



South Lanarkshire  
**Partnership**  
Stronger together

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

# Community Plan for South Lanarkshire 2017–2027



Annual Outcome  
Improvement Report  
**2020–21**





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# Introduction to Community Planning in South Lanarkshire

## Preface

This document is for the people who live and work in South Lanarkshire. It shows the progress of the South Lanarkshire Community Planning Partnership during 2020-21 and gives examples of the work that we are doing to make a difference and how this has impacted on local people and communities.

## What are we?

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

## Who are we?

Our partnership includes a wide range of national and local organisations. Some of these organisations you will know well.

## What are we trying to achieve?

Our aim is to work with communities to deliver better services targeted at reducing poverty and tackling inequalities and deprivation across South Lanarkshire.

## How do I get involved?

There are many ways to get involved in your local community and influence the work of the partnership, for example, through volunteering, joining a local action group or making a participation request. More information can be found in the section "Working with Communities".



# Overarching Aim

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

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

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

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

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

[www.southlanarkshirecommunityplanning.org/plans](http://www.southlanarkshirecommunityplanning.org/plans)



Children in low income families  
(after housing costs)

**South Lanarkshire**  
**23.1%**

**Scotland 24.3%**  
**(2019-20)**



Increase employment rate

**South Lanarkshire**  
**77.1%**

**Scotland 72.9%**  
**(2020)**



(these figures include HMRC COVID-19 Furlough Schemes)

Increase the percentage of  
**16-19 year olds** participating in  
**education, training or employment as**  
**recorded at the Initial School Leaver Destination**

**South Lanarkshire**  
**94.8%**

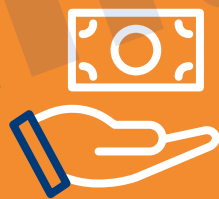
**Scotland 93%**  
**(2021)**



# Community Plan Performance Highlights

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

**93** Living Wage  
accredited employers  
(4th highest in Scotland)



South Lanarkshire  
Credit Union savings by  
young people  
has increased by  
**6.7%**



Early Learning and  
Childcare have delivered  
**40** Modern Apprenticeships and  
**50** Foundation Apprenticeships



Completed new  
affordable homes  
**339** (2020-21)



**Home+ Programme**  
South Lanarkshire Council delivered  
**668** affordable homes  
Registered Social Landlords delivered  
**977** affordable homes



**94.8%** of South Lanarkshire  
School Leavers  
entered a positive destination  
(Scotland 93.3%)



**11** South Lanarkshire  
Secondary Schools are  
signed up for the  
Mentors in Violence  
Prevention Programme



**1,280** people participated in  
the Get Walking Lanarkshire  
Health Walks Programme



# Community Plan

## Overall Performance at a glance

### Status of priority measures



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

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

The full Community Planning Partnership performance report can be accessed using the following link:

[www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/cp/Community-Plan-2017-2027-Q4-2020-21-Progress-Report](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/cp/Community-Plan-2017-2027-Q4-2020-21-Progress-Report)

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

### Most improved measures

Work with partners to promote the uptake of benefits including those new benefits introduced by Social Security Scotland

Achieve the annual target of homes directed to homeless households as set out within Local Letting Plans and agreed with Homefinder partners

Increase Employment Rate

Reduce road accident casualties – all killed

### Least improved measures

Numbers of new enterprises/businesses sustained

Reduce percentage of 15 year olds drinking alcohol at least once a week

Reduce the Emergency Admission rate per 100,000 population

Reduce the rate of pregnant mothers in the 15% most deprived areas who smoke during pregnancy



how we are making  
a difference

how we are making  
a difference







# Inclusive Growth

## Why is this important?

Inclusive growth is ensuring economic growth benefits everyone and reduces inequalities, particularly income inequality. In order to address inequalities, improve standards of living and life choices for our communities, we support South Lanarkshire businesses to grow and create employment. In turn, we encourage our businesses to employ local people thereby giving something back to the communities within which these businesses are based. This support has ensured South Lanarkshire has maintained high business start-up and survival rates, positive destinations for young people, and increased levels of investment.

## Support for Business: South Lanarkshire Council How are we doing?

Resources were naturally reprioritised during 2020-21 to focus on supporting businesses forced to close or operate under strict restrictions as a consequence of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

During and following the first lockdown, the Economic Development Service in South Lanarkshire Council administered Scottish Government funded grant support in the form of the New Self Employed Hardship Fund to the value of £605,000 and COVID-19 Soft Play and Nightclub Support of £325,000.

When the Break Restrictions were introduced in October 2020, Closure and Restrictions grants, worth £1.39million were administered to eligible businesses.

The Strategic Framework of protection measures came into force in November 2020 and the Economic Development Service has by the beginning of June 2021, provided 1,536 businesses with the Strategic Framework Fund (SFF) Business Grants and paid £12.332 million.

The SFF grants were then enhanced with the delivery of SFF hospitality, retail and leisure sector top up grants - £9,392million to 1,410 businesses.

Discretionary funding has been paid to 469 micro and small businesses of £1.3million and these businesses will also be paid top up funding.

Turning to South Lanarkshire Council funded Business Support grants, many of the businesses being supported were those which were adversely affected by the Government actions to mitigate the impact of the pandemic, it therefore follows that this COVID grant work does not necessarily contribute to those businesses achieving an increase in employment, sales and turnover, rather the focus has been about business survival and not supporting business growth.


However, in terms of direct, local SLC business support, notwithstanding the COVID-19 response, in the year 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021; 15 businesses have been assisted with offers of South Lanarkshire Business Support Grants with projected outcomes of 26 jobs created/safeguarded and 160,000 increased turnover.

## Next Steps

New Economic Development Officers have now been recruited, from January 2021, with a view to focussing on inward investment, increased business engagement and key sector development. While the new recruits have been required to assist with the COVID-19 pandemic response, progress has been made in terms of working with the Food and Drink sector in collaboration with Scotland Food and Drink and an emerging business-led group under the banner 'Lanarkshire Larder.'

Work has also began in collaboration with VisitScotland, partners and stakeholders to re-establish the tourism network and specific sector support across Lanarkshire.

Economic Development continues to lead the delivery of investment in our town and neighbourhood centres which has acted as a catalyst for additional investment to maximise opportunities for growth. Since the start of financial year 2019-20, Economic Development has secured in excess of £6.6m of capital funding with an additional £5m committed over the next 5 years. This investment has already resulted in excess of £10m additional private sector investment directly linked to the council investment.



The projects have been selected following a bidding process by communities and has led to the delivery of a number of high profile development projects which support town centres across South Lanarkshire. These projects range in scale but are transformational for the towns they are situated in. Examples include the redevelopment of a derelict hotel in Lanark for social housing, a community cinema in Forth, the redevelopment of vacant space in a shopping centre in Hamilton and a new community facility in Carnwath. Combined there are 26 live projects funded through these initiatives which, to the end of financial year 2021-22, will bring a total investment into our towns and neighbourhood centres of £17.4m.

## Support for Business: Scottish Enterprise How are we doing?

Throughout 2020-21, Scottish Enterprise focused on delivering emergency COVID Support Grants to companies as opposed to Economic Growth. Scottish Enterprise were responsible for the delivery of four grants. These included:

- The Pivotal Enterprise Resilience Fund (PERF)
- The Creative, Tourism and Hospitality Hardship Fund
- Scottish Wedding Fund
- Early Stage Challenge Fund

PERF was a needs-based grant award for Scottish Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SME) firms that could demonstrate they are vulnerable but can present a strong business case for a viable future. Firms needed to prove that they were vital to the local, regional or national economy. The fund was to support these companies with working capital to help them continue trading or to come out of hibernation when the time is right. Typically, these companies would:

- Be of Local economic importance which would include areas such as, employee numbers relative to place, delivery of essential services, wider economic and community value, plus the socio-economic importance of the business in remote and rural areas.
- Leverage on the wider business community by demonstrating the impacts of your business on supply chain at a local, regional and national level.
- Support Scotland's productive capacity – through wage levels, employment, exports, Research and Development and innovation.
- Be a supplier or potential supplier to the NHS or other COVID-19 vital services.
- Be a supplier to other essential businesses.

