Fund Capital Programme and the Housing Capital Programme for the period 1 April 2021 to 16 July 2021

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Executive Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):

- (1) that the Period 4 position (ended 16 July 2021) of the General Fund Capital Programme itemised at Appendices 1 – 3 and the Housing Capital Programme at Appendix 4, be noted;
- (2) that the adjustments to the General Fund programme listed at Appendix 1, be approved; and
- (3) that the revised programmes be monitored by the Financial Resources Scrutiny Forum.

3. Background

3.1. The attached statements to this report provide a summarised monitoring position as at 16 July 2021. Spending has been split into two separate sections:

- ◆ General Fund Capital Programme including Education, Social Work, Roads and Transportation and General Services (Section 4)
- ◆ Housing Capital Programme (Section 5)

4. General Fund Capital Programme

4.1. **2021/2022 Budget:** The budget agreed at Executive Committee on 23 June 2021 was £85.066 million. A revised programme of £85.415 million is now anticipated, which includes adjustments to the programme totalling an increase of £0.349 million, which are proposed in Appendix 1.

4.2. **Period 4 Position:** The programme spend and funding for the General Fund is summarised in Appendices 2 and 3. As noted in 4.1, the total capital spending programme for the year is £85.415 million.

- 4.3. Budget for the period is £10.409 million and spend to the 16 July 2021 is £10.547 million, a slight overspend of £0.138 million.
- 4.4. Actual funding received to 16 July 2021 is £56.289 million.
- 4.5. Relevant officers will continue to closely monitor the generation of all income including receipts.

5. Housing Capital Programme

- 5.1. **2021/22 Budget:** Appendix 4 summarises the position on the Housing programme as at 16 July 2021. The revised capital programme for the year is £94.360 million, as approved by the Executive Committee on 23 June 2021. Programmed funding for the year also totals £94.360 million. The funding sources are also detailed in Appendix 4.
- 5.2. The timescales for the New Build Housing Programme are currently being considered and a revised position will be presented to a future meeting of this Committee for approval.
- 5.3. **Period 4 Position:** Budget for the period is £20.360 million and spend to 16 July 2021 amounts to £20.360 million.
- 5.4. As at 16 July 2021, £20.360 million of funding had been received.
- 5.5. Regular monitoring of both the General Fund Programme and the Housing Programme will be carried out in detail by the Financial Resources Scrutiny Forum and reported on a regular basis to the Executive Committee.

6. Contract Prices

- 6.1. In recent months it has been reported nationally that the construction materials supply chain has been subject to unprecedented disruption due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic.
- 6.2. The Construction Leadership Council (CLC) continues to report shortages of construction materials and forecasts this disruption to continue for the foreseeable future. Ongoing engagement with the Council's suppliers confirms that materials shortages, longer lead times and steep price increases will continue to impact their supply chain. This means there is therefore a risk of significant impact on the delivery of the Council's capital and maintenance / repair programmes. The impact could cause project delays due to required redesign, or cost increases, as is already being experienced by Property and Roads Services.
- 6.3. Recent experience is that tenders have been submitted significantly above our expectations, especially in relation to the Housing Fabric programme. To that end, Housing and Technical Resources are currently reviewing whether this work should continue in the short term, knowing that these prices will be inflated and materials difficult to source.
- 6.4. Mini tenders within Roads Service are also being returned higher than contracted rates and when attempts are made to direct award contractors have been declining. These additional costs are being managed within overall budget allocations at present. Further updates will be provided in the coming months with any significant increases in contract values being brought to members' attention.

7. Employee Implications

7.1. There are no employee implications as a result of this report.

8. Financial Implications

8.1. The financial implications are contained in sections 4 and 5 of the report for the General Services and Housing capital programmes respectively.

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. The main risk associated with the Council's Capital Programme is an overspend. The risk had been assessed as low given the detailed project management plans prepared and monitored for each project. The risk of overspend is managed through four weekly Investment management meetings.

10.2. As noted at Section 6, the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic has led to materials shortages, longer lead times and steep price increases and this will continue to impact the supply chain for the foreseeable future. The impact of this will be monitored through the four weekly investment management meetings. Further updates will be reported in the coming months with any significant increases in contract values being brought to members' attention.

11. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

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

11.2. There was also no requirement to undertake any consultation in terms of the information contained in this report.

Paul Manning

Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

4 August 2021

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- Accountable, Effective, Efficient and Transparent

Previous References

- Executive Committee, 23 June 2021

List of Background Papers

Capital Ledger prints to 16 July 2021

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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SOUTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE 2020/21
GENERAL SERVICES PROGRAMME
FOR PERIOD 1 APRIL 2021 TO 16 JULY 2021

Proposed Adjustments

Community and Enterprise Resources

Hamilton Mausoleum

The project to replace the lead and guttering on both the flat roofs and dome at Hamilton Mausoleum (£0.475m) is ongoing. During the progression of these initial lead and guttering works, it has been discovered that additional works totalling £0.138m have also been considered necessary. £0.138m
(£0.138m)

These additional works include stonework repairs required to prevent further water ingress to the building and the replacement of the lightning protection system, which is non-compliant with current regulations. These additional works are being progressed to take advantage of the scaffolding which has already been erected as part of the original roofing works project. Approval is sought to transfer funding of £0.138m from the Prioritised Urgent Investment Fund to fund these additional works. This will augment the existing 2021/2022 allocation for this project of £0.395m.

Tom Craig Centre Hall, Sports Pavilion and Pitches, Law

The refurbishment of the Tom Craig Centre Hall, Law and upgrading of the sports pavilion and pitches is ongoing. The project had a total budget allocation of £0.136m of which £0.050m remains and is included in the 2021/2022 Capital Programme and will be fully spent this year. £0.052m
(£0.052m)

However, it has been discovered that part of the roof needs to be replaced at an additional cost of £0.052m. These works are being progressed as part of the original project to avoid delay. Approval is sought to transfer funding of £0.052m from the Prioritised Urgent Investment Fund to fund these additional works in 2021/2022.

Housing and Technical Resources

Central Energy Efficiency Fund (CEEF)

The CEEF is a revolving fund. The fund is used to pay for energy efficiency projects each financial year. The fund is then replenished by savings achieved from these projects across an agreed payback period for each project. A new wave of projects is included in the capital programme each financial year. £0.349m

Approval is sought to add energy efficiency projects totalling £0.349m into the 2021/22 Capital Programme. Projects to be carried out include external LED Lighting in various primary schools including: Greenhills, High Blantyre, Law, St Bride's, St Columbkille's, St Elizabeth's and St Hilary's. In addition, photovoltaic panels will be installed at South Lanarkshire Lifestyles Eastfield. These works will be funded from the CEEF Fund.

Minor Adjustments £0.000m

TOTAL ADJUSTMENTS £0.349m

APPENDIX 2

SOUTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE 2021/22
GENERAL FUND PROGRAMME
FOR PERIOD 1 APRIL 2021 TO 16 JULY 2021

£m

Total Budget	85.066
Proposed Adjustments – Period 4	0.349
Total Revised Budget	85.415

<u>Resource</u>	<u>2021/22 Budget</u>	<u>Period 4 Proposed Adjustments</u>	<u>Revised 2021/22 Budget</u>
	<u>£m</u>	<u>£m</u>	<u>£m</u>
Community & Enterprise	46.735	0.190	46.925
Education	20.400	-	20.400
Finance & Corporate	2.776	-	2.776
Housing & Technical	8.387	0.159	8.546
Social Work	6.768	-	6.768
TOTAL CAPITAL PROGRAMME	85.066	0.349	85.415

APPENDIX 3

**SOUTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE 2021/22
GENERAL FUND PROGRAMME
FOR PERIOD 1 APRIL 2021 TO 16 JULY 2021**

	<u>2021/22</u> <u>Original</u> <u>Estimate inc</u> <u>C/F</u>	<u>2021/22</u> <u>Revised</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>2021/22</u> <u>Budget to</u> <u>16/07/21</u>	<u>2021/22</u> <u>Actual to</u> <u>16/07/21</u>
Expenditure	£m	£m	£m	£m
General Fund Programme	85.066	85.415	10.409	10.547
Income	<u>2021/22</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>2021/22</u> <u>Revised</u> <u>Budget</u>		<u>2021/22</u> <u>Actual</u> <u>To</u> <u>16/07/21</u>
	£m	£m		£m
Prudential Borrowing	40.289	40.289		40.289
Developers Contributions	4.474	4.474		3.129
Partners (Including SPT, Sustrans, Clyde Wind Farm and CARES)	4.647	4.647		0.101
Scottish Government:				
- Capital Grant	21.362	21.362		3.560
- Cycling, Walking and Safer Routes	1.912	1.912		0.000
- Vacant and Derelict Land	0.831	0.831		0.416
- Early Years 1,140 Hours	2.024	2.024		2.024
- Regeneration Capital Grant	1.230	1.230		0.510
- Town Centre Regeneration Fund	2.739	2.739		2.739
- Place Based Investment Programme	2.003	2.003		2.003
- Gaelic Capital Fund	0.038	0.038		0.038
- Gypsy Travellers	0.107	0.107		0.107
Glasgow City Region City Deal	2.386	2.386		0.000
Specific Reserves	1.024	1.373		1.373
TOTAL FUNDING	85.066	85.415		56.289

SOUTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL
 CAPITAL EXPENDITURE 2021/22
 HOUSING PROGRAMME
 FOR PERIOD 1 APRIL 2021 TO 16 JULY 2021

	<u>2021/22</u> <u>Annual</u> <u>Budget</u> £m	<u>2021/22</u> <u>Budget to</u> <u>16/07/21</u> £m	<u>2021/22</u> <u>Actual to</u> <u>16/07/21</u> £m
Expenditure			
2021/22 Budget Incl. adjustment from 2020/21	94.360	20.360	20.360

	<u>2021/22</u> <u>Annual</u> <u>Budget</u> £m	<u>2021/22</u> <u>Actual to</u> <u>16/07/21</u> £m
INCOME		
Capital Funded from Current Revenue	19.637	19.637
Prudential Borrowing	63.010	0.127
Scottish Government Specific Grant:		
- New Build	9.433	0.596
- Open Market Purchase Scheme	2.160	0.000
- Mortgage to Rent	0.120	0.000
	94.360	20.360

Report

5

Report to:	Executive Committee
Date of Meeting:	25 August 2021
Report by:	Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

Subject:	Additional Funding from Scottish Government and Other External Sources
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ advise Members of additional funding that has been made available to the Council by the Scottish Government and other external sources since the last report to this Committee (23 June 2021)

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the additional revenue funding of £27.557 million, as detailed at Appendix 1 of the report, be noted.

3. Background

3.1. The Council is periodically advised of additional funding which is made available from the Scottish Government and other sources to enable various initiatives to be undertaken.

3.2. Additional funding may either be paid through the General Revenue Grant mechanism or by the completion of appropriate grant claims.

3.3. Details of the additional funding are attached at Appendix 1 to the report. The report details additional funding that has been reported by Resources as part of the additional resources notification process, as well as any additional funding that has increased the Council's budget by more than £0.100 million.

4. Employee Implications

4.1. None.

5. Financial Implications

5.1. Additional revenue funding of £27.557 million has been identified for 2021/2022.

5.2. Resource budgets will be updated to reflect this additional funding as required, and where appropriate, details of spending plans will be presented to Resource Committees for approval.

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 in this report.

7. Other Implications

7.1. There are no other implications in terms of the information contained in this report.

8. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

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

7.2. There was also no requirement to undertake any consultation in terms of the information contained in this report.

Paul Manning

Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

26 July 2021

Link(s) to Council Objectives/Values

◆ Accountable, Effective and Efficient

Previous References

◆ Executive Committee, 23 June 2021

List of Background Papers

◆ Additional Funding Reports:-
4 June 2021 to 21 July 2021

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

Lorraine O'Hagan, Finance Manager (Strategy)

Ext: 2601 (Tel: 01698 452601)

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Additional Revenue Funding

Resource	Description	2021/2022 £m	2022/2023 £m	Total £m	Method
Community and Enterprise Resources	COVID - Scottish Business Restart Grant and Strategic Framework Business Fund Transition	14.434	0.000	14.434	Scottish Government Grant
Community and Enterprise Resources	Scottish Milk and Healthy Snack Scheme (Tranche 1)	0.401	0.000	0.401	Scottish Government Grant
Community and Enterprise Resources	COVID – Route Map Extension Restrictions Fund	0.933	0.000	0.933	Scottish Government Grant
Education Resources	National Minimum Clothing Grant (additionality - £0.678m less £0.382m already received)	0.296	0.000	0.296	Scottish Government Grant
Education Resources	Pupil Equity Fund Premium	1.292	0.000	1.292	Scottish Government Grant
Education Resources	Scottish Attainment Challenge - Care Experienced Children and Young People	0.635	0.000	0.635	Scottish Government Grant
Finance and Corporate Resources	COVID - Local Self Isolation Assistance (July to Sept)	0.141	0.000	0.141	Scottish Government Grant
Finance and Corporate Resources	COVID - Business Support - Taxi and Private Hire Drivers and Operators	3.516	0.000	3.516	Scottish Government Grant
Finance and Corporate Resources	Youth Guarantee Funding	2.469	0.000	2.469	Scottish Government Grant
Housing and Technical	Energy Efficiency Scotland - Area Based Schemes	2.828	0.000	2.828	Scottish Government Grant
Social Work Resources	COVID - Community Justice Pandemic Recovery	0.612	0.000	0.612	Scottish Government Grant
	TOTAL REVENUE FUNDING	27.557	0.000	27.557	

Report

6

Report to:	Executive Committee
Date of Meeting:	25 August 2021
Report by:	Executive Director (Housing and Technical Resources)

Subject:	Land and Property Transfers and Disposals
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ advise the Executive Committee of the actions required in respect of land and property transactions

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Executive Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the land and property as detailed in Appendix A be transferred between Resources
- (2) that the land detailed in Appendix B be declared surplus to Council requirements

3. Background

3.1. Details of land and property, which is potentially suitable for redevelopment or disposal, are circulated to all Resources and Community Planning Partners to establish if they are suitable for alternative operational use.

3.2. The recommendation for the transfer between Council Resources, of the assets detailed on Appendix A, is made following the consideration of planning, title and other legal constraints and Council priorities.

3.3. Transactions where there is a requirement to declare land surplus to enable negotiations for minor or adjoining sales to progress are detailed on Appendix B.

3.4. These transactions are only included in the report after successful consultation with the Holding Resource(s) and Planning.

4. Property Transactions

4.1. Clyde Terrace Bothwell - Nursery

4.1.1. Education Resources have a requirement for a new Nursery in Bothwell and having, considered potential sites, have identified the gap site at Clyde Terrace, Bothwell as suitable. The land, shown on the attached plan, is held by Housing and Technical Resources (HRA) who have no objection to the transfer of the land for this purpose. It is recommended that this is transferred to the Education Resources account for operational use (Appendix A).

4.1.2. Transfers of land and Property from (and to) the Housing Revenue Account require to be done at Market Value, reflecting the development potential. However, the subjects are encumbered by an electricity sub-station and associated apparatus, which require to be relocated and also suffer from contamination which requires to be treated, removed and disposed. The associated costs would outweigh any value in the land and it is, therefore, appropriate to transfer the land at a nominal value.

4.2. Appendix B details negotiated transactions where the land requires to be declared surplus in order that Property Services can conclude negotiations for their disposal.

5. Employee Implications

5.1. There are no employee implications.

6. Financial Implications

6.1. In terms of Scottish Government Guidance, a disposal of land from the Housing Revenue Account must be done at the best consideration that the site could reasonably be expected to achieve. Given the existence of the electricity sub-station and adverse ground conditions affecting the site it is recommended that in this instance the value is nominal.

7. Other Implications

7.1. There is a low risk that the capital receipts anticipated, as a result of declaring properties surplus, may not be realised if, for reasons outwith the Council's control, the purchasers choose not to proceed with the transactions. However, the procedures and consultations described in Sections 3 and 9 of this report have been implemented to minimise this risk.

8. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

8.1. There are no issues in relation to climate change, sustainability and environment contained within this report.

9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

9.1. 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.

9.2. Consultation was undertaken with Planning, Roads, Legal, and Housing Services.

Daniel Lowe

Executive Director (Housing and Technical Resources)

28 July 2021

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

◆ Achieve results through leadership, good governance and organisational effectiveness

Previous References

◆ Executive Committee

List of Background Papers

◆ Plans of the land and property referred to in this report

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

Frank McCafferty, Head of Property Services

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APPENDIX A

TRANSFERS

Area	Description	Previous Account	New Holding Account	Transfer	Value Band
1,650 sq m	Land at Clyde Terrace, Bothwell	Housing	Education	Immediate	4

Value Bands

1 – over £1 million

2 – £500,000 to £999,999

3 – £100,000 to £499,999

4 – less than £100,000

APPENDIX B

DECLARE SURPLUS

Area	Description	Holding Account	Proposal	Value Banding
803 sq m	Wilkie Road, Uddingston	Community/Enterprise	Access to development site	4
45 sq m	2 Loch Loyal, East Kilbride	Community/Enterprise	Garden Ground	4
111 sq m	2 Cloverhill View, East Kilbride	Community/Enterprise	Garden Ground	4
2 sq m	15 Dryburgh Hill, East Kilbride	Community/Enterprise	Disabled Access	4
39 sq m	83 Machan Road, Larkhall	Housing	Garden Ground/Driveway	4
9 sq m	12 Ullswater, East Kilbride	Housing	Garden Ground	4
97 sq m	2 Sutherland Street, Blantyre	Housing	Garden Ground	4
35 sq m	39 Watson Street, Larkhall	Housing	Garden Ground	4

Value Bands

1 – over £1 million

2 – £500,000 to £999,999

3 – £100,000 to £499,999

4 – less than £100,000

Report

7

Report to:	Executive Committee
Date of Meeting:	25 August 2021
Report by:	Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

Subject:	Local Child Poverty Action Report 2021
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ Present the Local Child Poverty Report 2021 for approval

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Executive Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the progress in developing our third Local Child Poverty Action Report be noted;
- (2) that the “step change” approach taken by the Child Poverty Working Group be noted; and
- (3) that the draft Local Child Poverty Report, attached as Appendix 1, be approved for publication

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, beginning in June 2019.

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 measures for the year ahead that seek to address and mitigate child poverty. These are organised around the 3 drivers of Cost of Living, Income from Benefits and Income from Employment. Actions are identified using local data, the lived experience of families and the expertise of partnership staff. Key actions for this year include maximising the impact of advice services, continued focus on reducing the Cost of the School Day and providing suitable employability support. In addition, the report is cognizant of the impact of the Covid- 19 pandemic and the need to ensure continued awareness of the challenges which may arise for families as a result of this.

3.3 The work described in the reports 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
- (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

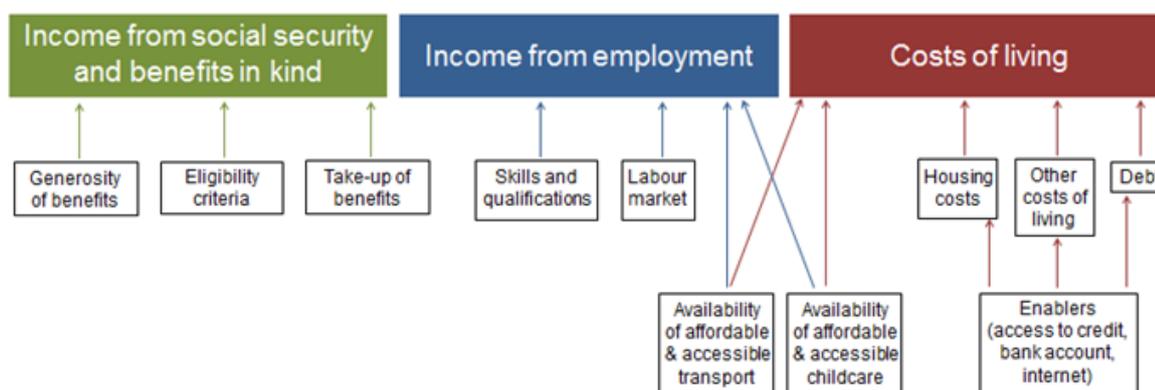
to tackling Child Poverty; effectively a step-change in tackling child poverty. Where local partners are continuing with existing activity, they should be clear about the supporting evidence base indicating its effectiveness.