**In South Lanarkshire 62 of these grants were awarded with grants cumulatively accounting for £4.98m.**

The Creative, Tourism and Hospitality Enterprises Hardship Fund was designed for small creative, tourism and hospitality companies in Scotland that are experiencing hardship because they are ineligible for other coronavirus (COVID-19) government grant support or are not yet in receipt of the funds they needed to survive.

The focus was to help companies manage cash flow commitments.

A £20m scheme, grants of up to £25,000 could be accessed in addition to the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme. However, those that had accessed other support were ineligible.

**In South Lanarkshire 63 businesses benefitted from this support amounting to £927k.**

The Scottish Wedding Fund aimed to help businesses whose main income comes from the Scottish wedding industry to survive the pandemic and then restart once restrictions ease, thus protecting jobs.

The Scottish Wedding Industry Fund was fully allocated within four weeks. **Across South Lanarkshire 185 businesses benefitted from this support with total grants valued at £1.54m.**

The Early Stage Growth Challenge Fund was aimed at providing support (£50,000 - £300,000) to early-stage, high-growth, innovative Scottish companies (Small and Micro-Enterprises only i.e. 2-49 employees) whose routes to investment and growth were impacted during the COVID-19 pandemic. The funding was a combination of convertible loan and grant (which can make up a maximum of 20% of any funding awarded). The convertible loans have a term of 36 months and attract interest at 8% (interest free for the first 12 months). Unlike other COVID support mechanisms this was a competitive process.

In South Lanarkshire, two firms were successful in obtaining this funding. **Together they secured more than £575k.**

## Next Steps

In all, these support mechanisms help to stem the economic impact of the pandemic and in conjunction with South Lanarkshire administered funds helped secure the future of many businesses maximising the opportunities for growth as we emerge from the pandemic.

## Further information

Business Support  
<https://findbusinesssupport.gov.scot/>

Support for Businesses  
[www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/businesssupport](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/businesssupport)

Business Gateway Support  
[www.bgateway.com/local-offices/lanarkshire/local-support](http://www.bgateway.com/local-offices/lanarkshire/local-support)



# Financial Inclusion

## Why is this important?

Since the beginning of the pandemic, the number of people requiring support has increased due to a range of circumstances such as, for example, facing a sudden change in their financial situation or finding that family or friends, who may normally offer support and assistance, being unavailable if they are ill or self-isolating. In particular, within South Lanarkshire, 27,750 households or 50,565 people were referred to receive emergency food provision from April 2020 to March 2021 and the number of food parcels distributed by food banks has increased by 93.4% compared to last year.

## How are we doing?

South Lanarkshire Council together with partners support the work of the existing voluntary sector and local partnerships in each area of South Lanarkshire to address food poverty, meet the rising demand for food parcels and offer other types of support.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, the council has been sourcing food from wholesale suppliers and supermarkets and coordinated the process of distributing food to food banks and other local groups. In addition to food, essential items have been provided such as sanitary products, toiletries and household cleaning products. In total, 26,651 bags of food or 407,540 meals were distributed by the council over the last year (March 2020 to April 2021) to 16 organisations in the four areas of South Lanarkshire, this was funded by the Scottish Government Food Fund and the subsequent Financial Insecurity Fund.

People requesting support have also been able to reach help via the council's Community Wellbeing Line which was launched at the beginning of the pandemic. Among other types of support, the wellbeing line helps to connect households in need of food aid due to health or financial problems to local community food organisations. In total, 3,099 food related requests were received and answered over the last year and this led to an additional distribution of 4,720 bags of food to vulnerable groups, homeless or sheltered housing.



Moreover, local organisations have been receiving food from FareShare. The charity takes good quality surplus food from the food industry to frontline charities and community groups. From March to November 2020, 102 tonnes of food surplus or 244,838 meals were redistributed in South Lanarkshire with support from the council contributing to tackle food poverty and to reduce food waste.

Local food organisations and partners also meet regularly to discuss challenges and share good practices around food insecurity and support provided to people in need. For instance, this led to the publication of the Good Food Recipe Booklet which is distributed with food parcels, the publication of an online map to easily locate local food organisations and the organisation of workshops to discuss dignity principles in the context of emergency food provision.

## Priority Next Steps

- Improve uptake of food and crisis aid through the review of existing working relationships between specialist advice and aid services and improve cross referral processes;
- Support the development of dignified and more sustainable options for food provision; and
- Continue to encourage a partnership approach to facilitate knowledge sharing and peer learning

## Further information

How to get help – South Lanarkshire Council  
[www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/covid19-help](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/covid19-help)

Worried about food – South Lanarkshire Council  
[www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/worried-about-food](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/worried-about-food)

FareShare  
<https://fareshare.org.uk/>

# Supporting Parental Employment and Childcare

## Why is this 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.

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.

During 2019-20, 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.

In terms of the impact of the COVID-19 economic lockdown on claimant unemployment locally, the April 2021 figures suggest that there has been a 75.9% rise in unemployed claimants in South Lanarkshire since March 2020.

In South Lanarkshire, 19,200 people have been furloughed in the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (March 2021). The Scheme 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 over the previous year, from 90 to 93. South Lanarkshire also continues to rank 4th highest in Scotland for the number of accredited Living Wage employers. Furthermore, the proportion of South Lanarkshire residents who earn less than the Living Wage has fallen from 20.3% in 2018 to 17.8% in October 2019 and the number of employers accredited by the Scottish Living Wage Accreditation Scheme has increased from 50 in 2018 to 93 in 2021.

## How are we doing?

Our Local Child Poverty 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.

Partners support a range of activity to support parents develop the skills and experiences to progress to increased and sustained employment. This activity has a key role to play in increasing income from employment for young people and their families. The delivery of such programmes has been extremely challenging during the COVID-19 pandemic.

# Supporting Parental Employment and Childcare

## 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 (NOLB) initiative has provided additional employment skills for 120 local unemployed residents, including those with multiple barriers.

## 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.

## Priority Next Steps 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 NOLB principles, working with partners, to draw extensively on the lived experience of potential service users and identify best practice.

## Further Information

Every Child Every Chance

[www.gov.scot/publications/child-chance-tackling-child-poverty-delivery-plan-2018-22/](http://www.gov.scot/publications/child-chance-tackling-child-poverty-delivery-plan-2018-22/)

Employment Support

<https://economicactionplan.mygov.scot/skills/employment-support/>



## Parental Employment Support

K is a 21-year-old single parent who resides in Blantyre within one of the worst 20% SIMD areas 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 Professional Development Award (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's progress has been excellent and she completed her PDA in Childhood Practices and a further Paediatric First Aid qualification which enabled her to be promoted to Senior Nurse Practitioner which 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."

## 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 a Higher National Certificate (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.

# Improving Housing

## Why is this important?

The last year or so has shown more than ever how important housing is. Having a home that is safe, secure, maintained to a good standard and affordable to run, is central to a good quality of life and contributes towards positive health and wellbeing outcomes.

For a number of years now, South Lanarkshire Council and a range of partners have been working together to deliver new affordable homes across South Lanarkshire. Homes that are built to modern standards, are energy efficient and can meet both current and future needs, helping to ensure that people can live independently in their home for as long as possible.

At the same time, we are also continuing to invest in our existing council housing stock, to make sure that these homes meet the required building and environmental standards, which in turn helps towards addressing fuel poverty.



## How are we doing?

In 2019, the landmark housing-led regeneration of Whitlawburn in Cambuslang began with a plan to transform the area by demolishing 380 existing properties and delivering 311 new homes, including 230 homes for social rent and 81 homes for sale. The £42 million regeneration project which is subsidised through the Scottish Government's affordable housing supply programme, is being delivered through a partnership between South Lanarkshire Council, West Whitlawburn Housing Co-operative, CCG (Scotland) Ltd and hub South West.