- 3.5 The Poverty and Inequality Commission, tasked by the Scottish Government, provide feedback on all the LCPARs. Feedback on the South Lanarkshire LCPAR for 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 was overwhelmingly positive. In addition, the Improvement Service indicated through feedback sessions that they were continuing to direct other councils towards our reports as an example of good practice.
- 3.6 South Lanarkshire Council, NHS Lanarkshire and other South Lanarkshire Partnership members agreed at the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board meeting on 6 June 2018 to produce a single LCPAR, recognising a collective effort would be more effective.
- 3.7 The Child Poverty Working Group was established in late 2018 to produce the plan. This group has continued to meet to ensure that the work around the plan remains relevant and focussed on the key actions to address child poverty in South Lanarkshire.

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 We set out to ensure that the LCPAR provides background information, a progress report on South Lanarkshire activity and an action plan (currently organised around the 3 child poverty drivers).
- 4.3 One area for improvement is the information gathered from those with lived experience of poverty. This has been key in identifying actions for the plan, however, we think we can be much better at supporting partners to engage with families and communities in developing future actions.

5. Impact of COVID - 19

- 5.1 In normal circumstances, the expectation would be that the LCPAR would be published by the end of June each year, although this is not a statutory deadline. However, the impact of the COVID-19 has meant that work on the report has been

delayed slightly and will now be published by the end of August 2021. This reclaims 2 months on last year's publication date of October 2020 and is on target for a return to June publication in 2022.

5.2. It is accepted that there will be a longer term negative economic impact as a result of the pandemic further aggravating inequalities. The impact will be particularly severe for those who are already on low and fixed incomes, suffering from poorer health and in insecure work. Therefore, the challenges already being faced in reducing child poverty are likely to have increased and require further consideration going forward.

5.3 In attempting to understand the impact of COVID-19, we have established a small Research Sub-group with the main task of sourcing, collating and analysing recent studies and reports on child poverty in general and the impact of the pandemic in particular. The group has only just begun to report their findings and this will be a key feature of our work in the short to medium term.

6.1 The 2021/2022 plan and ongoing activity

6.1. The proposed plan is attached as Appendix 1 and as the third iteration, builds upon the good work of previous years. Continuing to focus on the 3 drivers of Cost of Living, Income from Benefits and Income from Employment, and making use of the data we have and the knowledge and experience of our local families and staff, key action areas have been identified and are outlined in section 6.2. As in previous years, a summary report will also be produced.

6.2. As the planning evolves, we continue to focus on areas for improvement, identified by the working group from reporting upon last year's plan and in identifying unmet need. These are presented within the draft LCPAR and include:-

Chapter 1. Increased income from benefits and entitlements

- ◆ Ensure the impact of advice services are maximised, including better digital support and engagement opportunities and face to face opportunities in communities as appropriate, especially when communicating changes in benefits and entitlements

Chapter 2. Reducing the costs of living

- ◆ Continue developing additional childcare/early learning hours to help parents who are working, or progressing towards work
- ◆ Continue to extend the Cost of the School Day activity in our schools
- ◆ Identifying further actions to support access to affordable transport solutions
- ◆ Providing additional activity to support key targeted initiatives e.g. school holiday programmes
- ◆ Understanding how behaviour change can impact on household income

Chapter 3. Increasing income from employment

- ◆ Ensure that parents, care experienced young people and young people with disabilities have access to appropriate employability support

6.3. We will continue to monitor the impact of the pandemic and any further challenges which may arise to mitigate an increase in child poverty. The Research Sub-group will take the lead in this activity, ensuring that new evidence and research informs our work and decision making. Lived experience feedback from our communities will be a key part of this evidence.

6.4 We will work with the Improvement Service to develop activity to address areas for improvement, step change activity and additionality designed to further mitigate the

impact of poverty on families. It is likely that this may also include developing links with other authority areas where good practice has been identified.

6.5 It is intended that supported improvement activity will begin in September, with sessions facilitated by the Improvement Service and will inform the content of the 2022/2023 LCPAR, as well as the activity of the Child Poverty Working Group in general. Senior managers will be invited to participate in the improvement sessions to support the process and provide high level guidance with identified areas of step change.

6.6 As part of this approach to developing our planning, listening to the voices of families and communities experiencing poverty issues is crucial and will be a feature of our improvement work.

7. Employee Implications

7.1. There are no immediate employee implications arising from this report.

8. Financial Implications

8.1. Any financial implications will be met within existing budgets.

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. 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.

11. Equality Impact Assessment

11.1. In developing the new LCPAR, a new Equality Impact Assessment will be completed along with a Children's Rights Wellbeing Impact Assessment

12. Children's Rights Considerations

12.1 A Children's Rights Wellbeing Impact Assessment will be completed as part of the work to develop the LCPAR.

12.2 The work to engage children, young people and families in developing the plan 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
- ◆ **Article 27 (adequate standard of living)** every child has the right to a safe place to live, food and clothing

Paul Manning
(Executive Director) Finance and Corporate Resources

28 July 2021

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- ◆ Improve the Quality of life for everyone in South Lanarkshire
- ◆ Focussed on people and their needs; Working with and respecting others; Fair, open and sustainable; Excellent Employer
- ◆ Support our communities by tackling disadvantage and deprivation and supporting aspiration; Support the local economy by providing the right conditions for inclusive growth

Previous References

- Executive Committee 16 December 2020

List of Background Papers

- None

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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Kevin Mullarkey, Childrens Services Partnership Planning Manager
South Lanarkshire Council
Email : kevin.mullarkey@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

South Lanarkshire's



South Lanarkshire
Partnership
Stronger together

Local Child Poverty Action Report



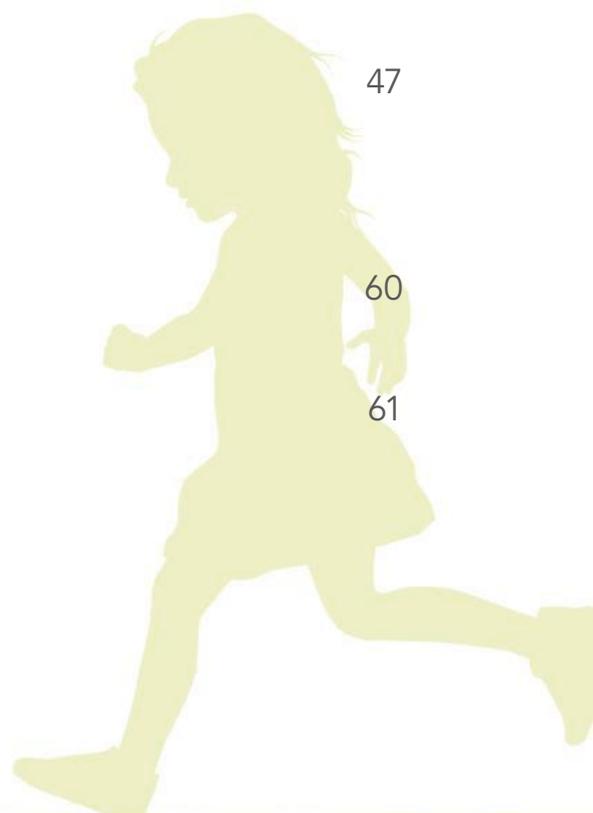
South Lanarkshire Community Planning Partnership's
progress over 2020/21 and our plans for 2021/22

Giving **every child**
in South Lanarkshire
every chance



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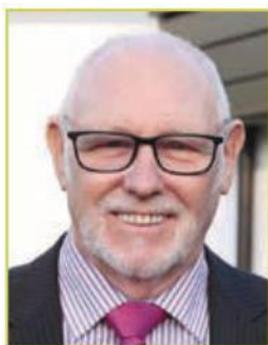
Foreword

This is our third Local Child Poverty Action Report. It comes at the end of another challenging year, and one which the long-term impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is still unclear. However, we do know that many children continue to live in poverty in South Lanarkshire and that our work to address the problem must progress to find new, innovative ways to improve their lives. We also know that the collaborative approaches we have taken to address the pandemic and our learning from this has given us a solid base to co produce solutions with our communities and make the greatest positive impact upon lives. As we do this, we will keep an eye to the emerging trends around child poverty and make best use of the information that will tell us how life is changing for our families.

Our report continues to focus on the three main drivers that we can use to reduce child poverty – Income from Benefits, Income from Employment and Reducing the Cost of Living. While all of these are important, we recognise that it is actions linked to the Income from Employment driver that will ensure the best way we can assist families to find long term, sustainable solutions to their poverty related issues. We will continue to provide the support needed for parents, carers and families to gain the skills and confidence to enter employment, and to strive to ensure that good quality employment opportunities which pay a fair wage are available to them, as our key commitment to this work.

Our ambition is for all of our children to have the best start to their lives, without the additional challenges which poverty places upon them, and we will continue to work towards this. We commit to continuing our improvement journey, and through this to identifying and making the changes we need to support our most vulnerable children and families. As part of this we continue to place their lived experience at the heart of our strategy, recognising the importance of the expertise which they bring in informing the services we should deliver. If you are reading this document and would like to talk about your experiences and contribute towards our future development, we urge you to contact us using the details at the end of the report.

We also recognise the hard work of our staff across the partnership, including statutory, voluntary and community sector organisations in producing this report and more importantly, in delivering the actions within it. Thank you for your commitment and for continuing to work with us to make the improvements we all want to see for our children and families.



John Ross
Leader of South Lanarkshire Council



Neena Mahal
Chair of NHS Lanarkshire Board

1 Introduction

In November 2017, the Scottish Parliament passed the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017, which set the following targets to reduce child poverty in Scotland by 2030:

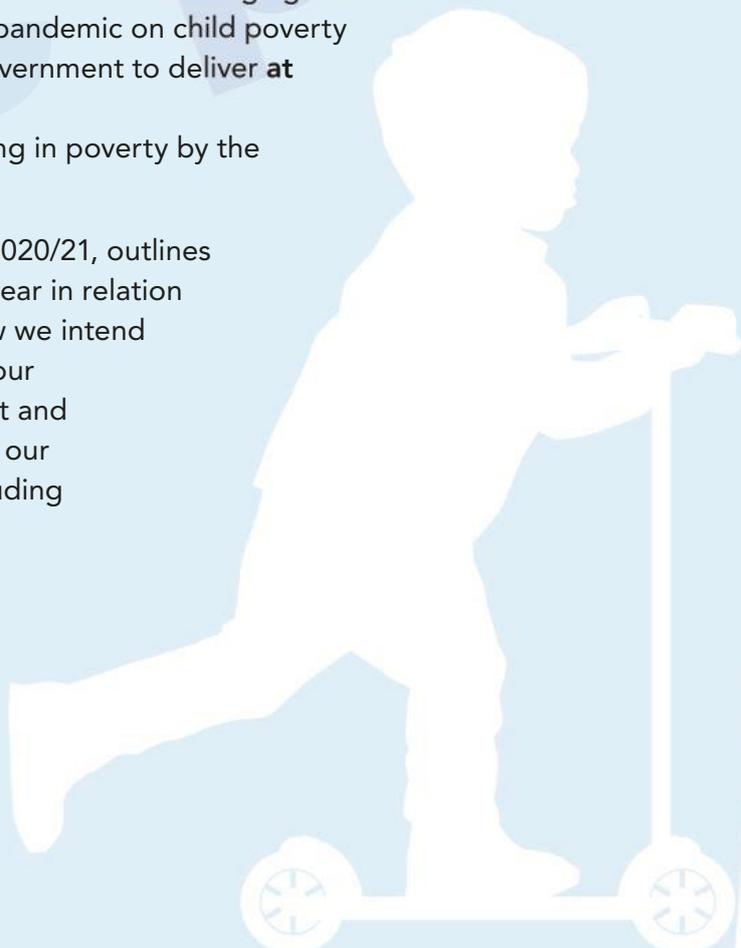
Of children living in households in Scotland

- less than 10% should be living in relative poverty
- less than 5% should be living in absolute poverty
- less than 5% should be living with combined low income and material deprivation
- less than 5% should be living in persistent poverty

The legislation placed a statutory duty on local authorities and NHS Boards to report annually on step change and improvement activity to reduce child poverty in their local area. This is our third Local Child Poverty Action Report for South Lanarkshire and follows a decision taken by the Community Planning Partnership to produce a joint report reflecting the Community Planning Partnership approach to tackling child poverty. The following report is in recognition of the critical contribution all local partners are making to reducing child poverty in our communities.

The Scottish Government has recently (as of June 2021) renewed the focus on tackling poverty and child poverty. The newly published **Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan, 3rd Year progress report 2020/21** while acknowledging the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on child poverty levels, re-commits the Scottish Government to deliver **at pace and scale** to reduce the number of children living in poverty by the end of the decade.

The South Lanarkshire report for 2020/21, outlines the progress made over the past year in relation to the key poverty drivers and how we intend to build on this progress through our action plan for 2021/22. The report and action plan has been produced by our community planning partners including South Lanarkshire Council; NHS Lanarkshire; South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership; Skills Development Scotland, Job Centre Plus and our third sector organisations.



Strong partnership working is evidenced right through the report, both in terms of the contribution that the partners have made to the overall design and content, and the co-authorship model used to develop the actions/measures included in the action plan for 2021/22.

In the development of the Year 3 plan/report the input of a wide range of stakeholders, other than the statutory partners, were also prioritised. These included testimonies from vulnerable and disengaged families who usually have been reluctant to engage with public services e.g. from fear, embarrassment, or lack of knowledge. Conversations with those with lived experience has been critical to help identify improvement areas within the plan for 2021/22 and this approach will remain important as we move forward into Year 4. The Community Planning Partnership holds to the view that the LCPAR represents a real and enduring opportunity for deeper engagement with families with a lived experience of poverty in order to ensure that their priorities and ambitions continue to steer the planning process going forward.

As with last year's plan, the impacts of COVID-19 restrictions still influence the way in which we deliver our services and the CPP has remained conscious of the need to prioritise support to the most vulnerable families and groups within our communities. The economic effects of COVID-19 in particular and the ultimate cost to the government budgets of interventions such as aid packages and other supports have yet to be fully understood, but it is clear that the financial and social consequences are likely to fall disproportionately upon those who already were experiencing poverty prior to March 2020, further widening inequalities.

Recent research by the Scottish Government (December 2020)¹ on the impact of the COVID-19 on household incomes has indicated that it is the families that ranked in the lowest 20% income group before the pandemic, that have experienced the biggest drop in their earnings during the first 6 months of 2020/21, as compared to higher income groups. When assessed against higher income families, lower income households were also found to be twice as likely to have increased their level of debt during the pandemic, to be 50% more likely to be saving less, and to have recorded a higher level of credit card use.

The monitoring and planning approaches in-built into the Year 3 LCPAR and action plan, will provide the means for the Community Planning Partnership to continue to evaluate the lasting social and economic effects of the pandemic on our local communities and our most vulnerable households in order to ensure that we maintain the right actions to address the difficulties they face.

¹ Scottish Government, *Scotland's Wellbeing: The Impact of COVID-19 (December 2020)*

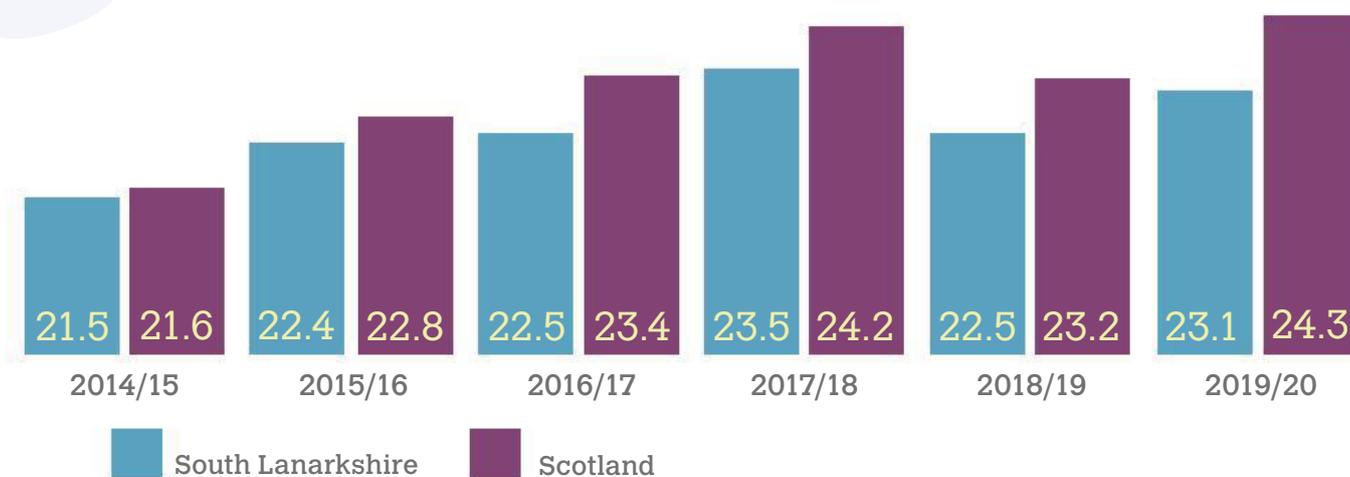
2 The scale of the challenge nationally and locally

Earlier this year the Campaign to End Child Poverty/End Child Poverty Coalition (ECPC) published their latest set of figures (2020) on child poverty in local authorities, which confirmed that relative poverty amongst children in households across the UK has been progressively increasing over the past 10 years². The medium-term effect of the post 2009 economic recession and the corresponding policy response by central government in the form of austerity measures over the succeeding years and reforms to the benefits system, such as the introduction of Universal Credit, can all be evidenced to have contributed incrementally to this growth in poverty levels.

The ECPC publication was based on re-modelling work carried out by Loughborough University and confirmed that estimated rates of child poverty (relative poverty) have been rising across all the local authority areas in Scotland. South Lanarkshire, as with the other 32 council areas, has demonstrated a similar pattern with an overall increase in levels of relative child poverty before housing costs from the baseline year of 2014/15 (see Figure 1 below).

The most recent figure (2020) indicates that just under 13,000 children in South Lanarkshire (23.1%) live in relative poverty once housing costs have been taken into account. This equates to a rise of approximately 1,000 children living in relative poverty in South Lanarkshire during the period 2014/15 to 2019/20.

Figure 1: Percentage of children (0-15 years) living in relative poverty (after housing costs)
Source: Campaign to End Child Poverty/ End Child Poverty Coalition (ECPC)



² Hirsch, H. and Stone, J. *Local Indicators of Child Poverty after Housing Costs 2019/20* (Loughborough University, Centre for Policy Research, May 2021)



**A family is judged to be living in relative poverty if their household income is below 60% of the median average UK household income- this was approximately £24,000 per annum in 2020.*

Although overall child poverty levels in South Lanarkshire have either been in line with, or just below the Scottish average since 2014/15, at the ward level it becomes evident that there is much variance in child poverty rates between different local communities, and that there are pockets where levels of child poverty persist well above the Scottish average. When examining the problem at a neighbourhood level it becomes clear that there is a strong correlation between areas of known multiple deprivation and local child poverty levels.

Results from the most recent publication of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD 2020) suggest that residents (including children under 16) living in the 20% most deprived data zones in South Lanarkshire are three times more likely to experience income deprivation, than residents living out with these areas. While no detailed breakdown of the 2020 relative child poverty figures is available at the SIMD data zone level, analysis of child poverty rates at the ward level indicates that for selected communities in South Lanarkshire, the wards with the highest levels of area deprivation (as recorded in the SIMD 2020), also tend to experience the highest levels of child poverty (see Figure 2 below).

Figure 2: Percentage of children in relative poverty (after housing costs) against number/percentage data zones in SIMD most deprived 20%

Source: End Child Poverty Coalition (ECPC)

Most deprived 5 wards for Child Poverty	Number/ Percentage of data zones in most deprived 20% SIMD 2020 (as % of ward area DZ's)	Percentage of children in relative poverty (CPAG 2019)
Rutherglen Central and North	8 (42%)	29.2%
Larkhall	8 (33%)	27.9%
Blantyre	9 (36%)	27.7%
Hamilton South	9 (30%)	27.4%
Hamilton North and East	5 (26%)	26.8%
Least deprived 5 wards for Child Poverty		
East Kilbride East	1 (5%)	18.3%
Avondale and Stonehouse	1 (4%)	17.8%
East Kilbride Central and South	0 (0%)	17.5%
Bothwell and Uddingston	1 (6%)	13.7%
East Kilbride West	0 (0%)	10.3%
South Lanarkshire	88 (20%)	22.5%

A comparison between the most recent 2019 CECP figures and figures published in 2013 confirm that there has also been relatively little movement in terms of levels of child poverty in selected wards and the wider localities in South Lanarkshire over a 6 year period (see Figure 3 below).

The 2019 data illustrates that the same wards continue to rank as the best and the worst for child poverty across all four locality areas, as they did back in 2013. The local figures also reflect both the national and council level trends referenced previously, that levels of relative poverty amongst children have been increasing to varying degrees across all four locality areas in South Lanarkshire, and in the majority of the council wards in the period leading up to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Figure 3: Percentage of children in relative poverty by ward (after housing costs) – Change 2013 to 2019

Source: Campaign to End Child Poverty (CECP)

Locality/Ward area and year	2013	2019	Change 2013-2019
Hamilton	21.2%	24.8%	+3.6%
Most deprived ward (Larkhall)	26.5%	27.9%	+1.4%
Least deprived ward (Bothwell/Uddingston)	12.8%	13.7%	+0.9%
East Kilbride	17.7%	18.3%	+0.6%
Most deprived ward (East Kilbride South)	24.8%	25.5%	+0.7%
Least deprived ward (East Kilbride West)	8.6%	10.3%	+1.7%
Rutherglen/Cambuslang	21.3%	25.3%	+4.0%
Most deprived ward (Rutherglen Central and North)	26.4%	29.2%	+2.8%
Least deprived ward (Cambuslang West)	17.5%	20.7%	+3.2%
Clydesdale	20.4%	22.4%	+2.0%
Most deprived ward (Clydesdale South)	25.0%	25.1%	+0.1%
Least deprived ward (Clydesdale West)	22.1%	20.6%	-1.5%

South Lanarkshire average

2013 20.4% 2019 22.5% Change +2.1%

It is also clear that levels of child poverty differ according to social/ demographic variables, such as the type and size of households or the employment status of parents. Regular analysis by the Scottish Government confirms that household characteristics such as the size of the family, age of parents, whether one or both parents are in employment, families with disabled members and the ethnicity of families are all major determinates of child poverty. The latest detailed statistics published by the Scottish Government (Scottish Government, Income and Inequality Statistics 2017-20 (see Figure 4 opposite) suggests that children in households headed by a lone parent, ethnic minority households and households where parents are in part-time employment, are more than a third more likely to experience poverty than the Scottish average.



For other household types, such as where a mother is under the age of 25, or where no adult in the household is in paid employment, the chances of child poverty is two or three times greater than the Scottish average. As with overall levels of child poverty, levels of poverty for children living in these more vulnerable groups has been getting worse in the years running up to 2020.

Figure 4: Child poverty rates amongst selected priority groups

Source: Scottish Government, Income and Inequality Statistics 2017-20

Priority Group	% children in relative poverty 2015-2018	% children in relative poverty 2016-2019	% children in relative poverty 2017-2020
Lone parent households	40%	38%	38%
Households with a disabled person (either or both adult/ child)	30%	30%	29%
Large families with 3+ children	32%	30%	32%
Minority ethnic families	n/a	n/a	38%
Youngest child aged under 1 year	32%	31%	34%
Mothers aged under 25	55%	n/a	n/a
One or both parents in part-time employment only	38%	37%	41%
One parent only in full-time work	33%	35%	37%
No one in household in paid work	63%	63%	61%
Housing tenure: Rented from a LA or HA	45%	46%	47%
Housing tenure: Rented privately	43%	41%	40%

Scottish average – relative poverty (children in all household types)

2015-2018 24% 2016-2019 23% 2017-2020 24%

More detailed analysis of the latest Income and Inequality figures (2017-20) suggests that more than two thirds (68%) of children living in poverty in Scotland live in families where at least one household member is in paid employment, has seen an increase of 3% over the previous year's figures (2016-19)³. While almost half of parents with disabilities (49%) that have a child living in poverty are recorded as having a mental health condition⁴.

³ Scottish Government analysis of the Family Resources Survey, Households Below Average Incomes dataset, 2020

⁴ Scottish Government, Additional Child Poverty analysis, Disability dataset, 2021

COVID-19 Impact

It is hard to predict the social and economic effects of COVID-19, but it can be presumed that the pandemic will continue to accelerate the long-term trend of rising child poverty levels into the future. Research carried out by the Institute of Public Policy Research (IPPR) in June 2020⁵ predicted that the COVID-19 crisis had the potential to increase the number of children living in poverty in the UK by between 100,000 to 300,000 by the end of 2020. Projecting forward this would increase the overall total for children living in relative poverty across the UK to over 4 million within the next few years. If the IPPR predictions are correct, then it can be expected that there is going to be an extra 500 to 1,500 children in South Lanarkshire moving into poverty over and above current (2020) numbers in the immediate future.

Recent expenditure commitments introduced by the Scottish Government, such as the introduction of targeted child payments, and a pledge to increase the level of these payments⁶, will help address some of the worst economic effects from the COVID-19 crisis on poverty levels in the short term. Other spending interventions made by local and central government (both Scottish and UK) over the past 12 to 18 months will also have slowed the trend of overall rises in child poverty levels during this period. The early evidence suggests that actions such as increasing access to benefits e.g. removing conditionality around Universal Credit claims, expanding Free School Meals provision and introducing COVID related hardship payments has helped hard pressed families to some extent. The introduction of new Social Security Scotland benefits (e.g. the Scottish Child Payment), temporary changes to housing legislation (such as banning enforced evictions) and the extension of employment furlough schemes and support payments to businesses, have all made a positive contribution in terms of alleviating difficulties.

Although some of the new innovations and policy around child poverty are intended to be permanent (extension of Free School Meals, the new Scottish Child Payment etc), it is also recognised that many of the government commitments made over the past 18 months are temporary measures, and it is expected that many will be discontinued during 2021/22. There is concern that the ambitious child poverty targets set by the Scottish Government for the end of the decade will be missed without sustained and targeted increases in public spending^{7 8}. With this in mind the 2021/22 South Lanarkshire LCPAR has been developed in the recognition that the scope and influence of the plan is limited to activity under the control of the council and other CPP partners at the time of writing. The actions that have been included in the plan and the targets that have been set for 2021/22 have been devised on the understanding that both must be realistic and deliverable at the local level taking into account the expected levels of funding available.

⁵ Parkes, H and McNeil, C, *Estimating the Impact of Coronavirus, Microsimulation Estimates* (Institute of Public Policy Research, June 2020)

⁶ Scottish Government, *Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan, 3rd Year progress report 2020/21* (June 2021)

⁷ McKendrick, J. et al *Poverty in Scotland 2021- Towards a 2030 without Poverty* (Child Poverty Action Group, June 2021)

⁸ Child Poverty Action Group in Scotland *Programme for Scottish Government: 2021-26* (June 2021)

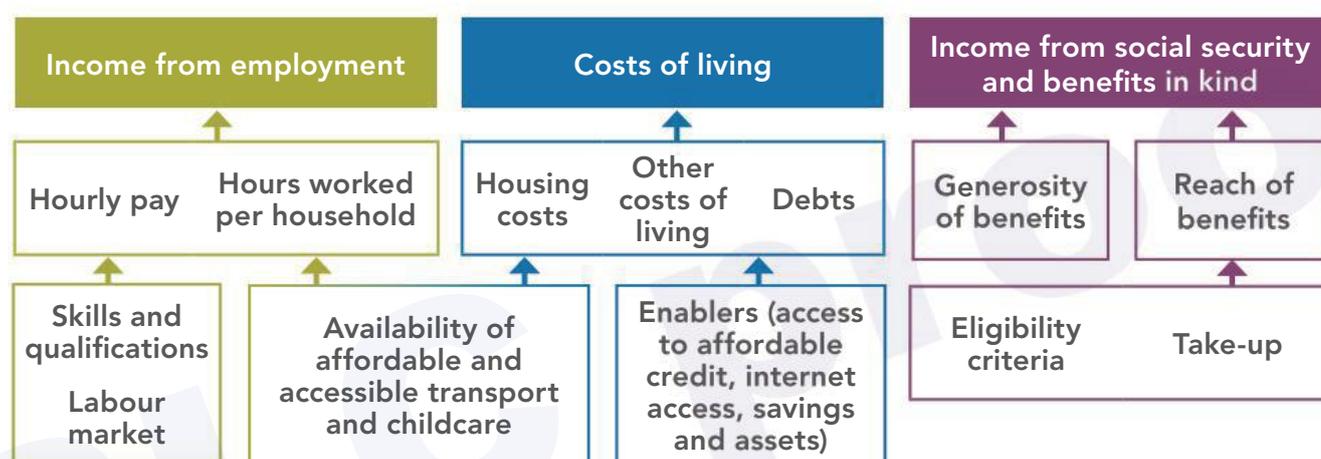


3 Scope of the plan and links to others

The Scottish Government, working with a range of national bodies has provided direction and guidance to ensure that both the National Delivery Plan and Local Child Poverty Action Reports are suitably focussed on policies and activity that evidence shows are most likely to reduce the number of children living in poverty.

This report therefore continues to focus on the three key drivers of child poverty shown in Figure 5. In simple terms the things we need to do to put or keep more money in the pockets of low-income families struggling to make ends meet.

Figure 5: Drivers of child poverty



It is important to note that tackling child poverty is not a new priority for the South Lanarkshire Community Planning Partnership and partnership improvement plans have included actions to tackle the causes and impacts of poverty over many years.

In 2018 the Board decided that tackling poverty and inequality would become its single overarching objective within the new community plan (Local Outcome Improvement Plan) for South Lanarkshire 2017- 2027 in line with the Community Empowerment Act 2015. This coincided with the statutory duty on local authorities and local NHS boards contained in the Child Poverty Scotland Act 2017, to produce Local Child Poverty Action Reports.

While this report will focus on the three key drivers above, our Community Plan, Children’s Services Plan, Health and Social Care Strategic Commissioning Plan and other partnership plans all contain a wider set of priorities and actions to prevent and mitigate the impacts of poverty on children and families. *(Links to these documents are provided in Appendix 2).*

These actions, including early intervention activity, often from pregnancy and the early years of a child’s life, will lessen their chances of experiencing poverty. Working with families to support early child development and enable all our children and young people to achieve their full potential in and beyond school and within their adult lives is central to this prevention and early support philosophy.

The Fairer Scotland Duty (part 1 of the Equality Act 2010) came into force in April 2018 and places a legal responsibility on public bodies to pay due regard to how they can reduce inequalities of outcome, caused by socio-economic disadvantage when making strategic decisions. The work outlined within this report will be an integral part of South Lanarkshire Council and NHS Lanarkshire’s contribution to achieving an equality of outcomes for our residents.

4 Governance and reporting arrangements

The governance structure shown in Figure 6 highlights how the South Lanarkshire Community Planning Partnership has overall accountability for this report through a hierarchy of relationships to associated groups. The role of the Community Planning Partnership is to provide strategic leadership for the development of the LCPAR and to co-ordinate the delivery of the improvement actions. It also seeks to ensure wider scrutiny amongst the related partnerships maximising buy-in.

A Child Poverty Lead Officer Group was established in 2019 to share experience around child poverty issues between partners and to identify where working together can maximise positive outcomes for families, as well as practically manage the development of the annual action plan and report. The breadth of knowledge and capacity brought by the Lead Officer Group can be evidenced in the content and of this report and action plan. Despite the continuing challenges posed by the pandemic over the last year, the group has met regularly and is well integrated into the relevant community planning partnership thematic boards.

The Lead Officer Group will lead on the ongoing monitoring of the progress of the LCPAR, including identifying and addressing areas that have not progressed as planned.

An annual progress report will be presented to the Getting it Right for South Lanarkshire’s Children Partnership Board and to the Community Planning Partnership Board, as well as key CPP partner organisations such as the NHS Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership.

Figure 6: Governance structure around tackling child poverty



5 Using local data to shape our plans

The LCPAR is informed by the use of available data and a data profile for South Lanarkshire has been produced that incorporates many recommended national indicators (where data is available locally) and this has been included as an appendix (*Appendix 1*).

The COVID-19 pandemic has further highlighted the difficulties of placing too much reliance on data (both local and national) to give an indication child poverty levels locally, and the effectiveness of actions and measures in the plan designed to tackle these. The publication of several national surveys and datasets aimed at quantifying levels of household poverty/ child poverty (e.g. Family Resources Survey) have been curtailed due to COVID-19 restrictions. At a council level too, several of our actions and measures outlined in the plan for 2020/21 based on data from local programmes have been difficult to report against due to temporary service closures, a lack of activity, or having to adopt alternative methods of delivery due to COVID-19 restrictions.

The volume of research published over the last 18 months on the impact of COVID-19 on child poverty highlights the rapidly changing environment and the need for LCPAR's to take better account of new emergent themes in child poverty, some of which did not exist prior to the pandemic. Given the recognised limitations with established data sources, it is intended that the South Lanarkshire LCPAR for year three will be a transitional plan in the deployment of data, taking a more selective approach to the use of measures based on local programmes and project activity. Careful consideration has been taken to ensure that the measures included in the 2021/22 plan are robust and take account of potential COVID-19 impacts. Priority has also been given in the year three plan to include actions and measures that are intended to increase step change activity and to promote further joint working amongst partners and services.

We continue to use of the three-step improvement framework to plan and evaluate our work and recognise that all relevant partners need to be involved in the improvement activity. We will make sure our workforce has the relevant skills and knowledge to enable them to make best use of data and other evidence around child poverty, in order to allow the planning and delivery of interventions that guarantees the best possible outcomes for South Lanarkshire's families.

We will also continue to work to improve our gathering and understanding of poverty data at lower geographies/ neighbourhood levels and to increase the voice of those with lived experience of poverty in the development of future reports and plans.

Looking further ahead to year four of our LCPAR (2022/23), we intend to focus more on step change and improvement led activity. As part of this approach, we will make greater use of lived experience evidence to agree future priorities and consider new methods for testing and evaluating activity. Locally derived data will be essential to this planning and will complement strategically and nationally held data. Some of this work will be specific to the child poverty plan. However, some will be embedded in the engagement activity around our Children's Services Plan, or part of our broader work with communities to refresh our Community Plan. We plan to make better use of local survey data that already exists and consider new approaches to the collection and use of qualitative data from consultations with children and young people, e.g. such as participatory budgeting in schools.

Our research task group will make a valuable contribution in helping us understand emerging themes in child poverty and to compare and contrast national evidence with local intelligence.

6 Workforce development

The Independent Advisor on Poverty and Inequality to the Scottish Government recommends that

public service delivery should be respectful, person-centred and preserve the dignity of people in poverty. Pre-employment and in-service training should include the importance of avoiding stigma and developing understanding of the challenges of living on a very low income.

Our overarching objective to tackle poverty, deprivation and inequality includes a commitment to ensuring our services meet this recommendation. Our greatest resource is our workforce, and we are committed to making sure they have the knowledge, awareness and skills they need to deliver services competently and confidently to support our most vulnerable families.

This year we have, in addition to our usual campaigns and ongoing training, we have encouraged staff across the partnership to undertake the Public Health Scotland modules on child poverty awareness which are available online. We have used social media to spread information about the work being undertaken locally and the themes which impact upon child poverty. We have also been involved in the Challenge Poverty Week campaign, raising staff awareness through internal emails, intranet posts from partners and making use of our communications channels to post news stories to a wider audience in South Lanarkshire.

We continue to the Promote the Poverty Alliance's "Stick Your Labels" campaign as widely as we can, encouraging partners to commit to the three pledges:

Poverty is not inevitable:

It is a problem of political choices. It is neither natural nor acceptable.

We all have a role to play in addressing poverty:

We will set out our contribution to tackling poverty in Scotland.

Attitudes matter:

How we talk about poverty and how we portray it can stigmatise and harm people:

We will never use language that might stigmatise people experiencing poverty.

Actions change attitudes:

To change beliefs about poverty requires action across our whole society:

We will develop actions that help address negative attitudes towards people experiencing poverty.

We also continue to promote our bespoke online poverty awareness and tackling stigma training to partners and staff, to further build their understanding and commitment.

To increase our shared understanding of the child poverty landscape, we have established a task group who will analyse and summarise ongoing research and intelligence as well as good practice around child poverty and produce a summary of findings to inform our decision making and planning. This is an ongoing piece of work which alongside developing improvement work is a priority for us in the coming year.



7 Area based approaches to Neighbourhood Planning

As referred to in section two, there are communities and neighbourhoods in South Lanarkshire where local levels of poverty are significantly higher than others.

In response to the duty in the Community Empowerment Act placed on Community Planning Partnerships back in 2017 our partnership agreed to establish a new Neighbourhood Planning approach to develop locality plans for areas where outcomes and life chances are judged to be poorest.

To date (as of June 2021) we have neighbourhood planning activity under way in nine of our communities, with seven of these having produced their own plans based on robust consultation with local residents. Critical to our neighbourhood planning approach, is the ability to bring together local people who understand what it feels like to live in poverty, with partners who can facilitate new and innovative types of intervention and services to improve the lives of everyone living there. This work is centred around the idea of helping communities to build on the activities which they themselves have told us that they already value, along with promoting new ways of engagement in order to identify and develop supports tailored to the actual needs and priorities expressed by local residents. The shared priorities which we have identified across our neighbourhood planning areas are reflected in the content of the LCPAR and have also been used to help us develop our strategic vision going forward.

In addition, other communities across South Lanarkshire are being supported by a range of partners to develop local place plans. We are confident that these community led processes will lead to improvements at a local level, that will add value to our activity to address child poverty as articulated through this report.

South Lanarkshire Council and the Health and Social Care Partnership, along with a number of voluntary sector partners have invested significant resources in support to communities e.g., via the Integrated Care Fund (administered via VASLan), community led support in Clydesdale and building and celebrating communities.

All of this reflects our ongoing commitment to change the way we talk and listen with our communities, and to resource them to make the changes needed for themselves, as well as to deliver the best quality services where these are needed to help lift people out of poverty.

8 Our Local Child Poverty Progress Report 2020/21 and Action Plan for 2021/22

This section highlights the range of activity that has taken place in South Lanarkshire to support families and help drive improvements in their ability to manage financially, especially in helping to cope with the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The section is organised around the three main drivers of:

- Income from benefits and entitlements
- Cost of living and
- Income from employability

Chapter 1

Taking action to increase income from benefits and entitlements

Why is this work important?

Financial wellbeing impacts on all aspects of family life including our general health, wellbeing and it can affect the choices and opportunities our children and young people have to thrive. While households assets are not purely material and comprise much more than financial income, maximising incomes for families is essential for achieving best possible outcomes for children and young people.

Our aim is to improve financial wellbeing in particular for those who are financially vulnerable, by focusing on maximising low income households through access, awareness and uptake of welfare benefits and entitlements.



Maximising the income coming into households with children is key to tackling child poverty, including money management, tackling debt, saving and affordable borrowing options, reducing costs including fuel bills; and supporting financial know-how from school onwards. Given the rising levels of in-work poverty, both families in and out of work require welfare benefits to provide an adequate standard of living. Partner actions require a focus on reducing the gap between those entitled to welfare support and the uptake levels. A key aspect of this activity is through raising awareness of entitlements and supporting access to effective support and services.