The site masterplan for Whitlawburn was developed following extensive engagement with the local community. The new homes developed on the site therefore reflect the needs of the community, with a range of house types and sizes including, family homes, bungalows, amenity and mainstream flats.

Despite the challenges of the last year, 84 homes have already been completed and work will continue until the 170 new council homes are all delivered by the end of 2022. An additional 60 homes for social rent, comprising terraced houses and flats, will be developed by locally based West Whitlawburn Housing Co-operative.

The wider community has also benefited from the regeneration programme through the creation of seven jobs, three trade apprenticeships and four work placements. Support has also been provided to various local community initiatives and projects and this will continue as the regeneration programme progresses.

One happy tenant of a new, modern amenity flat is Gail McGowan, 91. Gail has lived in Whitlawburn for 50 years and was delighted with her new amenity home which has allowed her to continue to live independently in the community, close to family and friends. Gail said, "I am absolutely delighted with the new house. The kitchen is a fantastic size with all mod-cons. The people in this area are all very friendly and go out of their way to help and look out for one another – that's what I love about staying here".





## Priority Next Steps

In the year ahead we will continue to:

- Work towards completing delivery of the target of 1,000 additional council homes by March 2022;
- Work with partners to provide additional affordable homes to help towards meeting a range of housing needs across South Lanarkshire: and
- Invest in existing housing stock to improve energy efficiency, meet legislative requirements and ensure the housing stock meets modern standards.

## Further information

South Lanarkshire Local Housing Strategy 2017-22  
[www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/housing-strategy](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/housing-strategy)

Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) 2021-26  
[www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/SHIP-21-26](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/SHIP-21-26)

Youtube video of Whitlawburn  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=xwNUcaDgHJs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xwNUcaDgHJs)





# Education, Skills and Development

## Why is this 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.

For the first time in three months the number of young claimants (16-24) has fallen, from 2,390 to 2,350. South Lanarkshire also continues to rank outside of the worst 10 council areas in Scotland for youth claimants according to the latest April 2021 figures, with the authority placing 12th of the 32 council areas for youth unemployment. Despite the fall in young claimants recorded, the gap between the South Lanarkshire claimant rate and the Scottish average has marginally increased and now stands at +0.6%, the widest recorded since last year.

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 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.

## How are we doing?

### 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.

Skills Development Scotland has worked to be creative in enhancing existing delivery and have provided several new initiatives to support young people and employers which includes: Adopt an Apprentice, Apprenticeship Transition Plans, Pathways Apprenticeships, Transition Training Fund and Apprenticeship Employer Grants. Skills Development Scotland and partners developed and 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.

In addition, the council have provided a range of Modern Apprenticeships, however the number of starts (670) continues to be lower than previous years (1,926 in 2019-20) as employers have understandably focused on challenges of COVID-19 rather than recruitment or up-skilling of staff.

### 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 Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (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.

## Priority Next Steps

### Key challenges for 2021-22

This year due to COVID-19, there has been a drop in the positive destination rate for South Lanarkshire, however we remain above the national rate.

The Youth Employability Service will work closely with all secondary schools and partners including colleges and Skills Development Scotland to manage the COVID-19 restrictions and support young people make a positive transition from school. The Youth Employability Service is in the process of moving to a locality model which will widen the ongoing support and tracking of young people across all our programmes.

Care experienced school leavers have unique individual circumstances and intensive support can be required to progress to and sustain post-school destinations. The sustained progress in leaver destinations for care experienced young people has been supported through the tailored approach by the Aspire programme which was highlighted as good practice in the recent joint inspection of services for young people in need of care and protection. Given the difficulties of COVID-19 this targeted approach will be important in supporting care experienced young people at this time.

The Youth Employability Service will work with colleagues in Social Work to deliver a further roll out of the Care Experienced Employability Pilot. The programme was piloted in 2019 and supported five care experienced young people to progress to employment with South Lanarkshire Council. Through the council's role as a corporate parent, the programme developed an innovative and flexible wage placement-based approach to identify training and employment opportunities within the council that met the young people's needs and aspirations. A planned roll-out in 2020 was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and will now be delivered from May 2021.

## Further information

Every Child Every Chance

[www.gov.scot/publications/child-chance-tackling-child-poverty-delivery-plan-2018-22/](http://www.gov.scot/publications/child-chance-tackling-child-poverty-delivery-plan-2018-22/)

Youth Employability

[www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/youth-employability](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/youth-employability)

## Case Study

D was referred to Aspire by his Social Worker when he was 16 years old and on a supervision order. He was also receiving support from the Intensive Family Support Team and the Adaction project.

From the beginning D engaged really well with Aspire. He saw it as a fresh start and was keen to do well. An action plan was drawn up and D received support with an Aspire worker on a regular basis. The Aspire worker began to build up a good relationship with him and gain an insight into what would be best for D to support him on his journey to employment. D stressed he didn't want to attend college but was willing to try a short employability course to help him reach his goal of employment.

D started on the 'New Horizons' programme with Skills Exchange Scotland. At that time, he had an interest in cookery and hoped to gain a modern apprenticeship as a chef. However, D lost interest very quickly on New Horizons and realised this wasn't for him as he wanted to try to get a job and earn money.

D was supported to produce a CV and he went around local employers dropping off his CV. He was very motivated to find a job, so the worker met him at the library to job search and apply for jobs.

D's confidence increased and he became very focussed on finding employment. He became confident job searching on his own and applying for jobs and received a couple of interviews during this period. Although he was unsuccessful it gave him much needed interview experience.

D was referred to an employment opportunity through South Lanarkshire Council's COVID jobs portal. It was a full-time job with an organisation producing and selling blinds. D attended the interview and did very well. He was offered a work trial for three days and did very well and as a result was offered a permanent full time post which he is thoroughly enjoying.



# Health Inequalities

Reducing social isolation by empowering communities and individuals to improve their own health and wellbeing.

## Why is this important?

Prior to the initial period of lockdown in March 2020, third sector organisations receiving funds through the Integrated Care Fund were asked to amend their services to support people who would be adversely affected during the lockdown period, these services were seen as essential in reducing health inequalities during an uncertain and concerning time.

## How are we doing?

These organisations provided remote support for wellbeing with an estimated average of 1,500 welfare checks having been undertaken every month and more than 600 people receiving personal support to remain connected through video and telephone calls, 1:1 support and group sessions.

Organisations established telephone befriending and a number have set up online group sessions involving activities such as cooking, meditation, quizzes and coffee mornings.



Some provided equipment loans or distributed devices through the "Connecting Scotland" scheme.

A range of activity packs were distributed to keep minds occupied such as mindfulness, colouring or to help self-management e.g. lymphoedema exercise DVD.

Support was provided to reduce food poverty and through two of the organisations, more than 1,000 people received food parcels during the last year.

Another organisation carried out an average of 100 food shops and 24 prescription collections per month. One organisation provided cooked meals for their client group of older people while another supported the community with fresh produce grown on their community farm.

Mental Health and Crisis Support included emotional support, signposting and referring to other agencies, supporting people with mental health issues, domestic abuse, advice and providing representation for those in crisis or adversely affected by the pandemic.

More than 100 people suffering from mental ill-health received specialist support which included 1:1 support, virtual support group sessions and practical self-management tools. The Citizens Advice Bureau supported almost 800 people who were in crisis with face to face and virtual appointments, dealing with benefit issues, unemployment and issues relating to personal relationships.

Through funds provided by William Grant, Voluntary Action South Lanarkshire (VASLan) as the Third Sector Interface (TSI), distributed 29 small grants to a range of organisations across South Lanarkshire. These grants enabled the support to local community based organisations and 'pop-up' support groups to provide food vouchers, activity packs, IT equipment and wellbeing packs to a wide range of residents who were isolated as a result of the lockdown.





## Extracts from service user feedback/case studies

### The Haven

"The 'Angel Catcher' journal is the best thing. It's really good and very therapeutic... It helped me see that I had not forgotten (loved one) and it gave me time to reflect and process my grief. It was emotional but it is what I needed." – Bereaved Carer, bereavement focused Wellbeing Toolkit.