Welfare Reform has had a negative impact for many families in South Lanarkshire with significant numbers seeing a reduction in welfare support through the benefit cap, benefit sanctions and other changes. Social security changes are affecting the wellbeing of children, families and the communities that support them. This is further compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic.

A Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG) report (July 2020) concentrates on the impact of COVID on families living in Scotland and highlights that many families are struggling financially due to inadequate support from the social security system. This includes impact as a result of the benefit cap, tax credits awards stopping when a claim was made for universal credit (UC) to which the family were then not entitled or were entitled to less money. Other negative impacts reported include no longer receiving benefits for 16 and 17 year olds who had left education, but who could not move into work or claim benefits in their own right, parents being unable to work while schools and childcare providers were closed and in some cases being asked to pay to retain a childcare place.

Research by Save the Children and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation shows that seven in 10 families surveyed in Scotland about the impact of COVID-19 have had to cut back on food and other essentials. In addition, 51% of families have fallen behind on rent or other household bills, 55% of families on Universal Credit or Child Tax Credit in Scotland have been pushed to borrow money – with many relying on expensive forms of credit and four in 10 people claiming Universal Credit took an advance which needs to be repaid.

Save the Children research focused on **experience of low income families with children aged 0 to 6 years in Scotland**. Many parents reported the pandemic as a 'tipping point' having already been in a precarious financial situation, with financial worries often exacerbated by inadequate or gaps in support. Parental wellbeing has suffered due to increased anxiety around money worries, sacrifices made and loss of support networks.

Analysis by Welfare at a Social Distance estimates that around **430,000 to 560,000 people in the UK, who were eligible for Universal Credit** at the start of the pandemic did not claim it. Some were aware that they were eligible but did not claim, some did not want to claim because of perceived hassle, while others did not apply because of stigma.

Analysis by Covid Realities has identified that for England between 2013-2020 there was a **rise in antidepressant prescribing linked with more people claiming Universal Credit (UC)**. For every 1% increase in people claiming UC, there is around a 5.6% increase in antidepressant prescriptions.

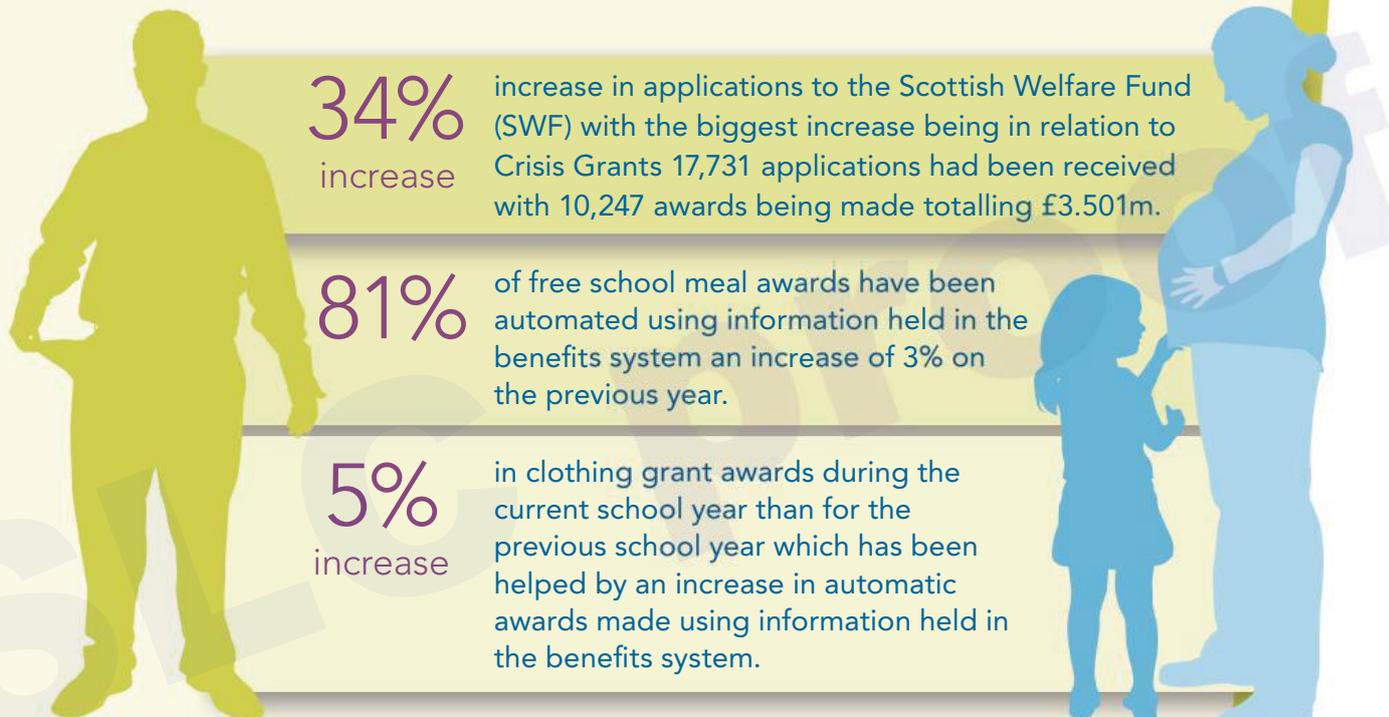
Where are we now?

There is no doubt that over the last year COVID-19 has increased further the risk of even greater inequality it is essential that we continue to target our resources as best we can to build on the progress made so far by our child poverty action report.

Uptake in benefits

Partners have worked hard to support families access the benefits they are entitled to. These include Free School Meals, Discretionary Housing Payments and Fuel Payments and Winter/Spring Payments.

As a result, we have seen a general increase in income for many families e.g.



34%
increase

increase in applications to the Scottish Welfare Fund (SWF) with the biggest increase being in relation to Crisis Grants 17,731 applications had been received with 10,247 awards being made totalling £3.501m.

81%

of free school meal awards have been automated using information held in the benefits system an increase of 3% on the previous year.

5%
increase

in clothing grant awards during the current school year than for the previous school year which has been helped by an increase in automatic awards made using information held in the benefits system.

The Citizen's Advice Bureau continue to offer financial health checks with a focus on targeting families. Over the past year 113 financial health checks (for families with children) have been carried out by CABs across South Lanarkshire, which is an increase from 85 in 19/20. In addition 967 families have been given advice about their benefits. The CABs remained open throughout the pandemic and had to move quickly from predominantly face to face services to mainly telephone and email based advice with as little disruption as possible. They have continued to offer face to face advice for the most vulnerable, in line with Scottish Government guidelines. CABs found that they had contact from many families who had never used the service before and found themselves having to negotiate a benefits system that they had never had to use before.



COVID-19 has had a massive impact on face-to-face services making it challenging to support families in the local community. CABs continued to offer phone advice to those that would have attended in person making good use of strong partnership connections and referral pathways to ensure families continued to receive advice support in these most difficult and challenging times. A total of 961 clients have been referred with a total of £447,205 benefits awarded.

People asking for support from CABs presented with a wider range of issues than prior to pandemic. These included employment issues relating to shielding and self-isolation and carers rights. Financial assistance through foodbank referrals and help to pay for utilities all increased significantly. Family and relationship matters also increased including support following bereavement due to COVID-19, domestic abuse and difficulty in understanding COVID-19 guidance.

In NHS Lanarkshire a 'Routine Enquiry' approach to supporting people is embedded into practice in Midwifery and Health Visiting services. During COVID-19 there has been a reduction in the number of face-to-face contact with families over the last year. However routine enquiry has remained a key part of support offered and overall, small increases have been recorded.

70 families have been supported through the Royal Hospital for Children in Glasgow with a total financial gain of **£205,853**. The hospital has seen fewer families than last year due to reduced routine appointments and admissions due to COVID-19 restrictions.

A Community Link Worker programme is currently being developed for South Lanarkshire as part of the Primary Care Improvement Plan and the first group of staff started in January this year. Staff provide support patients through GP surgeries, enabling them to identify and access relevant resources or services in their community. To support this work a Financial Wellbeing Pathway has been put in place for referrals in collaboration with CABs and Money Matters Advice Service. This pathway commenced 1st April 2021 and will run for 2 years as part of a pilot phase allowing patients to be referred to financial advice services, or for those patients who might be at risk of homelessness to housing and financial support.

Health Improvement staff have been working with third sector organisations to build sustainable financial inclusion pathways into their local Covid-19 response and increased numbers of NHS staff have been signposting to the wellbeing helpline to support patients access crisis support for food and other financial support. The Test and Protect team have been highlighting financial supports available to people who are required to self-isolate and signposting to local services and pathways.



The Money Matters Advice Line has supported 834 families, slightly lower than last year due to restrictions and reduced face to face contact. However, this support has resulted in increased benefits of £2,163,673.93 for South Lanarkshire families e.g. more families accessing grants and Universal Credit for first time due to job loss and a huge increase in fuel poverty, where families have been supported to access charity and grants to help heat their homes.

In addition to increased benefits there have been increased applications for food banks and fuel vouchers due to families all being at home and using more energy and food.

Social Security Scotland staff have supported claimants to benefit from a range of benefits including Best Start grants, Young Carers grants, Carers Allowance, Scottish Child Payment and Child Winter Heating Assistance totalling over £13.7m and providing much needed income for vulnerable families helping to reduce stress and monies worries especially when children are young and making sure that families have an increased awareness and understanding of the benefit system and available benefits. The Scottish Child Payment was made available from February 2021 and is accessible to families on low incomes with children under 6 an extra £10 per week for each child. It is planned to be extended to children under the age of 16 by the end of this year.

Free School Meals

Pupils eligible to free school meals have been entitled to £3 per day with payments made on a fortnightly basis during both school closure and holiday periods. Approximately 9,300 pupils have benefitted from this support and additionally pupils who were self-isolated or shielded also received one-off payment of £30 to cover the cost of lunch from November 2020.

Workforce development and support to staff

An important aspect of our strategy is to ensure that our workforce is knowledgeable, informed and confident about providing the best possible support and accurate information to families. With this in mind we have worked hard to provide extra support and training to staff as we aspire towards best practice for families.

Money Matters Advice Service provide bespoke training for staff however, training events were put on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic the exception being Social Care training. New training opportunities are being planned and will be delivered over the next year including a presentation for school staff to raise awareness of how services can assist families and will feature any new benefit changes e.g., the introduction of the new Scottish Disability benefits.

Social Security Scotland delivered several targeted staff sessions to continue to raise awareness of the new agency and associated benefits and are now part of the network within South Lanarkshire and continue to raise general awareness and engage across a wide range of stakeholders to deliver information on current and future benefits. This includes South Lanarkshire Council services staff, Money Matters, CAB, VASLAN, NHS Lanarkshire, the Health and Social Care Partnership and numerous third sector organisations.

The following case studies help show where our working together has helped deliver positive outcomes for children and families.



South Lanarkshire case studies

Case study one

A client had just received his Universal Credit, but advised that by the time he had paid his bills he only had £50 left for the next two weeks. The client was paid twice per month and also had his housing element paid directly to the landlord. He was paying extra rent separately because he lived in a 2-bedroom property and therefore had a £50 per month shortfall. The client was paying £30 every time he received his Universal Credit, twice per month to cover this.

CAB advised the client that as he had a rent shortfall and that he could apply for discretionary housing payment. As the client was unable to do this online CAB helped with the application and carried out a benefit check to help work out the shortfall. CAB also made a foodbank referral for client and advised of the possibility of a crisis grant. However, the client didn't feel he was in a crisis, just struggling to make ends meet. CAB also made a referral to Home Energy Scotland for a fuel voucher.

Case study two

James is 19 years old single and had experienced trauma in childhood due to difficult relationships with his parents. Because of this he was unable to live at the family home. He has mental and emotional health problems and is subject to frequent spells of overwhelming distress. The only family member that he relied on for support is his grandmother. He is a tenant in single person accommodation, organised with Social Work support and has claimed Universal Credit and gets help with housing costs. His school years were frequently interrupted, and he was referred to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services for ongoing support.

Since leaving school he has been referred for psychotherapy and is currently receiving two counselling sessions a week. James was advised by his psychotherapist that he may qualify for Personal Independence Payment due to the severity of his mental health problems and the significant impact they have on his quality of life. James also lacks motivation due to depression relating to his traumatic childhood. In addition, he has little experience of supporting himself and it is likely that he will continue to need support from both mental health and advice services, if he is to maintain himself independently. James had been advised by Community Mental Health to seek advice and assistance with his benefit claims.

CAB were able to support James with regard to his Universal Credit claim and he has been given assistance to complete and submit a Work Capability Questionnaire and apply for a Personal Independence Payment. As James is well supported by the Community Mental Health Team and his GP, they have provided supporting evidence for his Universal Credit and Personal Independence Payment claim.

South Lanarkshire case studies

James was advised of the help and ongoing support that he can receive through CAB and being allocated to a caseworker from the Health and Welfare Advice Team is an example of the bespoke support CAB can offer.

Looking forward, as James is a vulnerable adult, he will continue to benefit from ongoing casework to support him in living independently. While he is reluctant leave his home unless he is accompanied by his grandmother whom he trusts, James is happy to accept CAB's help to support him to remain in his tenancy.

Case study three

The focus of the case study is a family with three children aged ten, eight and three months, The mother was on statutory maternity leave and getting £151.97 per week, claiming Child benefit for 3 children of £48.95 per week. As the father was working full time, they received no benefits in place as income too high. However, as a result of COVID-19 the father lost his job and was unable to secure alternative work.

A health visitor passed on their details to Money Matters Advice Service as a result of a routine enquiry as the family were unaware of available benefits to apply for. The family had mortgage worries, bills to pay and were concerned about how to feed the family. Money Matters Advice Service contacted the family by phone who were very worried and anxious. They were advised to make a claim for Universal Credit for the family and Job seeker allowance for the father.

Money Matters helped the family to make claims for Universal Credit and a council tax rebate, an application for a Best Start grant and a Scottish Child payment. The family were advised to speak to their mortgage provider to get payment holiday, which provided some temporary relief and their utility provider to temporarily reduce payments.

By phoning the family and building trust with them, Money Matters were able to maximize their income allowing them to their bills and feed the family. In addition, Money Matters were able to get vouchers for Asda from a charity as they were not entitled to any free school meals and they were struggling with food and baby milk. Providing this crucial support and listening to the family at a difficult time meant Money Matters were able to advise what best suited the family and how best they could support them.

Ongoing phone calls with the family make sure that they are getting all the benefits they are entitled to and that the children are financially supported, bills are paid and the family fed. Money Matters report 'the father is very grateful for the help and support that we have given him at this difficult time and he says if he ever gets to meet me he will give me a big hug, or elbow!



Key challenges for 2021/22

Going forward it is essential that partners are aware of new benefits being launched for families, including the Child Disability Payment due to be launched in the Autumn as a replacement for Disability Living Allowance for Children. Also the Scottish Child Payment, which was made available to low income families with children under six from February 2021 will be extended to children under the age of 16 by the end of this year.

To support these changes Social Security Scotland will launch its local delivery service nationally, including in South Lanarkshire. From autumn 2021, support and advice will be available on 11 Social Security Scotland administered benefits face-to-face at a location in local communities. Social Security Scotland will also continue to offer support sessions for partners as new and devolved benefits are rolled out, ensuring awareness and encouraging uptake.

In addition, as almost all training and events were put on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the exception being Social Care training. Money Matters Advice Service will develop a strategy to safely resume training and deliver events to support partners in their knowledge about benefits and entitlements and any changes. This may have to be on different platforms such as MS Teams, or increasing the number of webinars available.

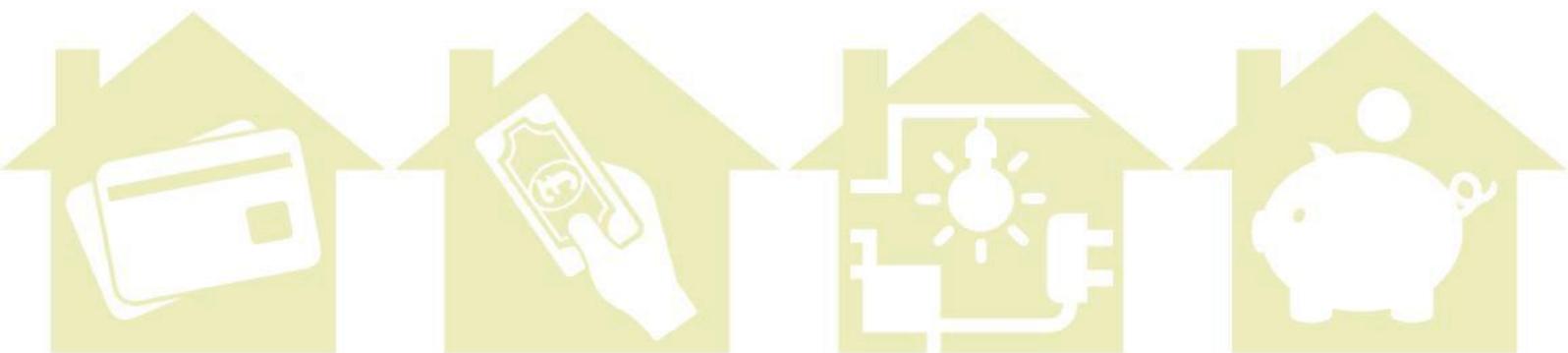


Table 1: Actions and measures: what will we do in 2021/22?

Change required	Action	Measure(s)	Baseline 2019/20 (unless otherwise stated)	Target 2021/22	Resources allocated 2021/22	Lead Officer/ Reporting Officer	Who will benefit	
1.1 Increase the uptake of benefits and entitlements.	Deliver the Scottish Government funded financial health check to families via CAB.	Number of financial health checks delivered	280	Continue to target families and increase the number of FHC offered to this target group	Rutherglen CAB £13,004 EK/ Hamilton/ Clydesdale Funding allocation TBC in Oct 2021	Jennifer Howdle CABs consolidated monitoring spreadsheet	Low income families	
		Number of families with children receiving benefits advice	85	Continue to target families with children and increase the number receiving benefits advice				
	Midwives and Health Visitors will deliver a routine enquiry on financial wellbeing of families at key pregnancy and health visiting assessment visits and refer to Money Matters.	Percentage of routine enquiries by midwives	76%	80%		£20k NHS Lanarkshire	Vivian Boxall	Low income families
		Percentage of routine enquiries by health visitors	91.5% across all age groups	92% across all age groups				
Monitor the impacts of COVID-19 and adapt Money Matters Advice Service as needed.	Percentage of and number of families engaging		1,005/77%	Maintain above 70%	£90k SLC MMAS	Angela Martin	Low income families	
		Total amount of benefits awarded	£2,590,075	Maintain above £2,000,000				



Change required	Action	Measure(s)	Baseline 2019/20 (unless otherwise stated)	Target 2021/22	Resources allocated 2021/22	Lead Officer/ Reporting Officer	Who will benefit	
1.1 Increase the uptake of benefits and entitlements (continued).	CABs will deliver health and welfare advice services in hospital and community health settings.	Number of referrals to CAB Health and Wellbeing Hubs	816	Continue to promote the HWA service amongst health professionals and encourage referrals	£42k Rutherglen CAB £100k Hamilton CAB £5k NHS Lanarkshire (RHC)	Jennifer Howdle Sharon Hampson	Low income families	
		Total benefits awarded	£775,570	Continue to maximise income to ensure households are receiving everything they are entitled to		Alana McGlynn		
	Social Security Scotland will continue to raise awareness and promote uptake of the Scottish Child Payment among staff and clients.	Number of referrals to the Royal Hospital for Children	323 (Lanarkshire figure)	Target not applicable, services are demand led	Target not applicable, services are demand led			
		Total benefits awarded	£270,271 *Pan Lanarkshire figure	Target not applicable, services are demand led	Target not applicable, services are demand led			
		Total Scottish Child Payments		New benefit, no baseline at 2019/20	New benefit, target to be established during 2021/22	Existing resources	Fiona McCormack	Low income families
		Total amount of benefits awarded (Scottish Child Payment)		New benefit, no baseline at 2019/20 or 2020/21	No target applicable, figure is a cumulative total and will continually increase			

Change required	Action	Measure(s)	Baseline 2019/20 (unless otherwise stated)	Target 2021/22	Resources allocated 2021/22	Lead Officer/ Reporting Officer	Who will benefit
1.1 Increase the uptake of benefits and entitlements (continued).	The NHS Lanarkshire GP Community Link Worker Financial Wellbeing Advice Service will provide support to families referred by GPs.	Number of new referrals made to Financial Wellbeing Providers (FWAs)	New programme, no baseline at 2019/20 or 2020/21	New programme, target to be established during 2020/21	NHSL £212k £42k over 3 years from NHSL	Alana McGlynn Carla Maxwell	Low income families
		Number of people who engage with a Financial Wellbeing Advisor appointment					
		Financial gain following engagement with Financial Wellbeing Assessment					
	Money Matters Advice Service will deliver financial outreach support to parents through a video developed to be used with schools.	Number of schools using the video	New programme, no baseline at 2019/20 or 2020/21	9 schools	Existing resources	Angela Martin	Low income families
		Number of enquiries made to MMAS		New programme, target to be established during 2021/22			
		Total financial gain for families		New programme, target to be established during 2021/22			



Change required	Action	Measure(s)	Baseline 2019/20 (unless otherwise stated)	Target 2021/22	Resources allocated 2021/22	Lead Officer/ Reporting Officer	Who will benefit
1.2. Families are more aware of changes in available benefits.	Partners will distribute updated benefit information to staff and families using a range of communication methods and social media platforms.	Number of Best Start Grant applications and percentage approved	6470/67% (June 2020)	Increase percentage of applications approved	Existing resources	Fiona McCormack	Low income families
		Total Best Start Grant benefits awarded	£1,244,950 (June 2020)	No target applicable, figure is a cumulative total and will continually increase			
		Total Best Start Foods benefits awarded	£52,339 (June 2020)	No target applicable, figure is a cumulative total and will continually increase			

Chapter 2

Taking action to reduce the cost of living

Why is this work important?