"Anyone getting involved in this class will benefit so much, as I have done. You can go at your own pace and Nicola is a fantastic teacher." – client participating in gentle exercise.

### Healthy Valleys

"I was worried that when I got into the group I'd have nothing to say and that I'd feel embarrassed just sitting there, but I didn't. I enjoyed talking to people and hearing their chat and I realised that I'm a pretty good knitter! It's been great to be able to help some of the younger ones get going, I've finished each group smiling. If things keep going how they are I think I could keep the group going!" (as a volunteer).

## LEAP

William couldn't speak highly enough about the calls. He can't wait for the call every week. Brian makes him laugh. "I feel that with the support from my volunteer and the LEAP staff that I have come along leaps and bounds."

## LAMH

"To think at my age I could learn a new skill during such trying times and when I felt most cut off from the outside world! I can't thank the LAMH staff enough for their guidance, support and patience. I was so isolated at home and not seeing my family and friends impacted my mental health in such a way that I started to think what's the point. I can't believe I can now enjoy the benefits of a weekly online group with familiar faces. I have a focus within my week again and a skill I can use to keep in touch with my family. It's wonderful!"

"My son stays in America, he is a doctor. I feel so happy to now be able to contact him using my tablet at home. I would never have been able to use my tablet in this way without the continuous support from LAMH and I am very grateful to the service. I was so overwhelmed when my support worker initially discussed this with me and believed I would never achieve this. It took a lot of patience and I felt the written guides (how to use Microsoft Teams) from LAMH enabled me to break down any further anxieties as well as the time from my support worker. I look forward to seeing everyone online during our weekly Mindfulness sessions, it has been so beneficial to me and a skill I can continue to use to keep me connected to my loved ones".

## Further information

Voluntary Action South Lanarkshire (VASLan)  
[www.vaslan.org.uk/](http://www.vaslan.org.uk/)

# Safeguarding from Risk or Harm

## Why is this important?

South Lanarkshire Council's Public Protection Team consists of the Adult and Child Protection Committees, Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) and the Gender Based Violence Partnership. The Partnership is committed to working with survivors, victims and perpetrators to reduce the risk of harm to children, adults and members of the public across our community.

To be effective, Public Protection requires agencies in South Lanarkshire to work together to raise awareness and understanding and coordinate an effective response which provide people at risk of violence, abuse and exploitation with the support needed.

One area of focus is educating young people on domestic abuse and gender based violence with the focus being primary prevention, early intervention and support.

This work aligns with the Scottish Government's Equally Safe strategy for preventing and eradicating violence against women and children produced in partnership with CoSLA, Police Scotland, Health Scotland and specialist Violence against Women support groups like Scottish Women's Aid and Rape Crisis Scotland.

## How are we doing?

These are unprecedented times where the current pandemic has resulted in various challenges delivering face to face workshops, initiatives, campaigns and training. The Mentors in Violence Prevention Programme, aimed at young people aged 12 to 25, continues to be prioritised in schools and is run within 11 schools across South Lanarkshire. The Gender Based Violence (GBV) Partnership continues to offer ongoing support to these schools to raise awareness, challenge behaviours, build knowledge and skills in a preventative approach to stop violence before it occurs. GBV is a term that encompasses a spectrum of abuse experienced mostly by women and perpetrated mainly by men including, but not limited to, physical, sexual and psychological abuse, domestic abuse, rape, commercial sexual exploitation, trafficking, honour-based violence and female genital mutilation.

Safe and Together is an approach developed in the United States which provides a framework for partnering with domestic abuse survivors and intervening with domestic abuse perpetrators in order to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children. The Safe and Together Implementation Plan has been delayed as a result of COVID-19, however, training has now been delivered and the Gender-Based Violence Partnership and Child Protection Committee continue to work together to further embed the model into practice across the multi-agency workforce.

South Lanarkshire Council once again supported the international campaign, 16 Days of Action which showcased its 30th anniversary and commenced on 25 November 2020. The campaign to raise awareness of domestic abuse, gender based violence and push for positive change to increase women's safety seen Hamilton Town House lit up in orange to mark the 16 days. Orange is the unifying colour and a symbol of a brighter future, free from violence against women and girls.





**Police Scotland responds to a domestic abuse call every nine minutes attending around 60,000 incidents every year.**



## Priority Next Steps

- To continue to ensure the Mentors in Violence Prevention Programme is delivered in secondary schools across South Lanarkshire in order to promote early intervention and prevention of gender based violence in line with Equally Safe: Scotland's Strategy for Eradicating and Preventing Violence Against Women and Girls; and
- Further roll out of the Safe and Together Model across South Lanarkshire's multi-agency workforce through further training and briefing sessions in line with the South Lanarkshire's Gender Based Violence Partnership's Safe and Together Implementation Plan.

## Further information

South Lanarkshire GBV Partnership  
[www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/gender-based-violence](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/gender-based-violence)

South Lanarkshire GBV Partnership Strategy 2020-23  
[www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/gender-based-violence-strategy](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/gender-based-violence-strategy)

South Lanarkshire Public Protection Strategy  
[www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/public-protection-strategy](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/public-protection-strategy)

ASSIST – **0141 276 7400**

Domestic Abuse and Forced Marriage Helpline –  
**0800 027 1234**

Hemat Gryffee Womens Aid – **0141 353 0859**

Lanarkshire Rape Crisis – **01698 527003**

Mens Advice Line – **0808 801 0327**

Police Scotland Domestic Abuse - **101**





# Improving the Local Environment and Communities



## Why is this important?

The quality of the environment in which we live and our ability to take part in community life and influence what happens in our communities is key to addressing inequalities and tackling poverty. Within this theme we are working in partnership to tackle digital exclusion.

## How are we doing? Digital Connectivity

In 2020, South Lanarkshire Council (SLC) developed and approved a Digital Inclusion Strategy covering 2020 to 2023. The strategy was based on conversations with South Lanarkshire residents to understand the barriers to accessing the benefits of the internet. These barriers included affordability, skills, poor availability of, or slow broadband connectivity and concerns around data security. This strategy can be viewed on the council's website (see further information). An action plan for the first year of the strategy was agreed and this included actions to address several of these barriers.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, progress was made on this plan to improve broadband availability with providers, most notably with fibre investment in Rutherglen and Cambuslang communities and 4G mobile provision in rural areas. SLC and various community partners worked with the Scottish Government's Connecting Scotland programme to provide mobile devices (laptops and tablets) and connectivity to needy residents in the South Lanarkshire area, including school pupils, to ensure that during lockdown people without access to the internet were not further disadvantaged. In addition assistance was given where required in the use of these devices.

## Further information

Digital Inclusion Strategy 2020 - 2023 Plans and policies - South Lanarkshire Council

[www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/digital-inclusion-strategy](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/digital-inclusion-strategy)



# Neighbourhood Planning



# Neighbourhood Planning

## Hillhouse, Udston, Burnbank

Through relationships built with Community Links and local Neighbourhood Planning, a programme of sport activities has been organised through Uddingston Community Sports Hub, Active Schools and partnership with the Scottish Football Association (#GoFitba) as a targeted intervention for access to sports activities for local children who would not otherwise have the opportunity to take part.

## 2019-2020

Through Our Place Our Plan, a programme was set up in conjunction with the Harvest Church Hamilton community support group. This was after a local neighbourhood consultation identified sport and physical activity opportunities as a priority for the area. The aim was to provide children from the group the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities which would be led by local clubs. A budget was allocated for the programme through a local participatory allocation process which allowed for more access and the promotion of further opportunities including South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture's (SLLC) ACE and ACE Pop Up programmes. We were also able to remove some barriers to participation for the children by providing these activities as part of a pre-existing homework club with the Harvest Church.

This has resulted in a 6-8 month sports hub programme delivered in kind by clubs with resources made available to the children and access to these sessions. Clubs pictured

supporting sessions are Hamilton Judo and Kirkwood's Martial Arts. We have also been able to develop new opportunities specifically during the October break and Easter school holidays.