Rising living costs pose a very significant challenge to many of our families. We know from our front-line staff and volunteers that some families are having to make hard choices about how to make very limited household income stretch to cover the costs of running a home, as well as feeding and clothing their children.

Families can very quickly move into poverty, or severe financial hardship through a change of circumstance, unexpected costs or issues relating to benefits, or income. Getting support as early as possible is crucial to minimising the financial and wider impacts for families. The Scottish Welfare Fund is a key source of support for families in these circumstances as are pathways into welfare advice from a range of settings including from health.

Cost of Living factors impacting on families with children include rent, council tax, gas and electricity, food and clothing, school costs and a range of other demands that impact on the money families have to live on.

Whilst impacting on every family in the country, COVID-19 is likely to have a particular damaging impact on those children and young people already living in poverty. It is likely that financial pressures will rise and low-income families already struggling to budget for unexpected expenses will be hardest hit by the increase in cost of living. Families will have children at home more often and earnings for some parents are likely to decrease. Families will have had to increase their use of technology e.g. for schooling, accessing appointments, which they may have had to (partially) self-fund. This means many families are struggling with the cost of food and other household essentials. The end to the furlough scheme, potential job losses, the impacts on families that have had to shield, and the end of protection from evictions from private rental, will cause further negative impacts to families at an already precarious time.

Reports from Food banks show families requiring emergency food aid, but who can't afford the fuel bills to cook the food. Since the beginning of the pandemic, the number of people requiring food support has increased due to a range of circumstances such as changes in financial situation, self-isolation or limited availability of the support system with people being ill or having to self-isolate. Data collected from food banks in South Lanarkshire show that 27,750 households or 50,565 people were referred to receive emergency food provision from April 2020 to March 2021. The number of food parcels distributed by food banks has increased by 93.4% compared to last year. In total, 16,133 children have received food from food banks in South Lanarkshire and this represents a 171% increase compared to the previous year.



Furthermore, the mental health and emotional wellbeing of parents and children will be affected with increased isolation and uncertain short to medium term support from statutory and community organisations, who are experiencing a loss of income from reduced fundraising, disrupted support services to vulnerable families and support only available via telephone or online.

Evidence shows that people living in Households in poverty are more likely to smoke and smoke a larger amounts, consuming a significant portion of family's income. On average someone who smokes ten cigarettes per day will spend at least £28 per week, which is £120 per month, which is £1460 per year (NHS Inform, calculator). This places an additional burden on household budgets and smoking is associated with almost every indicator of deprivation or marginalisation and a direct contributor to financial deprivation.

A report by Alcohol Focus Scotland suggested that 29% of Scotland are drinking more than before lockdown, however the same proportion have reported a reduction in how often they drink or have stopped altogether. Worryingly high purchasing low-income homes did not seem to change their habit. There is evidence of the "alcohol harm paradox" in Scotland, whereby people in higher poverty areas report consuming less alcohol than those in low poverty areas experience greater levels of harm. This suggests that those in higher poverty areas who do drink, consume considerably more than those in lower poverty areas.

The Scottish Health Survey highlights that it is not yet clear how Covid-19 will have impacted on alcohol sales and further studies are being undertaken, however early evidence suggests that there was an increase in alcohol consumption with the highest increase in the over 75 age groups and younger adults increased the number of days they drank leading to a greater portion of the household budget being used on alcohol.

Where are we now?

Early years childcare

During the recent COVID-19 pandemic Lockdowns, Early Learning and Childcare was provided for children of key worker families to allow them to continue to work throughout this national emergency.

In addition, places were provided for our most vulnerable children.

Now that all Local Authority and Funded Provider settings have reopened, 93% of children within South Lanarkshire are currently receiving their full entitlement of 1140 hours of funded ELC.



93%
of children within
South Lanarkshire are
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full entitlement of
1140 hours of
funded ELC.

Cost of the school day

As a partnership we have worked to reduce financial barriers to education for school age children as part of our Cost of the School Day programme.

Almost all of our schools have a Cost of the School Day Position statement and all schools have reviewed their equity policies and procedure as part of their COVID-19 recovery school improvement plan. Schools continue to signpost families to dedicated support and guidance e.g. Hamilton Grammar have worked with Money Matters to develop a series of helpful videos on financial supports for families (<http://hamilton.s-lanark.sch.uk/cost-of-the-school-day/money-matters-advice/>).

The Breakfast Club service was put on hold as a result of COVID-19 restrictions, but are a priority, as they provide a calm and safe environment before school to help develop social skills and provide the opportunity for additional learning, encouraging pupils to arrive at school on time, or even encourage them to attend at all and be ready to learn when the formal school day begins. We know they enhance wellbeing, academic performance and behaviour, especially for children whose parents might not otherwise be able to afford to provide them with regular meals. Breakfast clubs were re-established from 19th April 2021 and at time of reporting there were 105 clubs operating in schools that are fully established and an additional 14 clubs operating a smaller 'toast and go' service to pupils. In addition, innovative solutions were developed to continue the provision of breakfast during the pandemic, such as breakfast deliveries organised by the Machan Trust, which helped an average of 47 families in the Larkhall area throughout the period when breakfast clubs couldn't operate.

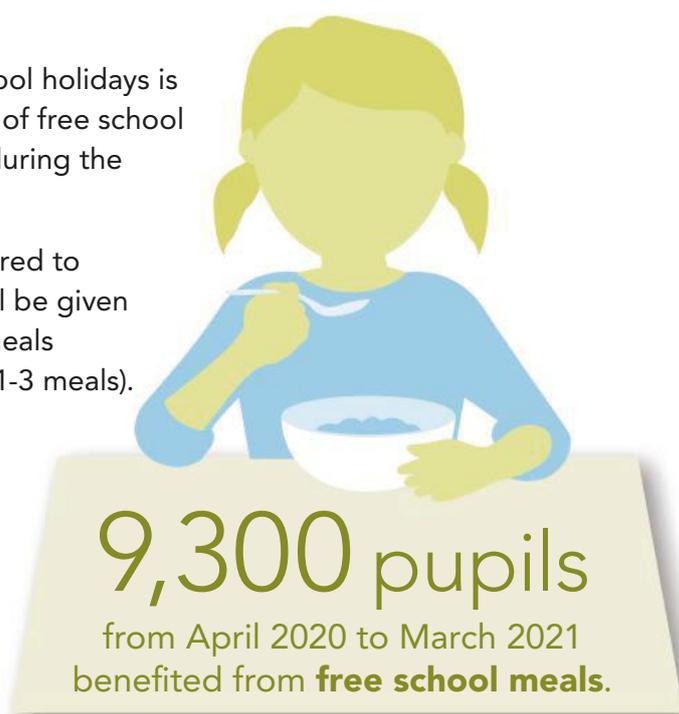
Free school meals

Pupils eligible to free school meals have been entitled to £3 per day with cash payments were made on a fortnightly basis during both school closure and holiday periods.

Free School Meals have benefited an average of 9,300 pupils from April 2020 to March 2021. In addition, pupils who self-isolated or shielded also received one-off payment of £30 to cover the cost of lunch from November 2020.

Going forward, Free School Meal payments for school holidays is continuing to ensure that pupils currently in receipt of free school meal provision receive free school meal payments during the Spring holiday period.

In addition, a Family Pandemic Payment will be offered to families as two one-off payments of £100, which will be given to help families of children entitled to free school meals (excluding those entitled to universal provision of P1-3 meals). One will be for Summer 2021 and the other will be given in Winter 2021. If there is more than one eligible child, then the family will receive more than one set of payments. The payment is funded by the Scottish Government, will be made directly into parents'/guardian's accounts, and can be used by families for any purpose as they see fit.



Summer Programme



Over the Summer holiday period 2020 from 27 June to 3 August, 450 young people accessed the Summer Holiday Hubs that provided high quality activities and support along with a healthy breakfast, lunch and afternoon snack for children in areas of high deprivation.

In total, 6,229 free meals were provided in 10 different locations. However, the hubs took a different form than envisaged due to COVID restriction.

School Clothing Grants

In the 2020/21 academic year 13,369 clothing grant awards were been made, which compares positively to the 12,362 awards made in the previous academic year.

Of the awards made, most were automated utilising information already held on council systems on household income and therefore did not require a separate application form. During the year the automated process is refreshed on a weekly basis to ensure any new cases with entitlement to a clothing grant are identified and payment made as quickly as possible.



Transport costs

We have worked to reduce transport costs to school for some families through offering targeted Privileged School Transport Places for pupils entitled to Free School Meals.

As a result of effective targeting of privileged school transport places, we have provided 26 privilege places allocated for pupils over the last year. Going forward we will continue this support and advertise this provision from the start of the August term to try and increase the uptake.

To tackle food insecurity during the COVID-19 period, different council services has been involved in emergency food provision. For instance, the Youth Family and Community Learning service (Education) has also distributed 786 food parcels to families in need identified thanks to their engagement with the service. An additional 84 themed food parcels including utensils and kitchen electricals' were distributed as well 200 boxes over the Christmas period. Social Work also delivered meals to vulnerable family with the so-called Child and Family programme. From April to June, 26,113 meals were delivered.



26 privileged school transport places provided for pupils entitled to Free School Meals.

Free sanitary provision (P Card scheme)

As of April 2021 most health premises across Lanarkshire and various teams working with vulnerable people have free sanitary products available to supply patients and staff.

Posters will promote this service and a discrete card can be shown by anyone who requires products. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the promotion of this service has been limited, however throughout the next year this service will be further promoted as restrictions allow e.g. more hospital sites will get added to the scheme.

Digital inclusion

Digital inclusion became increasingly important in our communities throughout the pandemic.

Connecting Scotland is a Scottish Government initiative providing iPads, laptops and MiFi devices for communities. 386 devices were secured by NHS Lanarkshire's Health Improvement team for both Family Nurse Partnership teams, Health Visitors and Keep Well and 5442 devices were secured by Education for pupils and families to support their learning as a result of online and blended learning delivery.



Housing support

South Lanarkshire Council is the fifth largest local authority landlord in Scotland and is one of the most affordable for tenants with the seventh lowest average weekly rent.



New build council housing at Gilbertfield, Cambuslang

During 2020/21 there were **1,544 council mainstream properties** let during and of these, **32% were to family households providing good quality, energy efficient and affordable homes.**

There has been a **significant reduction of 41%** in the number of households waiting more than a year for permanent accommodation.

The South Lanarkshire Local Housing Strategy 2017-22 includes actions that are responding to the particular needs of children, young people and families and reducing the costs associated with housing. These include:

- **Investment to increase new affordable housing supply**

By delivering an additional 392 affordable homes in 2020/21, including 53 open market purchase properties, the council and its Registered Social Landlord partners increased the number of affordable homes available to rent across South Lanarkshire. This included a range of family sized homes, ensuring as many families as possible can access affordable housing. There has been a significant reduction of 41% in the number of households waiting more than a year for permanent accommodation (95 households in 2019/20 to 56 in 2020/21) and of the 56 households, 22 of them had children.

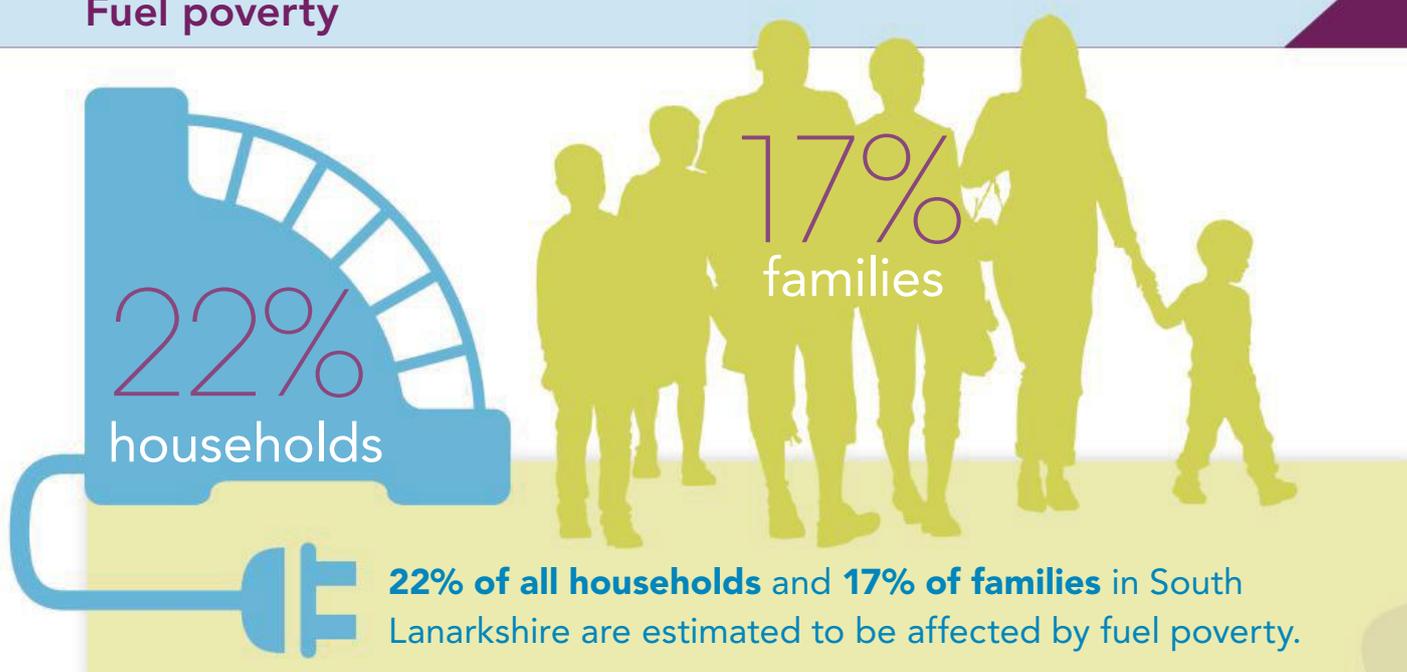
- **Ensuring households affected by homelessness are supported to move to suitable settled homes as quickly as possible**

Launched in 2019, South Lanarkshire Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan 2019-24 (RRTP) sets out how the council and its housing, homelessness and health partners aim to prevent and tackle homelessness over the next five years. Key progress made during 2020/21 was the 'flipping' of 27 properties previously classed as temporary accommodation to allow families to remain in the community they made their home after being homeless. A further six homeless households moved into settled accommodation through the Housing First model with ongoing support provided by Housing and Technical Resources and its commissioned services. There were 1,030 permanent lets made to homeless households during 2020/21 with 30% of those lets made to homeless households with children.

- **Maintaining lower than average rents**

The council continues to ensure rents are kept as low as possible whilst delivering the services and support tenants need. Working with tenant representatives and extensively consulting with tenants to understand the services they need; the council will continue to ensure rent levels remain affordable.

Fuel poverty



Lone parents and low-income families living in rural South Lanarkshire are more likely to be affected, often relying on higher tariff methods for paying for the energy they use.

South Lanarkshire continues its good track record in terms of partnership actions to tackle and reduce fuel poverty with a dedicated group progressing a range of actions to assist households in reducing their energy bills and making homes more efficient. In 2020/21, the Council's Money Matters Advice Service were able to help households write off over £41,699.85 of energy related debt. Home Energy Scotland also continued to increase the level of advice and support provided to households, with 5,726 appointments provided with 899 of these households estimated to having children under the age of 16.

Active Schools Programme

The Active Schools programme provides a positive and increasing range of sport and leisure opportunities, however the programme was disrupted due to COVID-19.

Leisure facilities were also closed for long periods throughout the year and to counter this, the Active Schools team developed alternative ways of working. Sport and Physical Activity were provided to those attending the Education Emergency Childcare Hubs and virtual support was provided to primary schools. Online platforms were utilised to encourage young people to stay physically active while in lockdown e.g. 25 challenges were shared on social media through various campaigns ran to encourage dancing, walking and all round wellbeing. Furthermore, the team developed and delivered a range of online continuous professional development for school staff and senior pupils, with 1,144 attendances at online training. In January 2021 'Active Schools Live' was launched enabling children and families to take part in live yoga sessions from home twice a week.



The first session recorded
1,000 pupils
taking part.

Other supports to families:

Foodbanks

South Lanarkshire Council has worked with third sector partners to ensure supply and up until the end of May 2021 had provided 28,288 bags of food through the Scottish Government Food Fund (equating to 433,732 meals).

Some of these were supplied to foodbanks and some to community response groups who helped ensure local access to resources. A small number of packs were supplied to those who were vulnerable in other ways, such as homeless people in temporary accommodation.

The latest figures for the foodbanks operating in South Lanarkshire indicate that over the last year a total of 27,750 households were referred for assistance, with 50,656 people being fed through emergency food distribution an increase of around 93.4%.

Tobacco Control

NHS Lanarkshire's Quit Your Way service, which supports people to Stop Smoking has been adapted and behavioural support to clients is delivered to clients over the telephone and products to support quit attempts are delivered to clients homes.

The service has seen a reduction in the number of people attempting to quit smoking, however for those people who have engaged with the service the quit rate has been higher. In South Lanarkshire the 'quit rate' increased from 35% in 2019/2020 to 51% in 2020/21. Smoking cessation support has continued to be provided by community pharmacies and during the pandemic partnerships have been strengthened. A media campaign 'Don't Wait' has been launched to promote services to people who smoke to encourage them to make a quit attempt. The service is also using technology such as the use of 'Smoke-free App' and 'Near Me' video calling with pregnant women.

During COVID-19 pandemic, the service in South Lanarkshire has supported over 448 successful 12 week quits, 263 of which were from our most deprived areas, These successful quitters have saved and/or been able to redirect monies normally spent on cigarettes and tobacco products to cover other costs of living. During COVID-19 clients have potentially saved/been able to redirect monies that they might have previously spent on travel costs to attend Quit Your Way services.

Vitamins

Free Health Start Vitamins are now freely available to all children aged 0-3 years. There was a total of 8345 pots of vitamins given out between April 2020 and March 2021.

To ensure uptake among lower income families there were targeted distribution points within the community i.e. at food banks, and via third sector organisations who are working with the most vulnerable communities.