## COVID-19 Response

As a result of the pandemic, it meant we had to be creative in our response as we sought out alternative options based on the current guidelines. We worked very closely with local partners including those clubs who had their own facility. We also worked with the Scottish Football Association to ensure we could still provide opportunities.





## GoFitba'

A Scottish Football Association #GoFitba programme was delivered over the October holidays at the Jock Stein Leisure Centre in Hamilton. The purpose was to combat holiday hunger with a message on healthy eating at each session. 35 local children identified through the Harvest Church community group and Universal Connections attended, each receiving their own football and snacks to take home courtesy of Asda and other local businesses.



## Continuation enabled

Through work with leisure management, development services and facilities staff, the club has been able to continue on a Thursday night at the Jock Stein Centre with the same partners and local children. There is also a club pathway/link being developed with Calderglen Thistle who can provide waterproofs for the children.



## Community Clubs

Around the same time, discussions were taking place with Uddington Cricket and Sports Club about how we could possibly work together in providing opportunities for these target groups. Given the location of the facility, transport was a challenge but the Harvest Church Group were able to get access to a minibus and teamed up with the club to deliver a 5 week block of sessions free of charge.

## Club Delivery

The clubs delivered tasters in Hockey and Rugby and provided a meal, with 16 children attending each week. Even the opportunity to attend the state-of-the-art facility was a unique experience for the group.

*"Haven't ever played it till the course and it was good to get to try it."*

**Keiva, 9**

*"I didn't think I would love sports but it made me feel like I could do it."*

*"Everyone was so good teaching us sports we didn't know we liked. I would love to play all of the sports again. It made me feel sporty."*

**Poppy, 9**



# Neighbourhood Planning

The under 15s girls section of the club and ladies teams organised a Christmas gift set for every child in attendance. Club partnership with Bothwell Community Action Group worked with the Harvest Community Group to support families (who require) with a Christmas meal and a gift from Santa over Christmas.



## Happy and Excited

The children were also treated to a trip to the local Christmas lights and a McDonalds after the final session with the Harvest Church Group.

## Moving into 2021

There are plans to continue these projects into the New Year with the same principles outlined above, in partnership with Neighbourhood Planning, Uddingston Community Sports Hub and Active Schools/schools locally as well as the initial plans with 6 community clubs.

## Summary and next steps

These activities were the first/only opportunities for many children since the lockdown started in March 2020 having been trapped at home with fewer opportunities to connect than others. Working in collaboration with Our Place Our Plan and the Harvest Church Group has enabled us to engage with a variety of children from different backgrounds and circumstances.

We have allocated £1,000 from the Community Sport Hub resource to develop the Uddingston Hockey/Rugby programme at the sports club. The club are also working with a private investor and Scottish Hockey to develop their own access programme which we will also connect with. Due to COVID and another successful funding bid we still have around £2,000 allocation from Our Place Our Plan to develop a wider sports programme developing access and club links. It is likely this will now be a more focussed access programme with 4 clubs rather than the initial 6. This is additional to the Uddingston Sports Club programme. GoFitba' has now been extended due to additional funding from the SFA with plans to move into 3 other areas of South Lanarkshire developing similar community partnerships.

## Children's feedback (club programme)

*"Please could we do this all the time as we had so much fun learning all the new sports. I love sports even more now."*

**Willow, 7**

*"I really enjoyed taking part in the sports programme, it helped me build confidence and helped me exercise as well, along with having fun with my friends."*

**Nathan, 10**

*"I enjoyed making friends and would love to come back."*

**Lexie, 9**

*"It was good fun. I would like to do it again for longer"*

**Gracie, 11**



## Parents feedback:

*"I work as an intensive care nurse and this has allowed me to have peace of mind that the children are taking part in quality activities that are fully supported which has taken the pressure off me for that day."*

*"This continuing would be of such a huge benefit to the community. The children come home after it with such a boost. And ask all week when is it time to go back."*

*"It gave them some fun and got to socialise with other kids. It's been so long since they have been able to have fun at a group together. It let her get away from me and her dad and gain some independence. She's always had mum and dad the past few months and noticed she really didn't want to go out away from us."*

*"It helps my son's social skills. He enjoys this every week and it's an incentive for him so it would be good to have it back"*

**(child has autism)**

*"Seeing Katey happy and enjoying taking part and hearing all about the activities she has very much loved doing, excellent programme for the children and I hope it continues."*





# Neighbourhood Planning



## Beat the Street East Kilbride 2020

Beat the Street East Kilbride is delivered by Intelligent Health on behalf of South Lanarkshire Council, Smarter Choices, Smarter Places and the Scottish Government. Paths for All Smarter Choices, Smarter Places programme supports local authorities in Scotland to encourage more active and sustainable travel choices. To improve air quality the Scottish Government also supports actions to encourage more active, sustainable travel whilst decreasing reliance on private vehicles for shorter journeys. Beat the Street East Kilbride set out to increase active travel and improve health and wellbeing amongst its residents by increasing physical activity. 12,066 people, 17% of the population we targeted, walked, cycled, rolled, jogged and scooted over 124,000 miles over four weeks between 19 February and 23 March 2020. The game phase, due to last 6 weeks, had to end prematurely due to the global outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic and the subsequent restrictions put in place by the UK Government.

This summarises the impact the project has had on individuals and communities by analysing pre and post intervention data provided by participants. It details some of the local engagement activities undertaken before and during the game phase. We explore how Beat the Street took a collaborative approach through the steering group and working with local partners to help embed change.

Registration data was collected from 8,077 children and adults at the start of the game phase, providing key audience insight on who they were and their behaviours. This looks at the behaviour change findings and present them alongside qualitative feedback and case studies.

## Background and purpose

Beat the Street is an evidence-based intervention designed to increase physical activity levels across a community. It connects individuals with their local environment and supports long term behaviour change by making physical activity an enjoyable, integral part of everyday life.

Beat the Street encourages participation through game-based strategies and motivates positive behaviour that, over time, becomes the daily norm. Beat the Street addresses some of the physical barriers to being active by using an inclusive, simplistic concept and combats emotional barriers by creating a community-wide social norm. The key to the success of Beat the Street is the behaviour change journey during the game phase. During this time, participants have often discovered new walking/cycling routes and local greenspaces or perhaps just realised that it doesn't take as long as they thought to walk to work or school etc. We continue to support these participants through multi-channel communications, informing them of local events and campaigns.

## The Challenge

Physical inactivity is the fourth leading cause of premature deaths in the UK. The cost of inactivity is £7.4 billion with 1 in 6 deaths attributable to inactivity. The Chief Medical Officer recommends that adults should be doing a minimum of 150 minutes of moderate or 75 minutes of vigorous intensity exercise a week. Children under 16 should be doing at least 60 minutes every day in order to stay healthy and prevent developing long-term conditions. Getting everyone to achieve these minimum amounts of activity is still a challenge and currently 21% of adults living in Scotland are inactive (under 30 minutes a week), with women far more likely to be less active than men. For children, 24% are not meeting the current recommended guidelines (Health Scotland). Building walking or cycling into daily routines such as active travel is an effective way to increase physical activity.



**21%** of adults are physically inactive



**15%** of adults in Scotland travel by foot or bike to work



**24%** of children not meeting recommendations

## The Sustained Impact



**12,066** Total Players



**13%** Decrease In Adult Inactivity



**28%** Increase in Adults Active (150+ mins)



**8%** Increase in Cycling



**15%** Increase in Children Sufficiently Active



**26%** of gameplay undertaken during commute times

## Local Engagement

Before the game started, steering groups were held with stakeholders from across the air quality, cycling, volunteering, health, education, leisure and culture, community and nature sectors. The steering groups were instrumental in shaping the delivery and direction of the programme as well as contributing towards the development of the in-game events, choosing the local centres to support and helping to raise awareness of Beat the Street across East Kilbride.

31 schools (27 Primary, 4 High Schools with 3 in Special Educational Need category) were invited to take part in Beat the Street East Kilbride. All schools were offered an assembly, with some having multiple assemblies. 42 assemblies were delivered by the Engagement Coordinator and SLLC Active Schools officers. 100% of the schools we targeted took part in the initiative. Schools were sent weekly updates throughout the game to help keep them motivated and to promote upcoming events.

In addition to schools, local community groups, workplaces and sports clubs were encouraged to get involved in the game and the Engagement Coordinator met with numerous organisations to get as many teams signed up as possible. There were 29 community teams, workplaces and sports clubs that signed up and 26 played. These teams included the University of the West of Scotland, Kilbryde Hospice, HMRC, Jog Scotland and South Lanarkshire College. These teams could pick up their materials from identified distribution points across the town which included libraries, leisure centres, East Kilbride Arts Centre, Hairmyres Hospital and Hunter Health Centre. The waiting room screens in Hunter Health Centre played Beat the Street videos to encourage patients to play. A framework for Social Cycling has been set up with Universal Connections, The Big Bike Revival and John Wright Sports Centre, to continue when COVID-19 restrictions allow.

# Neighbourhood Planning

## Launch Event

The game was launched on 19 February 2021 with an event held at Universal Connections. This was attended by stakeholders, including one of the funders, Paths For All, as well as groups from schools, colleges and councillors. A second launch was held on 22 February at the John Wright Sports Centre. The estimated total of attendees across the 3 hour event was 2,000. This is the highest recorded number of participants at a dedicated BTS launch event ever.



## Murray 12 walkers

"We started Murray 12 walkers, to try and persuade some equally unfit people to get out and about. By the time Beat the Street came about we had a hard-core of about 25 regular walkers so we had a meeting and decided to give it a bash. We quickly became more competitive and before long tactics became part of the game. This included looking at when double points or treble points will be awarded and making sure that as many people as possible are scoring points wisely. Acquaintances became very good friends and we all looked forward to doing our bit. Encouraging one another including when people felt they were letting the side down when family and working commitments restricted the amount of time we could go into walking. But the group's view was that we were a team and everyone putting points on the scoreboard was doing their bit for the team. Of course, we were sorry that the event had to be cut short due to COVID-19, but if I was being honest my feet were delighted."

I asked the members for their thoughts on what they got out of Beat the Street. Here are some of their comments:

"It was great fun and we were inspired to keep going by yourself." Brian and David

"Also a great way to find unfamiliar areas of the town and find new walking routes."

"As a carer it was great to get out and do something for myself for a wee change, push myself, clear the mind and have a laugh with a great bunch of people."

"Never walked in my life and loved the achievement. An amazing support and great new friends. And still out most days so well chuffed I found you all."

"Started off struggling to walk a mile at a time. With everyone encouraging and supporting me, I was walking 5 miles a day and loving it. Has given me the walking bug, been out almost every day since lockdown. Has really helped me to get out and walk more though I must say better with company. Well done encouraging us all in the beat box competition."



## Qualitative Feedback – Children and Adults

*“I really enjoyed doing Beat the Street before school started, during school and after. I would Beat the Street after my dinner and before my athletics started in the evening. I enjoyed being with my friends and doing it together was fun.”*

**Boy, aged 11 and under**

*“It made me more motivated to go on walks to get more points - I noticed that I made more effort to walk places so I could get points, instead of just taking a bus or car.”*

**Girl, aged 12-18**

*“We walked much more and the kids loved getting out to do it! It became a competition for them. The kids didn’t want it to end - hoping it comes back again as it ended early!”*

**Female, aged 30-39**

*“Beat the Street got me back into taking a daily walk. I’ve never looked back.”*

**Male, aged 60-69**

## Conclusion

12,066 people (17% of the population) took part in Beat the Street East Kilbride before the game ended on 23 March. Of those who took part, 24% of adults' self-reported as being inactive at registration. The scheme achieved a 28% increase in adults achieving the recommended levels of activity and a 15% increase in children meeting the Chief Medical Officer's physical activity guidelines.

Data collected during the game points towards a strong increase in active travel. 26% of all taps recorded throughout the initiative were made during active travel periods.

A six month follow up survey will be sent out to players in August 2021, which will look at long term behaviour change.





[illegible]



# Community Participation and Engagement

## Why is this important?

The essential building blocks to effective community participation and engagement are community capacity building which increases a collective ability to identify priorities and find solutions and building of social capital which increases participatory, collaborative decision-making.

Collaboration with communities across South Lanarkshire has been a key feature of our work.

All of our work is planned in the context of The Community Empowerment Act 2015 ([www.gov.scot/policies/community-empowerment/](http://www.gov.scot/policies/community-empowerment/)).

## How are we doing?

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

Finding new ways to support participation and facilitate community engagement is always at the forefront. As is ensuring that the processes and approaches used are meaningful, adaptable and productive.

Post first lockdown, in an attempt to re-engage local people in discussion around Our Place Our Plan neighbourhood planning activity in the Springhall and Whitlawburn area, a series of Let's Talk About Our Place sessions were planned. All inputs are based around the 10 priority themes within the Our Place Our Plan Neighbourhood Plan and the aim was to enable residents to find out more about services and activities taking place, planned or being adapted and delivered in response to COVID-19.

The sessions have been taking place on a weekly basis since the middle of November 2020. As of 4 May 2021, 27 sessions have taken place with the principle purpose of re-connecting and connecting local people to Our Place Our Plan.

Using Zoom, residents have been able to take part in a range of short inputs (approx. 15 minutes plus a Q and A) and participants have the opportunity to put forward questions via the chat function or verbally during or post the presentation/inputs offered by the Our Place Our Plan stakeholder organisations.

Building connections between local people and those providing services has been a key feature of the sessions. Contributors have been encouraged to promote new initiatives, planned or proposed, including any community engagement activity and to share their contact details as a first point of contact for local people. Inputs have been across a broad range of topics including mental health, debt financial wellbeing, social prescribing, physical activity, training and learning opportunities, including lots of practical inputs for example, online home safety checks, community growing, cooking classes, reducing energy and food costs and social and recreational opportunities. For their Let's Talk About Session, Springhall and Whitlawburn Youth Development Team produced and presented a video perfectly showcasing the level and quality of youth provision being offered in this area and how services and activities have responded and adapted in the last year to continue to meet the needs of young people.

As part of an overarching commitment to meaningfully engage communities of place and of interest in the process of community planning in South Lanarkshire, early discussions have taken place concerning the development of a local structure/community partnership which will act as an intermediary and provide a mechanism to strengthen local decision making. To build links and interconnections between communities, neighbourhood planning priorities and activities and the wider work of the South Lanarkshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board. Very early conversations are taking place regarding community partnerships in two localities with a view to roll this out across South Lanarkshire.



# Community Participation and Engagement

It is anticipated that a number of benefits, opportunities and positive outcomes will be achieved through this work, including enhanced networking across communities and partnerships and improved understanding of shared priorities which may catalyse new opportunities for co-production. In addition to this, preliminary discussions have taken place with staff and representatives from across the CPP to begin to explore the role and support of partners and how we can work collectively in partnership to harness available advice and expertise to ensure that communities are adequately resourced to pursue, develop or deliver on any emerging priorities.