South Lanarkshire case studies

St Paul's Primary School Hamilton

Staff at St Paul's Primary School identified the need within the community for more local food support. The local food bank is situated at the other end of town and is not greatly accessible for families. As a result, the school formed a partnership with the food bank and have set-up their own local pop-up food bank in the local church each week. The food bank provides bags of food for this, and the school has secured support from local companies who provide fresh food weekly. This is run by the school's linked Youth Family and Community Learning Officer and some local volunteers. It has been vital in supporting families during the remote learning period, as you can see from the parents/ carers voices:

St Paul's foodbank is well stocked and run by the school. The school are doing a great job and really meeting the needs of the community.

I couldn't manage without the help of this foodbank, as I can't travel across Hamilton.

You don't know what this means to me, I have been made redundant recently and we are really struggling. This has been a life saver.



South Lanarkshire case studies

Housing: Moving On

Housing and Technical Resources continue to work with partners to provide support to young people living in temporary accommodation. Recently, a young person living with their parent with various health issues and financial struggles had attended their GP. The GP recognised the need for support and made a referral to the Breaking the Cycle service.

Due to the stress caused by their home circumstances, the young person did not attend school for some time and decided to apply for a house of their own. A dedicated officer from Breaking the Cycle worked with colleagues from across the council to secure the right type of accommodation for the young person and arranged for a package of support to be put in place. This included liaising with health and education services to ensure the young person had everything they needed to live on their own and to start attending school again. Health services identified an issue with the young persons' hearing and provided new hearing aids, and they were also provided with new clothes and equipment to help improve their confidence for returning to school. The officer also arranged for the costs of transport to and from school from their new home to be provided, along with arranging opportunities to allow the young person to meet and build relationships with family and friends.

The support provided to the young person has now led to them securing a permanent tenancy, allowing them to maintain stability in their life. The young person said:

I can't believe Breaking the Cycle staff did all this for me, got me a safe place to stay, got me bus tokens so I could go back to school, got me in contact with my aunt and uncle and made sure I saw my sister every week. Thank you for everything you have all done for me.

Housing: A Happy Customer

Over the past year Housing and Technical Resources have continued working with families living in temporary accommodation to identify where it would be appropriate for them to be offered the accommodation on a permanent basis. By converting a temporary tenancy to a permanent home aims to prevent further upheaval for the household.

In one homeless household, an eight-year-old child had developed severe anxiety, due to witnessing violence against his parent whilst they were in a previous relationship. The child would not let his mother out of his sight, becoming very isolated and not interested in playing with other children.

Following their homelessness application, the household were allocated temporary accommodation that met their needs, in an area that they felt comfortable in. Soon after moving into the accommodation, the child's demeanour improved and they appeared to become more settled. They started going to the local park with other children and the school noted an improvement in the quality of classwork.

Recognising the positive impact their temporary move had on the household and the child in particular, the Housing Support Officer discussed with them the opportunity to convert the temporary property into their permanent tenancy. The family accepted the offer and the child was able to continue building their confidence in a new, safe place to call home. The lead tenant 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.



South Lanarkshire case studies

Tobacco Control: savings from quitting smoking

During COVID pandemic the Quit Your Way service continued to provide support to pregnant women and their families to stop smoking. Clients experienced positive outcomes including a pregnant mum living with her partner and three year old daughter. Both her and her partner wanted to stop smoking.

A Quit Your Way specialist nurse assessed both mum and the partner and arranged a support plan. In line with COVID-19 guidance, the couple were then allocated a health improvement practitioner to provide telephone behavioural support throughout their quit attempt, as face to face contact was suspended. The practitioner contacted the couple individually every week to provide tailored telephone support and arranged for Nicotine Replacement Therapy to be delivered to the couple's home.

I wanted to stop smoking as I fell pregnant and for my own health. Also because of financial reasons, and my partner and I both smoked. When the quit your way service called me, that's when my partner decided to try stop smoking too. I've now been smoke free for four and a half months. Being pregnant, it has helped me mentally knowing I am doing the best for my baby, and also financially it has helped as I'm able to prepare for my baby's arrival, fix things around house and treat my three year old daughter. If we wanted to go out for a day trip as a family, we now have money to do it. Just having some freedom to be able to do things as a family – having a disposable income. I was provided with a money tin from the Quit Your Way service, which I gave to my three year old, as we had a savings account which we used for the money we saved. We would give her some small change and she would save it in the tin – we told her that was her pennies as Mum and Dad didn't smoke anymore, which she now gets weekly magazines etc. with the savings.

Key challenges for 2021/22

We know that those who experienced poverty prior to the epidemic were already pushed into unacceptable hardship and may have been pushed deeper into poverty due to the effects of the coronavirus. There will also be a number of families who have now experiencing poverty for the first time. The one off payments and additional payments to cover holiday food costs are welcome, but so would taking full advantage of benefits checks and income maximisation particularly for those who have not previously engaged with the service. This will be a key feature going forward.

There is still a need to work to increase the uptake of Free School Meals, especially across secondary schools. Additionally, all families that were entitled to receive free school meals will continue to receive vouchers throughout the Summer holiday period.

The impact of COVID-19 reduced inclusion amongst vulnerable families. Good work has already been put in place to enable families to be digitally included so that school pupils are supported to enable their child's education at home. Consideration needs to be given as to how families can be supported in the longer term, if there is a general move for more services to continue to be conducted online.

COVID-19 has impacted on the way people live their lives, for some they have been able to adopt healthy behaviours such as quitting smoking, increasing exercise, choosing to breastfeed their baby etc that not only provide health benefits, but provide a cost saving in relation to household income. For others, the pressures will have influenced an increase in alcohol consumption, gambling, etc. Services need to continue to support people to adopt and persist with healthy behaviours and cost effective lifestyles.

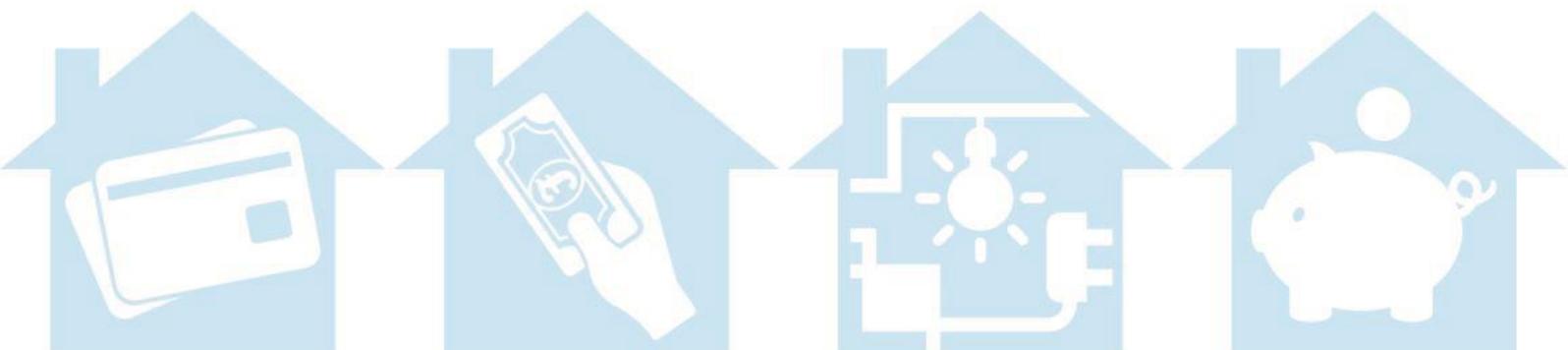


Table 2: Actions and measures: what will we do in 2021/22?

No.	Action	Measure(s)	Baseline 2019/20 (unless otherwise stated)	Target 2021/22	Resources allocated 2021/22	Lead Officer/ Reporting Officer	Who will benefit
2.1	Increased uptake of funded and early learning and childcare entitlement for 2 and 3 year olds.	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 2-year-olds.	15.5%	Maintain at 15.5%	Existing resources	Janice Tod	Low income families
		All schools will establish a Cost of the School Day policy by the end of academic year 2020/21.	Nil	100%	PEF/SAC funding	Kevin Mullarkey Laura Mitchell	Low income families
2.2	Reduction in financial barriers to education for school age children.	Continue to raise the profile on Cost of the School Day by encouraging schools to be "poverty-aware" schools.					
		All schools will review their equity policies and procedures as part of their COVID-19 recovery school improvement plan.					
	Schools will work with Money Matters and signpost parents and families for appropriate financial help.	Number of families referred	New programme, no baseline at 2019/20 or 2020/21	New programme, target to be established during 2021/22	PEF/SAC funding	David Harkness	Low income families

No.	Action	Measure(s)	Baseline 2019/20 (unless otherwise stated)	Target 2021/22	Resources allocated 2021/22	Lead Officer/ Reporting Officer	Who will benefit
2.2 Reduction in financial barriers to education for school age children (continued).	Work to increase the uptake of Privileged School Transport Places for pupils entitled to Free School Meals and develop new active travel opportunities for pupils.	Number of Privileged School Transport Places offered	55	60	Existing resources	Kevin Mullarkey David Hinshelwood	Low income families
		Percentage of pupils recorded as using active travel to school	44.1% (2020)	Increase the proportion of journeys to school by pupils using active travel methods	£1.48m spending committed for 2020/21 for all infrastructure projects connected to the promotion active travel	Colin Smith	
	Increase the uptake of free school meals through continued automated enrolment. (South Lanarkshire Council, Finance and Education Resources)	Percentage of free school meals uptake in primary schools	65.21%	Maintain primary/secondary at March 2021 levels	Existing resources	Kevin Mullarkey Gerry Donachie	Low income families
		Percentage of free school meals uptake in secondary schools	40.89%	Maintain primary/secondary at March 2021 levels	Existing resources		
	Fund free school meals to eligible children during the holiday periods (£30 voucher per fortnight covering Summer, October, Christmas, February and Easter holiday).	Number of children receiving vouchers	9,500 (2020/21)	No target applicable, contextual measure. The number of children supported depends on the number of children eligible for free school meals, and this is variable	£1.516m (budget allocated to the council by the Scottish Government)	Helen Gourichon	Low income families



No.	Action	Measure(s)	Baseline 2019/20 (unless otherwise stated)	Target 2021/22	Resources allocated 2021/22	Lead Officer/ Reporting Officer	Who will benefit
2.2	Reduction in financial barriers to education for school age children (continued).	Number of pupils claiming school clothing grant for pupils claimed	12,537	Maintain at March 2021 levels	£1.738m	Fraser Morrison Louise Harvey	Low income families
		Percentage of pupils claiming school clothing grant for pupils claimed	29.38%				
2.3	Reduced housing costs for families.	Number of children and young people attending the programme	New programme, no baseline for 2019/20 or 2020/21	No target applicable, programme will not be repeated after 2021/22	£850,000	Kevin Mullarkey Roz Gallagher	Low income and vulnerable families
		Number of meals provided as part of the programme	New programme, no baseline for 2019/20 or 2020/21	No target applicable, programme will not be repeated after 2021/22			
2.3	Reduced housing costs for families.	Average rents for all council homes and for larger-size family homes	SLC average per week £70.26 Scot LA average per week £75.79	Maintain rent levels lower than national average	Housing Revenue and Capital Account Budget 2021/22 (£109.401m)	Jonathan Read	Low income families
		Number of new affordable homes delivered, including those allocated to households with children	284	Increase the number of new affordable homes built throughout the financial year	Resource Planning Assumption 2021/22 is £34.99m	Jonathan Read	Low income families

No.	Action	Measure(s)	Baseline 2019/20 (unless otherwise stated)	Target 2021/22	Resources allocated 2021/22	Lead Officer/ Reporting Officer	Who will benefit
2.3 Reduced housing costs for families (continued).	Deliver regeneration projects to improve housing and built environment in priority areas (East Whitlawburn).	Number of new affordable homes delivered for families in area-based regeneration project	Baseline not applicable, area based project	Increase the number of new affordable homes built in the Whitlawburn regeneration area	Included within above figure	Jonathan Read	Low income families
	Support households with children, within minoritised ethnic communities, to access accommodation including Gypsy/Travellers and refugee families resettled through the UK resettlement scheme.	Number of households with sustained tenancy of one year and over	New action, no baseline at 2019/20 or 2020/21	Target not applicable, services are demand led	Housing Revenue Account and UK Resettlement Scheme Funding Provision	Jonathan Read	Minoritised Ethnic Communities
2.4 Reduced energy costs for families.	Target housing investment to improve fuel and thermal efficiency of larger homes and reduce energy costs.	Proportion of housing meeting energy efficiency standards for social housing (EESSH2)	4%	7%	Housing Investment Programme - £27.224m	Jonathan Read	Low income families
	Promote and administer national funding mechanisms including ECO: Flex and Energy Efficient Scotland: Area Based Schemes to support families within owner occupied and private rented properties.	Total amount of funding secured for 2021-22 for EES: Area Based Schemes Number of properties improved through ECO: Flex scheme in 2021/22	New action, no baseline for 2019/20 or 2020/21 New action, no baseline for 2019/20 or 2020/21	Target not applicable, services are demand led Target not applicable, Services are demand led	Scottish Government Funding Energy Company Obligation Funding	Jonathan Read	Households with children at risk of fuel poverty



No.	Action	Measure(s)	Baseline 2019/20 (unless otherwise stated)	Target 2021/22	Resources allocated 2021/22	Lead Officer/ Reporting Officer	Who will benefit
2.5	Reduced homelessness including families with children and young people.	Number of homeless household with children	238 households 449 children (March 2020)	Reduce against baseline	Housing support and homelessness budgets	Jonathan Read	Low income families/ homeless households
		The average time (days) spent as homelessness for households with children	192	Reduce against baseline	Housing support and homelessness budgets		
		Number of households supported including households with children	937	Maintain number of households receiving support	Homelessness Business Plan and Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan funding	Jonathan Read	Low income families
2.6	Improved digital inclusion amongst families in the most deprived areas.	Number of care experienced young people supported to plan for and move to independent living in the community	73 through care applicants of which 29 active and 44 deferred (not ready to be permanently housed)	Target not applicable, services are demand led	Homelessness Business Plan and Social Work Resources Budgets	Jonathan Read	Care experienced young adults
		Number of families supported	5,442	Target TBC	Scottish Government Connecting Scotland Fund Scottish Government Pupil Equity Fund	Kevin Mullarkey	Low income families

No.	Action	Measure(s)	Baseline 2019/20 (unless otherwise stated)	Target 2021/22	Resources allocated 2021/22	Lead Officer/ Reporting Officer	Who will benefit
2.7 Reduce Food Poverty.	Delivery of Breakfast Clubs in schools.	Number of Breakfast Clubs operating in schools	88 (June 2019)	124 (all SLC Primary School)	£600,000 allocated for 2021/22	Kevin Mullarkey David Hinshelwood	Low income families
		Number of children benefiting from Breakfast Clubs	5,883 (June 2019)	6,500 children benefiting (or a 10% increase)			
	Increase the uptake of free nutritional supplements.	Total number of eligible children receiving free vitamin D through the universal vitamin distribution programme	773 pots of vitamins distributed	Increase the distribution of free vitamins Increase the number of distribution points for free vitamins	NHSL/ Scottish Government funding TBC	Alana McGlynn Susan Short	Low income families
2.8 Reduced costs of participation in Leisure and Culture experiences.	SLLC will work with schools to maintain targeted delivery of the Active Schools programme where possible throughout the COVID-19 recovery phase.	Number of visits pupils make in attending the active schools programme	391, 952 (2018/19)	*155, 000 visits	18 FTE active schools co-ordinators (funded by Sports Scotland, Education Resources and SLLC) £789,528	Patrick Murphy	Pupils from low income families
		Percentage of school roll participating in Active Schools activities	48% of all pupils (2018/19)	*40% of all pupils			
2.9 Reduce costs associated with health harming behaviours.	Continue to offer the SLLC concession scheme through promotion and awareness raising. Support families in higher poverty areas to reduce costs associated with health harming behaviours e.g. tobacco, alcohol and drug use.	Number of concessions taken up	6,005 (2018/19)	*5,000 (by March 31st 2022)	SLC fund/ direct SLLC to deliver Concession scheme	Patrick Murphy	Low income families
		Number of pregnant women living in 40% most deprived areas of who stop smoking	2019/20: 19 successful quits from pregnant women in the 40% most deprived areas	20 pregnant women living in SIMD 1 and 2 will stop smoking			

*Note in all cases the baseline figures (2018/19) are higher than the targets for 2021/22. This reflects the impact that the closure of SLLC/SLC facilities has had on programmes such as Active Schools and concession schemes during 2020/21.



Chapter 3

Taking action to increase income from employment

Why is this work important?

Children of working families do better in terms of long-term education and employment chances. Work provides a gateway out of poverty, provides self-esteem, resilience and makes a positive contribution to mental health. Every Child, Every Chance (the national child poverty delivery plan) identified 'increasing income from employment' as a main driver of child poverty reduction.

Being in employment 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 with enough hours to meet their family's needs. Over half of families living in poverty have at least one parent working. In South Lanarkshire we have made good progress in delivering sustainable employment opportunities for parents and young people. Benefits include decent rates of pay, good training and support, opportunities for progression and enough hours in work to meet basic family needs.

Activity to support young people in the senior phase of education develop the skills and experiences to progress to sustained positive destinations has a key role in increasing income from employment. Young people who experience periods of unemployment at an early age are more likely to experience unemployment in later life and the support provided to young people through effective career management skills, appropriate training and employability skills development can increase reduce youth unemployment, improve young people's life chances and increase income for young people and their families. The delivery of such programmes has been extremely challenging during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The level of median pay for South Lanarkshire residents working full time has increased for a 5th consecutive year, up by 7.5% since 2019. This is the biggest single increase recorded in a single year. The level of weekly median pay for South Lanarkshire residents working full time also continues to run well above the Scottish average.

The record levels of full-time weekly pay registered by South Lanarkshire residents over the past year does mask a drop-in part time pay rates. While pay levels for full-time employees have increased by 7.5%, pay levels for part-time workers have fallen by 4% over the same period. The drop-in part-time earnings is more telling than the figures for full time earnings, as part time workers are more vulnerable to in-work poverty. The drop recorded may be a reflection of South Lanarkshire's greater dependence on COVID-19 vulnerable industrial sectors as a source of employment, with many jobs in these sectors also being part-time e.g., Distribution, Hotels and Restaurants, Other Services, Manufacturing and Construction.

Figure 7: Median Gross Weekly Pay (Residents) – Part-time Employees 2015-2020

Source: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE)



South Lanarkshire’s employment rate is currently (as of April 2021) at the highest level recorded since local authority estimates were first published in 2004. The area is also one of only nine local authorities whose employment rate has increased during the period up to 2020.

The largest employment sectors in the South Lanarkshire economy are health and social care and construction, and both predicted to continue to be key to the local economy. The other sectors of significance are tourism, engineering, food and drink, and finance. Tourism and financial services are predicted to remain stable over the next few years and engineering and food and drink may see a small reduction in employees working in these sectors. Delivering good quality and targeted employability interventions will bring the obvious benefit of getting local people into good work opportunities with wider benefits, improving life chances in education and employment and mitigating against health inequalities.

During 2020 all areas of life including employment and learning have been impacted by the COVID 19 pandemic and additional challenges have emerged as we hopefully look forward to recovery. Challenges include engaging with families, digital capability and access, lack of employer engagement and strain on family budgets.

The impact of the COVID-19 economic lockdown can clearly be seen to have had an influence on claimant unemployment locally. The latest claimant unemployment figures (April 2021, at the time of writing) indicates that there has been a 75.9% rise in unemployed claimants in South Lanarkshire since the first COVID-19 lockdown in March 2020.

On a more positive note the latest claimant count figures (April 2021) also indicates that the number of young claimants (16-24) has started to fall locally e.g. from 2,390 in March 2021 down to 2,350 in April,. The latest data on youth unemployment does suggest however that South Lanarkshire continues to record a higher level of youth unemployment when compared to the Scottish average (e.g. a 7.6% rate in South Lanarkshire, against 6% in Scotland) a long term trend that pre-dates the current COVID-19 pandemic.