## How can you get involved?

If you would like more information or would like to get more involved in your community please email:

**[communities@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:communities@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)**

or phone **0303 123 1017**

## Further information

South Lanarkshire Community Planning Partnership

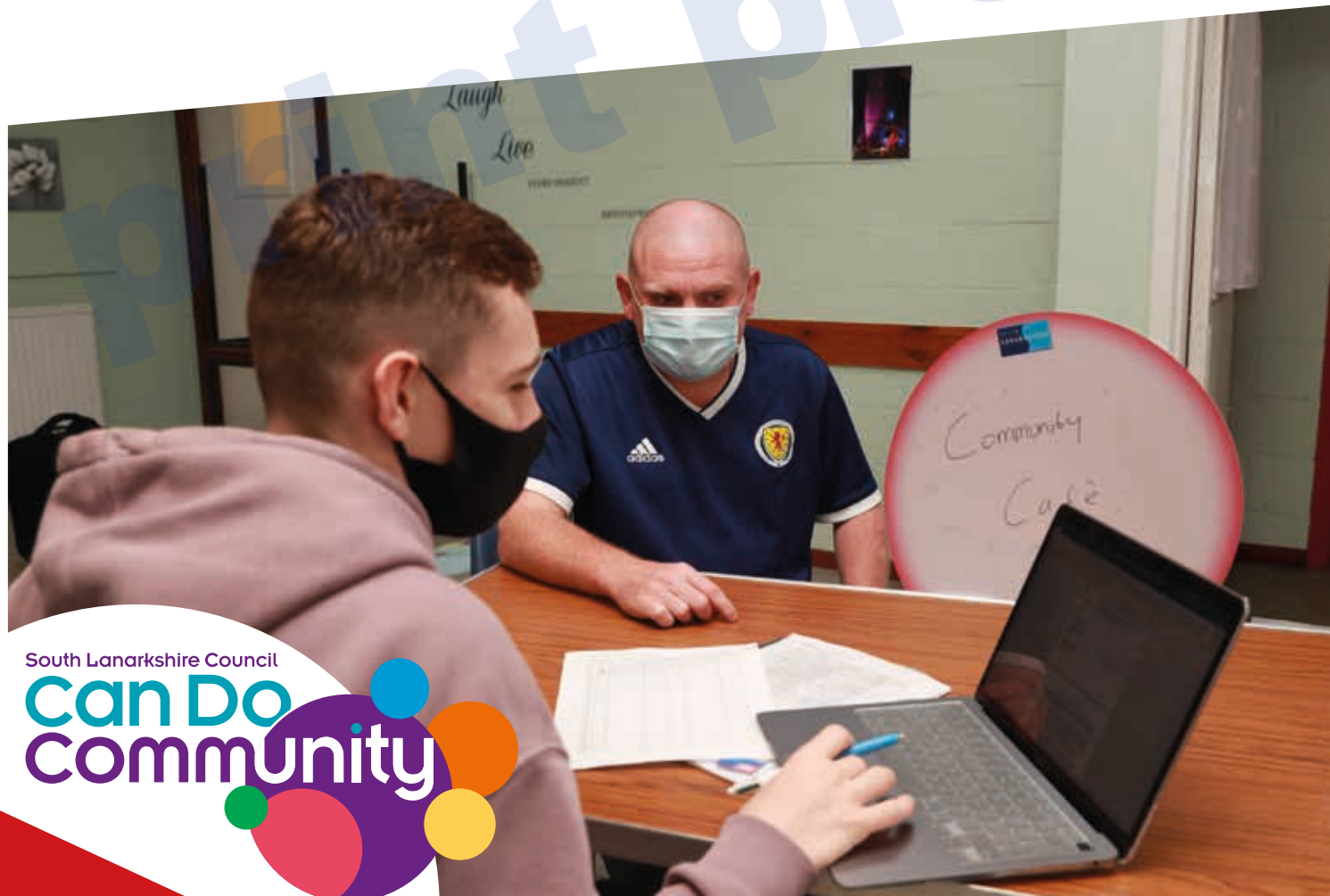
**[www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/cp/site/index.php](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/cp/site/index.php)**

Community Empowerment Act (Scotland) 2015

**[www.gov.scot/publications/community-empowerment-scotland-act-summary/](http://www.gov.scot/publications/community-empowerment-scotland-act-summary/)**

National Standards for Community Engagement

**[www.scdc.org.uk/what/national-standards](http://www.scdc.org.uk/what/national-standards)**



South Lanarkshire Council

**Can Do  
Community**

# Having Community Conversations that Matter!

## Why is this important?

During the year there were new opportunities to have conversations with communities. The community response to the pandemic was outstanding across South Lanarkshire, and staff from the partnership were able to work alongside and support existing and new groups and volunteers to make sure that everyone in their communities was cared for. New networks developed and relationships were built. The Partnership is keen to continue these conversations and will be working over the next year to build local structures which allow this to happen.

## How are we doing?

We continued to talk to communities about their needs and aspirations and supported more to become involved in neighbourhood planning activity over the year. There were also conversations about what recovery meant and how people's experiences of life in the pandemic was, and the results of these contributed to national conversations as well as informing local decisions.

The year was not without its challenges, particularly moving to online methods of holding conversations at very short notice. Despite this, the dialogue with our communities not only continued but grew, particularly through the work of the council's Community Engagement Team and Voluntary Action South Lanarkshire (VASLan) with the support of other partners.

## Priority Next Steps

Over the course of 2021-22, we will continue to hold these conversations and attempt to involve even more of our community in them. We will use what you tell us to identify the priorities we should be addressing, and to write a new partnership plan showing the actions we will be taking to do this.



# Participatory Budgeting

## Why is this important?

Devolved participatory decision making is a key feature of public service delivery. Participatory Budgeting (PB) actively engages residents in local priority setting, decision making and the allocation of elements of public funds.

## How are we doing?

The response by communities during the pandemic has been overwhelming and humbling in equal measure. Never before has the contribution of volunteers and the value of community involvement been put so firmly in the spotlight. We have witnessed an upsurge in community connections, partnerships and community spirit and there's no going back now.

With opportunities to meet together, paused not halted, and with time to consider how best to move forward, online meetings, events and consultations and lots of telephone contact have become very much the order of the day. Securing wide, fair and inclusive representative community involvement has been a huge consideration. Making activities like PB even more important. Participatory Budgeting is all about empowering local people and communities, strengthening and building community connections and actively engaging residents in local priority settings, decision making and the allocation of elements of public funds. Bringing people together to take direct action to bring about neighbourhood based improvements.

9 neighbourhood planning areas in South Lanarkshire are currently benefiting from the PB process. In each area the delivery is at different stages of development and a variety of approaches are being used based on local circumstances.



*“The levels of community participation in PB have been incredibly positive and a welcoming surprise particularly given the focus on online voting. Although nothing beats face to face engagement, communities have really turned out and made the very best of this opportunity.”*

**Community Engagement  
Team staff member**

In Hillhouse, Udston and Burnbank, residents and other stakeholders have continued to work together to deliver the local priorities outlined in the Our Place Our Plan Neighbourhood Plan. 898 local residents recently took part in a public vote (participants had the option to vote online or via telephone) allocating a £7,000 budget towards the delivery of local projects including the development of a community outdoor space.

*“Our group were delighted to receive £4,400 of Participatory Budgeting funds. It has enabled us to move on to phase 2 of a 5 phase programme within our community project at Dunkeld Gardens. Many thanks from all at Hillhouse Residents and Tenants Association.”*

## A food initiative

*“The allocation of monies from Participatory Budgeting has enabled the continuation of an Emergency Food Supply which operates each Friday from Gilmour and Whitehill Church, Burnbank. This service is very necessary and is much appreciated by all who need to use it.”*

**Anne Paul, Session Clerk,  
Gilmour and Whitehill Parish Church**

Other PB investment was used to sustain and develop a Homework Club and a Sports Hub. Participation levels in the public were very good and fairly representative across a number of age ranges:

- 16yrs - 24yrs = 25%
- 25yrs - 34yrs = 20%
- 35yrs - 44yrs = 26%
- 45yrs - 54yrs = 17%
- 55yrs - 64yrs = 8%
- 65yrs - 74yrs = 3%
- 75yrs plus = -1/1%

Neighbourhood Planning relies on good relationships and effective partnership. Bringing local people together with other stakeholders to take direct action to bring about neighbourhood based improvements.



## Strutherhill and Birkenshaw

As part of their ongoing commitment to maintain the involvement of the wider community in the delivery of the Our Place Our Plan Neighbourhood Plan for Strutherhill and Birkenshaw, in 2020-2021 the Our Place Our Plan Community Group decided to adapt their use of a PB approach. Keeping firmly to the principles of collective deliberative local decision making and striving to best meet local circumstances and the impact of COVID-19. The group considered a range of PB processes to support fair and inclusive community participation and the allocation of £4,200 of available funds.