In South Lanarkshire, the most recent figures available on furlough support (Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme) records that 19,200 employees in the authority are currently furloughed (as of March 2021). It is likely that government employment supports schemes, such as CJRS, could be masking the full economic impact of the pandemic and we may see an increase in the number of redundancies when furlough is no longer an option for employers.

The number of accredited living wage employers in South Lanarkshire has increased since last year, from 90 at March 2020 up to 93 at March 2021. South Lanarkshire remains as the local authority with the 4th highest number of accredited Living Wage employers in Scotland.



Where are we now?

Youth Employability Support

We have continued to deliver a wider range of employability support to young people during the last year, adapted to reflect the need for social distancing and lockdown restrictions.

Our work with young people to progress into a positive destination post school provides individualised support for employability, skills development and health and wellbeing. The main provider of this initiative is the Aspire Programme, which supported 338 young people over the last year.

In addition, we have provided a range of Modern Apprenticeships, however the number of starts (670) continues to be lower than previous years (1926 in 2019/20) as employers have understandably focused on challenges of COVID-19 rather than recruitment or up-skilling of staff.

Skills Development Scotland has worked to be creative in enhancing existing delivery and have provided several new initiatives to support young people and employers, include: Adopt an Apprentice, Apprenticeship Transition Plans, Pathways Apprenticeships, Transition Training Fund and Apprenticeship Employer Grants. Skills Development Scotland and partners developed implemented a new national helpline and digital resources, with 29 employers and 895 young people benefiting by December 2020.

Modern Apprenticeships

South Lanarkshire Council has continued to invest across all their apprenticeship programmes, a particular focus has been on areas where forward workforce planning is a priority such as childcare, social care and roads maintenance. In these programmes the salaries are paid by the council and the training costs are met by Skills Development Scotland. In addition to their 180 existing apprentices, this year the local authority recruited 85 additional young people.



The Aspire Programme supported **338 young people** over the last year.

In addition to their **180 existing apprentices**, this year the local authority recruited **85 additional young people**.

Scottish Youth Guarantee

We are committed to implementing the Scottish Government's Youth Guarantee, making sure that every young person aged between 16 and 24 will be guaranteed either the opportunity to study at university or college, to take part in an apprenticeship programme, take up a job or work experience, or participate in a formal volunteering or training programme according to their own personal circumstances.

Our local employability partnerships are committed to protecting the diverse range of existing provision and ensuring that the right support is put into place for those who rely on these services. The support helps to address inequalities within the labour market and improve young people's quality of employment, pay and progression. Priorities for the Youth Guarantee resources include employer recruitment, volunteering, key worker support, and supported employment for young people with additional support needs.

School Leaver Destinations

We have worked hard to support school leavers through a wide range of amended activity and while the positive destination rate for South Lanarkshire fell slightly to 94.8% from 95.7% the previous year, we maintained the target to be above the national rate (93.3%).

The Care Experienced Employability Focus Group has continued to meet to track the destinations of care experienced young people and while the positive destination rate for care experienced young people fell slightly to 85.4%, it still remained above the national average (81.4%). A new SCQF level 4/5 Foundation Apprenticeship programme in construction was established and 200 young people started on the programme in partnership with South Lanarkshire Council, South Lanarkshire College, New College Lanarkshire, and First Steps Future Training. The number included 30 young people who took part in a winter leaver's pilot programme and 40 summer leavers.

Kickstart

South Lanarkshire Council has successfully bid to provide 330 work placement opportunities through the Kickstart initiative. Young people will be offered a work placement opportunity with a wage subsidy for 25 hours per week for 26 weeks and in-work employability support. The initiative will help create new and additional jobs including skills and training to help support young people in the workplace.

Parental Employability Support

The Parental Employment Support programme is funded by the Scottish Government and is designed to support parents who are out of work and those who are in work, but in receipt of low incomes. The programme delivers a joined-up model of working with families and 65 parents were supported into fair work opportunities and to enhance their career prospect over the last year.

Additional funding has supported young parents through the provision of additional 1140 hours childcare and supported families where a parent or child has a disability.

The adult No One Left Behind initiative has provided additional employment skills for 120 local unemployed residents, including those with multiple barriers who are adversely impacted by COVID-19 and require intensive employability support to access training that develop skills needed by the labour market.



65 parents were supported into fair work opportunities.



Upskilling

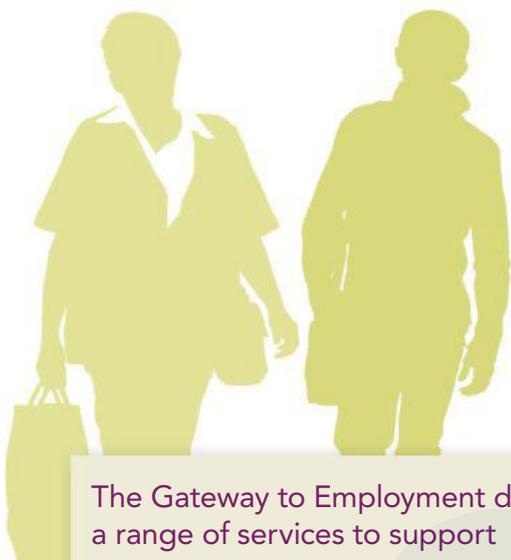
The Upskilling Programme helps address the market demand for skilled workers and has supported 120 people (including 57 parents) in work who are in receipt of low incomes or are underemployed, to improve their chances of in work progression and mitigate the difficulties of in-work poverty.

Gateway to Employment

The Gateway to Employment delivered a range of services to support 463 unemployed adults with multiple barriers preventing them from accessing sustainable work opportunities.

The programme matches clients with the needs of employers and provided bespoke pre-recruitment training that meets business recruitment needs. Clients benefited from training including core skills designed to equip individuals with the necessary skills that meet the needs of employers and industry.

NHS Lanarkshire have developed an employability action plan for Health Improvement staff to support patient's employability options. This has resulted in an increase in employability knowledge, skills and understanding of staff and has meant that patients, including parents have been better supported with their employability needs. This has been particularly successful in helping people cope with COVID-19 related employability issues and supported access to sustainable fair work. In addition, employability staff are now better placed to support the health and wellbeing needs of their clients.



The Gateway to Employment delivered a range of services to support **463 unemployed adults.**

Digital Inclusion

Housing and Technical Resources delivered a digital inclusion project for Homeless Families, 'Bringing IT Home'. It started as a pilot project and 25 families were identified and allocated digital devices and a year of internet access to assist with education, employment opportunities and accessing government services. Following the success of the pilot this was rolled out so that 55 more families will benefit from IT devices and two years of internet access at a reduced rate. The criteria for support, is families who are identified in the vulnerable and shielded category, or to support disadvantaged children in accessing online content to support their learning.

In addition, we were able to work with 25 local community organisations as part of the Connecting Scotland initiative and were able to support 714 families or care leavers benefit from free IT devices and access to the internet.

This support for families has been particularly important in the current circumstances as service providers have adapted over the past year, moving away from face to face support and onto more digital methods of providing services. There were however exceptions for the most vulnerable service users who were supported in person where and when it was safe to do so.



55%

more families will benefit from IT devices and two years of internet access at a reduced rate.

South Lanarkshire case study

Case study 1 (Parental Employment Support – in work)

K is a 21-year-old single parent who resides in Blantyre within one of the worst 20% SIMD area and was referred to the programme in March 2019. She started working at a local Nursery in Cambuslang where she completed her childcare apprenticeship and gained her SVQ Level 3 (Children and Young People qualification). To further her career and improve her income, she needed to gain additional skills and qualifications.

K was put forward by her Key Worker and employer to complete her PDA in Childhood Practices. As a young single parent this would further expand her knowledge and open job opportunities with her current employer (Local Nursery). She received one-to-one support and guidance and a workplace mentor and key worker support including a structured learning pathway to help her with the qualification linked to her job.

K progress has been excellent and she completed her PDA in Childhood practices and a further Paediatric First Aid qualification which enabled her to be being promoted to Senior Nurse Practitioner and has since given her an increase in her salary.

In K's words:

During completing my PDA Childhood Practice, my employer was great with me and I felt really supported by them throughout the course. During the course I was promoted to the Nursery Senior Practitioner which gave me the opportunity to perform extra duties within the nursery. By getting a promotion this allowed me to have more insight into what the job entails which helped to complete my units. By getting my promotion I also received a salary increase which helps me immensely financially.

K's Supervisor comment:

K was able to achieve her PDA Childhood studies, this was a big help to her to be able to achieve her qualification which has had an impact on her practice within the nursery and her knowledge to continue to help improve the running of the nursery and helps the children to be able to develop. This has made K. become much more confident within her senior role.



South Lanarkshire case study

Case Study 2 (Parental Employment Support – Unemployed)

Kayleigh was referred to the Parental Employment Support (PES) Team by Social Work. She is a 19-year-old, lone parent, who suffers from anxiety and depression and who relied on Universal Credit for income.

The necessary intensive Key Worker support was put in place to help her achieve sustainable employment. After several discussions on skills, strengths and previous experience, a CV was created for Kayleigh to start the process of applying for jobs.

Kayleigh successfully gained employment in January with a local Call Centre working from home full time. A company laptop was provided, and initial training undertaken. There was some confusion with her benefits which resulted in Universal Credit being stopped a few weeks prior to Kayleigh receiving her first wage, which resulted in a temporary financial struggle. The PES Key Worker spoke with Money Matters, who were able to call and offer advice and resolve her benefit issues.

As a laptop was provided by the employer for training purposes only, Kayleigh needed a device to carry out her work duties at the end of her training period. Without this, her employment would be in jeopardy and could have led to employment being terminated. Financial constraints meant the client was unable to afford the proper equipment to carry out the role successfully. The PES Key Worker obtained a suitable device from the Connecting Scotland project which came with MiFi capability.

Kayleigh is now successfully able to work from home and has sustained employment for more than 3 months.

South Lanarkshire case study

Case Study 3 - Supporting Families (Access to Childcare)

A parent was referred to the Supporting Families project by a local primary school to get support for the family around childcare, as both parents were studying on full time courses. The mother is studying an HNC in childcare, which will allow her to then undertake her degree in teaching next year. The father is studying a degree in Graphic Design, allowing him to eventually teach this subject to high school students.

The mother stated that she would have to undertake a placement, which would cause the family difficulties around accessing a childcare place for their youngest child who is currently 2 years of age. In addition, the wrap around hours for the other children (9 and 3) didn't cover school and nursery hours. She indicated that this would have a significant financial impact for the family and on her ability to continue with her studies. The family had few extended family options for childcare, as both grandparents have health issues. However, the parent hoped to work something out with a friend and grandparents for two of the days, leaving two days with no planned childcare. In addition, the childcare issue became more immediate as the college indicated students had one week to arrange childcare, with the placement due to start a week later.

The Family Support Worker arranged some wrap around childcare allowing the parent to undertake her placement and also some financial support for the family with short term funding to enable the flexibility of childcare required.

The worker then contacted the college to find out if there was any eligible funding the family might be able to benefit from and was able to provide the family with further information around the childcare element of funding and discretionary funds available from the college, which the family would be eligible to apply for.

The parent applied for both these funds with some support and was successful in accessing further funding to support with the family's childcare needs, allowing both parents to continue their studies. The parent was able to start her placement and continue her studies with no further worries around childcare or its costs. The family were extremely grateful for the projects support.

In the parent's words:

I received a phone call from Margo. The video call was very professional, and she made me feel at ease from the start. I was blown away by how quick, helpful, and in-depth her answers were. She provided a few options and understood when we said we weren't comfortable with one of the options. Without her I would be incredibly stressed out and more than likely dropping out from a course! She went above and beyond for us in a time of need and we will forever be thankful!



Key challenges for 2021/22

The employability landscape is currently uncertain due to COVID-19. E.g. once support from the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme ends, the number of individuals facing redundancy is expected to increase.

Due to the restrictions, there have been no living wage promotional activities in South Lanarkshire over the past 12 months and it is a priority to resume a schedule of activities and promotional events over the next year for this important area of work to address in-work poverty.

Ensuring that families are not disadvantaged by digital exclusion will be crucial in getting the right support to make best use of the online services. Much work has been done already to identify vulnerable families through the work of schools and other partners and we need to make sure no families miss out on being connected. E.g. Hamilton Jobcentre is part of a pilot of regular interaction with some customers using digital video appointments, this is being potentially progressed nationally. Digital access continues to be the preferred method of contact with customers using email, telephone or Universal Credit Journal messaging. The DWP are now delivering virtual sessions to customers, including recruitment events with employers.

Our local action plan outlines a range of actions and measures to support fair work opportunities for families, delivered through our local employability services and the Parental Employment Support (PES) programme. Delivery is based on the No One Left Behind (NOLB) principles, working with partners, to draw extensively on the lived experience of potential service users and identify best practice.

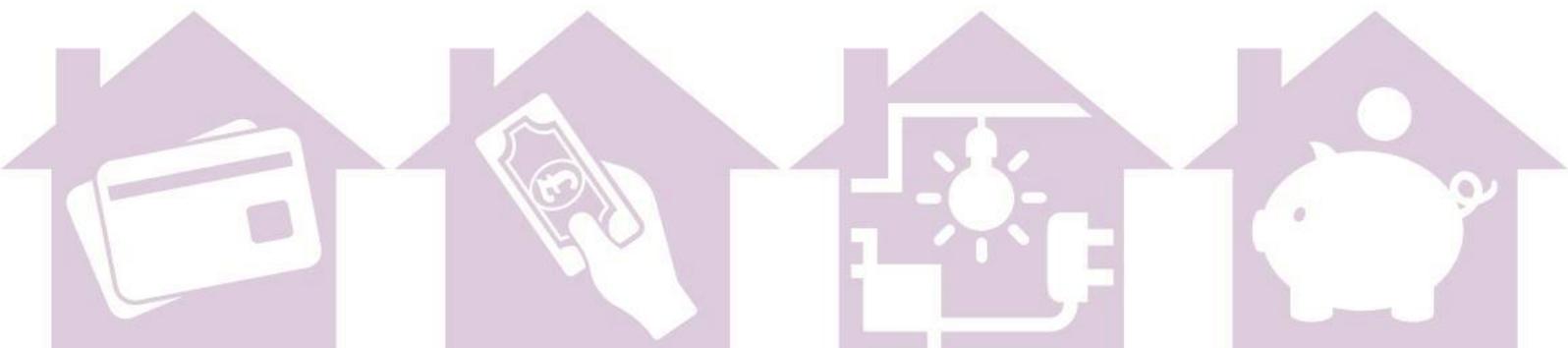


Table 3: Actions and measures: what will we do in 2021/22?

No.	Action	Measure(s)	Baseline 2019/20 (unless otherwise stated)	Target 2021/22	Resources allocated 2021/22	Lead Officer/ Reporting Officer	Who will benefit
3.1	Reduce gap in school leavers entering a positive destination between most deprived 20% and least deprived 20% areas.	DYW partners will provide early support to school leavers to support positive transitions from school.	SL 6.3% National 6.3%	Maintain the gap at the national level or better	Additional Scottish Government funding for DYW in schools £350,000	Brian Cameron	Young people in low income families
		Deliver an SCQF Level 4/5 Construction Foundation Apprenticeship. (SLC)	138 completers (2020/21)	229	Up to £500,000 for 229 starts (funded on milestones) Demand led budget	Douglas Hashagen	Young people in low income families
3.2	Support care experienced school leavers sustain a positive destination.	Youth employability partners work with employers to provide an increase in Modern Apprenticeship opportunities. (SDS)	1250	1,251		Brian Cameron	Young people in low income families
		Continue identification of individual support needs of care experienced young people via the Multi Agency Tracking Group consisting of the Council and SDS.	SL 86% (2019/20) National 81%	On or below national level	Existing resources	Brian Cameron	Care experienced young people



No.	Action	Measure(s)	Baseline 2019/20 (unless otherwise stated)	Target 2021/22	Resources allocated 2021/22	Lead Officer/ Reporting Officer	Who will benefit
3.3 Increase employment support for low income parents.	Continue to deliver the Parental Employment Support programme. (SLC)	By 31 March 2022, 70 parents receive increased hours/pay	32 (2020/21)	70	Scottish Government funded (SLC allocation TBC during 2021/22)	Gill Bhatti	Low income families
		By 31 March 2022, 110 parents increase confidence (Measured via distance travelled tool kit – Outcome star – confidence is a data set)	New measure, no baseline at 2019/20 or 2020/21	110			
	Clyde Gateway will deliver an inclusive employability support programme within the Clyde Gateway corridor supporting families in the Rutherglen Project and Glenburgh Nursery into fair work.	By 31 March 2022, 50 parents enter job outcomes	16 (2020/21)	50	£139,000 Scottish Government Access to Childcare Fund £50,000 from	Natalie Phillips	Low income families
		By March 31 2022, 50% of project participants supported will either move to employment from being unemployed, or will increase hours in employment, or have an uplift in salary	New programme, no baseline at 2019/20 or 2020/21	50%			
		By March 31 March 2022, 50% of participants will be supported to access skills development, volunteering, and employability support	New programme, no baseline at 2019/20 or 2020/21	50%			
		By March 31 2022, 60% of families supported will have reduced living costs and a reduction in debt	New programme, no baseline at 2019/20 or 2020/21	60%			

No.	Action	Measure(s)	Baseline 2019/20 (unless otherwise stated)	Target 2021/22	Resources allocated 2021/22	Lead Officer/ Reporting Officer	Who will benefit
3.3 Increase employment support for low income parents (continued).	Clyde Gateway will deliver an inclusive employability support programme within the Clyde Gateway corridor supporting families in the Rutherglen Project and Glenburgh Nursery into fair work.	By March 31 2022, 60% of families will be supported through crisis situations and into stability	New programme, no baseline at 2019/20 or 2020/21	60%	£139,000 Scottish Government Access to Childcare Fund £50,000 from	Natalie Phillips	Low income families
		By March 31 2022, 100% of eligible parents take up full entitlements of existing and new social security benefits	New programme, no baseline at 2019/20 or 2020/21	100%			
3.4 Employees being paid the living wage.	The Lanarkshire Living Wage Campaign Group will promote the living wage to employers across Lanarkshire to increase the number of employees earning the living wage. (SLC)	The number and proportion of employees earning less than the Living Wage	18,000/ 20.8% (2020) (ASHE)	Reduce to below 20%	Existing Resources	Gary Ross	Low income families
		The number and proportion of employees earning the Living Wage or more	70,000/ 79.2% (2020) (ASHE)	Increase to 80%			
		Number of accredited employers providing the Living Wage	93 (as of 31 March 2021)	Increase from baseline			
3.5 Employee upskilling.	South Lanarkshire Council will deliver an upskilling programme for staff experiencing low pay, underemployment and a lack of skills and qualifications in the workplace.	By March 2022 120 staff will become more financially independent	120 (2020/21)	120	Mainstream Council budget with European Funding match	Gill Bhatti	Low income families
		By March 31 2022, 40% of staff will increase their hours	11 (2020/21)	50			
		By March 31 2022 60% of staff will secure promotion at work	64 (2020/21)	75			



No.	Action	Measure(s)	Baseline 2019/20 (unless otherwise stated)	Target 2021/22	Resources allocated 2021/22	Lead Officer/ Reporting Officer	Who will benefit
3.6	Trade spend to living wage employers.	Proportion of spend to living wage accredited employers	NHS Lanarkshire 2.7% (amounting to £6,744,092)	*No target applicable, this is a contextual measure	From existing resources	Craig Fergusson/ Emma Smith (SLC) Euan Erskine (NHSL)	Low income families
		Proportion of trade spend to Lanarkshire based employers (as a percentage total spend to all suppliers)	SLC 90% of regulated contracts awarded to Real Living Wage employers	*No target applicable, this is a contextual measure			
		Proportion of trade spend to supported employers.	NHS Lanarkshire 24.8% (amounting to £57,200,000) SLC 18% (core spend £58.8m) NHS Lanarkshire 0.002% (amounting to £3,875) SLC 0%	No target applicable			

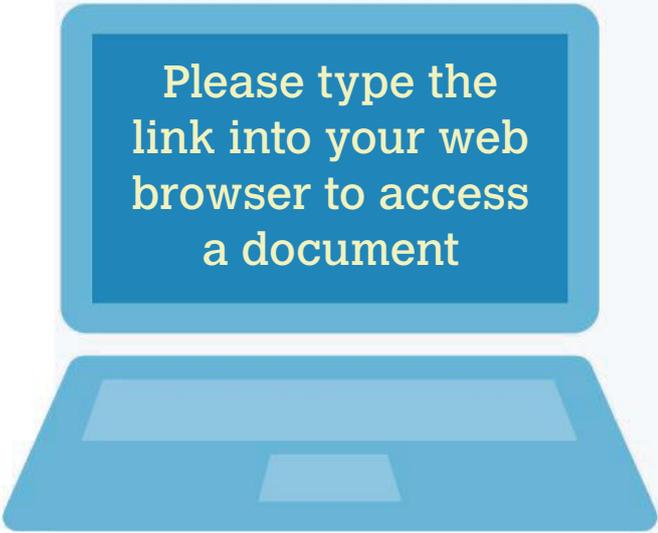
*NHS Lanarkshire and South Lanarkshire Council cannot actively favour the award of public sector contracts to Lanarkshire based employers or employers that pay the Living Wage (both Real and Accredited) due to current procurement regulations. The proportion of trade spend awarded to Lanarkshire based employers and employers who pay the living wage is also dependent on the number of enterprises that have this status bidding for contracts at any given time which fluctuates year on year and is subject to variable factors, such as local market conditions, beyond the control of SLC and NHS Lanarkshire. As a consequence SLC and NHS Lanarkshire have a limited ability to influence this measure through the setting of performance related targets.

**Over the past two years (2019/20 and 2020/21) the level of trade spend to Supported Employers by NHS Lanarkshire has been minimal, while there has been no trade spend by SLC to Supported Employers during this period.

9 Appendices

Appendix 1:

Links to associated plans and policies



Please type the link into your web browser to access a document

Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017

<http://bit.ly/ChildPovertyAct2017>

Scottish Government Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2018-22

<http://bit.ly/ChildPovertyDeliveryPlan>

Scottish Government Child Poverty Delivery Plan Guidance

<http://bit.ly/ChildPovertyDeliveryGuidance>

Fairer Scotland Action Plan

www.gov.scot/publications/fairer-scotland-action-plan/

South Lanarkshire's Community Plan 2017-27

www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/cp/CommunityPlan2017-2027

South Lanarkshire Children's Services Plan

www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/cp/childrensservicesplan2021-23

South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Commissioning Plan

www.southlanarkshirecommunityplanning.org/downloads

South Lanarkshire's Economic Strategy

www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/economic-strategy

South Lanarkshire Local Housing Strategy

www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/local_housing_strategy



Appendix 2:

Useful links

Advice Line for Pregnant Women and Young Families

Phone: 01698 453154 or 01698 453180

Email: telephoneadvice@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Opening hours: Monday to Thursday 8.45am to 4.45pm;

Friday 8.45am to 4.15pm (outwith these times you can leave a message)

Managing Your Money

www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/managing_your_money

Financial Inclusion within Maternity and Health Visiting Services

www.youtube.com/watch?v=bM7V9S3vKzs

Best Start Grant and Best Start Foods

www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/best_start

When Money is Tight Booklet

www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/money-is-tight

Citizen's Advice Scotland

www.cas.org.uk/

Money Matters Advice Service

Phone: 0303 123 1008

www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/mmms

Housing support and homelessness

www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Local Housing Office – phone: 0303 123 1012

Out of hours – phone: 0800 24 20 24

If you would like to talk to us about the content of this report or be involved in helping us plan further actions, please contact the Community Engagement Team.

Phone: **0303 123 1017**

Email: **communities@southlanarkshire.gov.uk**

Notes

SLC proof



Notes

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Notes

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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 Email: equalities@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Report

8

Report to:	Executive Committee
Date of Meeting:	25 August 2021
Report by:	Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

Subject:	End of Current Council and Preparations for the New Council
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of the report is to:

- ◆ Advise members of a number of key operational preparations required for the end of this Council and the establishment of the new Council following the Local Government Election on 5 May 2022
- ◆ Request approval for decision-making arrangements in the period leading up to and immediately following the Local Government Election on 5 May 2022

2. Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s): -

- (1) that the final cycle of meetings in the current Council term, as detailed in the attached Appendix to the report, covering the period up to the final meeting of the Council on 2 March 2022 be noted;
- (2) that, in line with normal practice, the Chief Executive be authorised to deal with any issues during the period from 2 March 2022 until the establishment of the new Council, with a report on the issues dealt with being submitted to the first meeting of the new Council for noting; and
- (3) that preparations for the new Council, as detailed in sections 5 to 9 of this report, be noted.

3. Background

3.1. The Local Government Elections will be held on 5 May 2022. The first meeting of the new Council requires to be held within 21 days of the date of the election.

4. Arrangements to Deal with Council Business in the Period Leading up to the Election

4.1. In previous years in which local government elections have been held, the Council's committees and forums have ceased to operate for a period of time ahead of the elections. One of the main reasons for raising this issue with Committee at this early stage is to allow Executive Directors to plan the business they need to have considered by members prior to and including the last meeting of the Council.

4.2 The last cycle of meetings in the current Council term is due to conclude with the meeting of the Council on 2 March 2022. The final cycle of meetings is attached as an appendix to the report. There may be a requirement to hold meetings to deal with specific matters such as planning or licensing issues, hearings or appeals. Appropriate arrangements will be made for any meetings considered necessary.

4.3 In line with the practice previously adopted by South Lanarkshire Council it is proposed that authority be delegated to the Chief Executive to deal with issues that would normally be subject to committee approval from the last meeting of the Council on 2 March 2022 until the Statutory Meeting of the new Council. A report on the matters dealt with by the Chief Executive will be submitted to the first meeting of the new Council for noting.

5. Preparations for the New Council

5.1 There are a number of other operational issues which require to be progressed in the lead up to the end of this term of the Council including: -

- ◆ a review of procedural documentation and the decision-making process
- ◆ arrangements for members' induction and training
- ◆ members' ICT provision
- ◆ the first statutory meeting of the new Council

5.2 A summary of the key tasks is given in sections 6 to 9 below.

6. Review of Supporting Procedural Documentation/Decision-Making Process

6.1. A review of the Council's procedural documentation will be carried out in advance of the new Council term, which will include a review of the following political management documentation: -

- ◆ Standing Orders on Procedures
- ◆ Scheme of Delegation
- ◆ Terms of Reference for Committees, etc
- ◆ Standing Orders on Contracts
- ◆ Financial Regulations

6.2. While a comprehensive review of the above documentation was undertaken as part of the mid-term review that concluded with a report to the Council in February 2020, it is proposed to, once again, consult with officers, the Corporate Management Team, as well as members via the Standards and Procedures Advisory Forum (SPAF). In addition to the procedural management documentation, consultation will be undertaken on whether changes are required to the Role Profiles for Elected Members and Multi Member Ward Protocol. Consultation with officers will be undertaken in August/September 2021 and a meeting arranged of the SPAF in September to consult with members. The outcomes following the consultation will be presented to members at a meeting of the SPAF to be arranged in November 2021. Further meetings of the SPAF will be arranged as required.

6.3. The revised documents will be presented for approval to the new Council at its Statutory meeting in May 2022 (this meeting has to be held no later than 21 days following the date of the Local Government Elections).

6.4. It is further proposed that the views of elected members are invited via a survey as part of the end of Council consultation process. The previous end of term survey focused on the following main areas: -

- ◆ Policy, Priorities and Direction
- ◆ Engagement
- ◆ Decision-making and Delegation
- ◆ Respective Roles of Officers and Elected Members
- ◆ Delivering Services

- ◆ Support for Members
- ◆ ICT Equipment
- ◆ Moving Forward

Members were also asked for comments on what the Council does particularly well and where they considered it could do better.

- 6.5. It is proposed that the survey is submitted to the SPAF in September 2021 for endorsement and then issued to members, with a deadline date for return in October. The outcomes could be reported to the next meeting of the SPAF which will be scheduled for November 2021.

7. Member Induction and Training Programme

- 7.1. A member induction and training programme will be put in place for the new Council. In the initial period, training will be prioritised to cover mandatory/regulatory requirements. Although both the format and method of delivery have still to be agreed as part of the programme and dependent on any restrictions in place due to COVID-19, Resources will have the opportunity to provide briefings to elected members which are summarised below.

- 7.2. In the week following the Local Government Elections (week commencing 9 May 2022), it is proposed that drop-in sessions will be arranged for all members. In the event of restrictions due to COVID-19, sessions will be operated on either an appointment basis or by virtual means. In the past, those sessions covered: -

- ◆ 'Welcome and General Overview' by the Chief Executive
- ◆ 'The First Few Weeks in Office' by the Head of Administration and Legal Services: -
 - ◆ Declaration of Acceptance of Office
 - ◆ Members' Services Team and support for councillors
 - ◆ Members' induction arrangements
 - ◆ Members' remuneration and expenses
 - ◆ IT provision
- ◆ 'Strathclyde Pension Fund' - information on the scheme given by a representative of SPF

- 7.3. A number of sessions will be held in the second week following the elections (week commencing 16 May 2022) on The Councillors' Code of Conduct and How the Council Works. It will be mandatory for all members to attend one of those sessions which will be delivered by the Chief Executive, Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) and the Head of Administration and Legal Services. IT training sessions will be planned in the same week as the Code of Conduct sessions. This will cover the use of the smartphone, laptop devices, MS Teams and downloading committee papers.

- 7.4. Further induction training will be programmed to be held prior to the summer recess in 2022 and will include: -

- ◆ Resource briefings
- ◆ The Council Plan 2022 to 2027
- ◆ Data Protection and Freedom of Information
- ◆ Licensing Division training (*mandatory for all Board members*)
- ◆ Planning and Planning Local Review Body overview

- ◆ Overview of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982
- ◆ Appeals Panel Training
- ◆ Education Appeals Panel Training
- ◆ Recruitment Panel Training
- ◆ Local Government Finance, including Risk and Audit
- ◆ Elected Members Enquiries
- ◆ Personal Safety for Elected Members

7.5. It should be highlighted that members will also be given access to Learn online and Improvement Service materials and webinars.

7.6. A further programme of training will be scheduled following the 2022 summer recess and, in liaison with Personnel Services, an individual Training Needs Analysis will be developed for each elected member, at an appropriate time, to inform further training requirements.

8. Members' ICT Provision

8.1. In accordance with previous years, members will have the option to retain their equipment until the election date. However, arrangements will be put in place to allow any non-returning members who might wish to return their equipment early, in the period from the last scheduled meeting of the Council to the date of the election on 5 May 2022, to do so.

8.2. Arrangements will be made to ensure that ICT equipment is rolled out to newly elected councillors in week commencing 9 May 2022. An appointment system may require to be introduced, should COVID restrictions remain.

9. First Statutory Council Meeting

9.1. As previously stated, the first Statutory meeting of the Council must be held no later than 21 days after the election and at that meeting, the new Council will consider its decision-making structure, committee/decision making timetable and issues relating to Committee cycles and recess periods.

10. Employee Implications

10.1. There are additional tasks/duties that required to be managed within the associated timeframe. These will be managed within existing employee resources.

11. Financial Implications

11.1. All costs will be met within existing budgets.

12. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

12.1. There are no climate change, sustainability, or environmental implications in terms of this report.

13. Other Implications

13.1. There is a risk that appropriate decision-making arrangements are not in place to deal with Council business both in the lead up to an election and immediately following it and this might reflect on the reputation of the Council. Planning in advance for such a major event helps to mitigate any risk.

14. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

14.1. There was no requirement to undertake an equality impact assessment or consultation in relation to the proposals contained within this report. Consultation will be undertaken as part of the processes involved in preparing for the new Council.

Paul Manning
Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

1 August 2021

Link(s) to Council Values/Objectives

- ◆ Accountable, effective, efficient, and transparent

Previous References

- ◆ None

List of Background Papers

- ◆ None

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact: -

Susan Somerville, Administration Manager

Ext: 4197 (Tel: 01698 454197)

E-mail: susan.somerville@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Last Cycle of Meetings in Current Council Term

Cycle	Day of Week		Time	Committee	
Week 1	Monday	6/12/21	10.30am	8	
	Tuesday	7/12/21	10.00am 2.00pm		Licensing Committee Community and Enterprise Resources Committee
	Wednesday	8/12/21	10.00am		Housing and Technical Resources Committee
	Thursday	9/12/21	2.00pm		Financial Resources Scrutiny Forum
Week 2	Monday	13/12/21	10.30am	Planning Local Review Body	
	Tuesday	14/12/21	9.30am 10.00am 2.00pm	Conference Allocation Committee Planning Committee Cambuslang and Rutherglen Area Committee	
	Wednesday	15/12/21	2.00pm	East Kilbride Area Committee	
Week 3	Monday	24/1/22			
	Tuesday	25/1/22	9.30am 11.00am	Performance and Review Scrutiny Forum Employee Issues Forum	
	Wednesday	26/1/22	10.00am	Risk and Audit Scrutiny Committee	
Week 4	Monday	31/1/22			
	Tuesday	1/2/22	10.00am	Licensing Committee	
	Wednesday	2/2/22	10.00am 11.30am	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE Climate Change and Sustainability Committee	
Week 5	Monday	7/2/22			
	Tuesday	8/2/22	10.00am	Education Resources Committee	
	Wednesday	9/2/22	10.00am 2.00pm	Social Work Resources Committee Finance and Corporate Resources Committee	
	Thursday	10/2/22	2.00pm	Financial Resources Scrutiny Forum	
Week 6	Monday	14/2/22	10.30am	Planning Local Review Body	
	Tuesday	15/2/22	9.30am 10.00am 2.00pm	Conference Allocation Committee Planning Committee Clydesdale Area Committee	
	Wednesday	16/2/22	2.00pm	Hamilton Area Committee	
Week 7	Monday	21/2/22	10.30am		
	Tuesday	22/2/22	10.00am	Licensing Committee	
	Wednesday	23/2/22	2.00pm	Equal Opportunities Forum	
Week 8	Monday	28/2/22	10.00am		
	Tuesday	1/3/22	10.00am	Roads Safety Forum	
	Wednesday	2/3/22	10.00am 11.30am	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SOUTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL	

Report

9

Report to:	Executive Committee
Date of Meeting:	25 August 2021
Report by:	Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

Subject:	Risk and Audit Scrutiny Committee - Appointment of Chair
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ Seek nominations to the vacant position of Chair of the Risk and Audit Scrutiny Committee following Councillor Campbell's decision to step down from the role

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that, as Councillor Campbell has intimated his intention to step down from the position of Chair of the Risk and Audit Scrutiny Committee, nominations are sought to fill the vacancy.

3. Background

3.1. Due to recent events, Councillor Campbell is taking an extended leave of absence from his duties as councillor. He has now confirmed his intention to step down from the role of Chair of the Risk and Audit Scrutiny Committee with immediate effect, however, will remain as a member of the Committee.

3.2. The current membership of the Committee is as follows:-

Walter Brogan, Graeme Campbell, Mary Donnelly, Grant Ferguson, Martin Lennon, Julia Marrs, Davie McLachlan, Carol Nugent, Jared Wark, (*Ind Group Vacancy*)

Substitutes

Janine Calikes, Margaret Cowie, Eric Holford, Bert Thomson, (SNP Vacancy), (Conservative Vacancy)

3.3. The Terms of Reference of the Risk and Audit Scrutiny Committee require that membership is drawn from members not on the Executive Committee, with the exception of the Chair, who will be an Opposition councillor, and may serve on the Executive Committee. The political balance is: 4 SNP; 3 Labour; 2 Con; 1 Ind Group.

3.4. It is proposed that nominations are sought for the position of Chair. It should be noted that selection does not need to be restricted to the current membership but must comply with the criteria set out in the Terms of Reference, as outlined in the previous paragraph.

4. Employee Implications

4.1. There are no employee implications in terms of this report.

5. Financial Implications

5.1. There are no financial implications in terms of this report as the position is not one of the previously agreed senior councillor roles.

6. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

6.1. There are no climate change, sustainability or environmental implications in terms of this report.

7. Other Implications

7.1. There are no implications in terms of risk.

8. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

8.1. There was no requirement to carry out an EIA or formal consultation process.

Paul Manning

Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

10 August 2021

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

◆ Accountable, effective, efficient and transparent

Previous References

◆ None

List of Background Papers

◆ None

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

Susan Somerville, Administration Manager

Ext: 4197 (Tel: 01698 454197)

E-mail: susan.somerville@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Report

10

Report to:	Executive Committee
Date of Meeting:	25 August 2021
Report by:	Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

Subject:	School Clothing Grants
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ advise of the action taken, in terms of Standing Order No 36(c), because of the short timescales involved in making payment to eligible households prior to the new academic year, to increase the level of the school clothing grant award to £150 for secondary school pupils, in line with the new minimum level set by the Scottish Government, and to maintain the award for primary school pupils at the current level of £130

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the action taken, in terms of Standing Order No 36(c) by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources), in consultation with the Chair and an ex officio member, to increase the level of school clothing grant award for secondary school pupils to £150 and maintain the primary school pupil award at £130 from August 2021 be noted.

3. Background

- 3.1. School clothing grants are awarded to pupils on the basis of low household income. The Scottish Government as part of its 'First 100 days plan' has committed to increase the current minimum grant value of £100 per eligible pupil with the new minimum value set at £120 for primary and £150 for secondary school pupils.
- 3.2. Councils have the flexibility to set the award level of school clothing grant at the national minimum or at an amount that meets local needs and circumstances. South Lanarkshire Council (SLC) currently pay £130 to all eligible pupils. This value was approved by Executive Committee on 27 February 2019 to help mitigate the impact of poverty on children and young people. This currently benefits over 13,000 school children in South Lanarkshire with the total value of awards in 2020/2021 being £1.738m. The council funded £1.356m of this with the Scottish Government funding £0.382m.

4. Scottish Government Funding Position

- 4.1. The Scottish Government has agreed to the introduction of the new national minimum of £120 for primary children and £150 for secondary children.

- 4.2. The Scottish Government has committed to ensure that the national minimum school clothing grant award for primary and secondary pupils is increased annually, in line with inflation, and to provide the necessary funding to achieve this.
- 4.3. The Scottish Government has confirmed an allocation of £0.678m to support the costs of providing clothing grants including an additional £0.296m to fund payments at the new minimum levels.
- 5. South Lanarkshire Council Position**
- 5.1. Based on the revised Scottish Government position outlined in Section 4, it is recommended the council maintains the grant award value to primary pupils at the current amount of £130, which remains £10 above the new minimum award level and increases the secondary pupil award value to the new minimum level of £150. The increase in the secondary school pupil award would benefit around 5,500 pupils.
- 5.2. Payment of the award was made on 9 July 2021 directly into the recipient's bank account, where we hold their bank details or, alternatively, by cheque. We currently pay around 90% of payments by bank transfer. After the start of the new academic year, newly eligible cases will be paid on a weekly basis thereafter.
- 6. Employee Implications**
- 6.1. None.
- 7. Financial Implications**
- 7.1. The increased allocation from the Scottish Government is sufficient, combined with the Council's existing budget for this purpose, to fund an increase in the level of payment to recipients to that proposed by the council in 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 is a risk that the award of clothing grants and subsequent uptake are in excess of the available funding. This risk will be managed through the effective monitoring of the budget position.
- 10. Equalities Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**
- 10.1. There is no requirement to carry out an impact assessment or consultation in terms of the proposals within this report.

Paul Manning
Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

22 July 2021

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions /Objectives

- ◆ Accountable, effective, efficient and transparent
- ◆ Ambitious, self aware and improving
- ◆ Focused on people and their needs

Previous References

- ◆ Executive Committee Report 27 February 2019 – Overall Position of Budget 2019/2020, Savings Proposals and Council Tax

List of Background Papers

- ◆ COSLA Leaders Paper – June 2021 – Reference LD/21/130

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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