The consensus was that funds should be devolved to extend and build on previously funded Our Place Our Plan/Participatory Budgeting activity/groups and to organisations (including the school community), recognised the existing assets already contributing and making a positive contribution to people, places and community wellbeing in Strutherhill and Birkenshaw. A list of groups/organisations were developed and an online public vote was held, residents were asked to select 3 preferred options from the list and the budget was proportioned based on the amount of votes received. 192 residents participated in the vote.



Organisations were then asked to work up their project ideas and proposals based on the ten priority themes within the Our Place Our Plan Neighbourhood Plan, all projects will be delivered in this financial year. The following groups and organisations have received funding:

- Craighbank and Robert Smillie Memorial Primary Schools
- Larkhall and District Volunteer Group
- Strutherhill and Birkenshaw Youth Project
- Machan Trust
- Friends of Morgan Glen Group
- Birkenshaw Womens Guilds



*“I have enjoyed being involved in the Our Place Our Plan Community Group because it’s run by local people who know the area and what needs done. Working in partnership with other people and staff is really important because in return I believe this will ignite pride in the heart of our community and make the future brighter for all.”*

**Margaret Gilfillan, Our Place Our Plan Community Group Member**

*“I've been involved with Our Place Our Plan for a few years and although there could always be more involvement of the local community residents, it hasn't stopped the brilliant work and great efforts of those who have contributed for the good of the area. Seeing residents making decisions about our own area has to be the biggest achievement and I hope there is more to come.”*

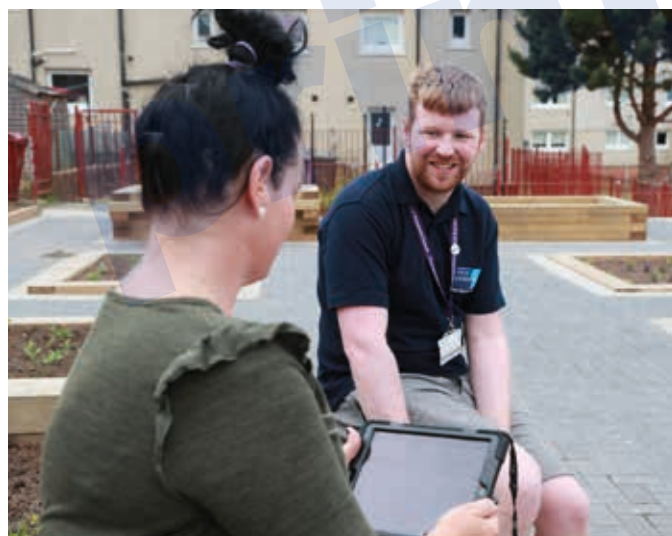
**Davy Mcainsh, Our Place Our Plan Community Action Group Member**

# Participatory Budgeting

## Whitehill

Residents in the Whitehill area of Hamilton had their say on how funding is being spent in the community thanks to South Lanarkshire's Participatory Budgeting process. £3,500 was available in small grants of £500 and open to community groups, organisations and local people. Voting took place online from 1 to 12 March 2021 and saw nearly 250 locals take part in the process. The Our Place Our Plan Stakeholder Group agreed the criteria for eligibility, they also decided that all those taking part in the vote should provide their names and have a local address. The following groups were successful:

- Whitehill Fun Day
- Forest School Programme
- Healthy Body, Healthy Minds Whitehill
- Well Fit Project
- Staying out for the Summer
- Adopt A Street Whitehill



*“Our Place Our Plan is an excellent approach to connect communities, improve wellbeing, health and fitness and social interaction.*

*Community voting to decide which projects got the funding was a wonderful idea as the people in the community know us best and are best placed to choose. In addition, it gives the community an added interest on what is going on in their community.”*

**Karen Shields, Manager,  
Childcare in the Community,  
Whitehill**

*“The older people in the community will be really pleased with this funding which will help them keep their minds active. I think that asking the community to decide which projects should get funding is a fairer way of doing it. It also provides an opportunity for groups to tell local people about the good work that they do.”*

**Jim Cuthbertson, Chairperson,  
Adopt A Street Whitehill**

## How can you get involved?

If you would like more information or would like to get more involved in your community please email: [communities@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:communities@southlanarkshire.gov.uk) or [pb@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:pb@southlanarkshire.gov.uk) or phone: **0303 123 1017**

## Further information

Participatory Budgeting Scotland  
<https://pbscotland.scot/>

South Lanarkshire Community Planning Partnership  
[www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/cp/site/index.php](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/cp/site/index.php)



# Volunteering

## Why is this important?

In an unprecedented year of uncertainty, fear and restrictions, volunteering has never been more crucial. The generosity of spirit within communities to pull together and support each other has been evident in the huge volume of new volunteers coming forward to offer their support, and in the grass roots growth of new voluntary organisations and community response groups with a sole aim of helping those in need.

In such chaotic and uncertain times volunteers have been a shining beacon of stability, support and comfort to thousands of South Lanarkshire residents.

## How are we doing?

As the Third Sector Interface for South Lanarkshire, Voluntary Action South Lanarkshire (VASLan) is committed to supporting volunteering in South Lanarkshire by improving engagement with volunteers, supporting volunteers, promoting good practice in volunteer management, and involving voluntary organisations in consultations, events, partnerships and collaborations that help shape local and national volunteering policy.

Our focus has been to ensure the potential volunteers who have offered their time and support over the last year have been given the opportunity to help. To achieve this, we utilised our "Broadcast" function to immediately share new volunteering opportunities. Significant improvement has been evident in the speed of recruitment for voluntary organisations with requests for volunteers met within minutes.

This year saw the launch of a new Saltire website with additional functionality for voluntary organisations. VASLan encouraged organisations to sign up as group administrators allowing them to now create Saltire certificates on behalf of their volunteers. Saltire Awards are Scottish Government endorsed certificates recognising and rewarding the commitment, contribution and volunteering achievements of young people aged 12 to 25 years old.

The following are some of the highlights of 2020-21:-

- 2,560 new volunteers were registered
- 2,374 volunteering placements were arranged
- 12,028 interaction with volunteers
- 34 "Broadcasts" sent 4,237 emails to 1,648 volunteers
- 52 new volunteering opportunities created
- 8 Saltire Group Administrators approved

## Case study

Quothquan and Thankerton Community Council care about their local community and its people and aim to make it a great place to live by bringing people together to make things happen.

With the help of Biggar Community Council and local volunteers, a group was arranged in the wake of COVID-19 to provide support for people who were isolating or requiring urgent help and advice, this included prescription and medicine collection, shopping deliveries as well as various other help.

The year has seen the Community Council and volunteers cutting grass for those that lost the service due to COVID-19 and the replacement of the footbridge decking on the School Lane footpath to enable people to continue to undertake their exercise during the periods of lockdown.

They have also been working on a Community Action Plan to maximise the benefits to the area from the Clyde Windfarm Extension. This plan involved a questionnaire for the people living within the community, but this has been put on hold due to the latest lockdown in order to focus meeting the needs of those who are self isolating or shielding.

It has been a challenging year for Quothquan and Thankerton Community Council, however, they have continued to be an incredible resource for their community.

## Further information

Voluntary Action South Lanarkshire (VASLan)  
[www.vaslan.org.uk](http://www.vaslan.org.uk)



# Community Asset Transfer

## Why is this important?

Community Asset Transfer is an important part of the Community Empowerment Act.

The Community Planning Partnership is committed to working with eligible organisations and recognises that the ownership or control of land and buildings is a powerful tool for communities to drive change and achieve their own goals. Community groups can apply to us for any land or buildings they feel they could make better use of. They can request ownership, lease or other rights.

## How are we doing?

In 2020-21, one formal application was approved by South Lanarkshire Council for Abington Community Campus, the conversion of the former Abington School building into a small business centre, peripatetic business space, community gym and community space. The Community Asset Transfer is an important part of the overall project totalling £1.6m, combining Scottish Government Regeneration Capital Grant funding, Renewable Energy Fund and Clyde Windfarm funding to develop the facility. Abington Community Development Group (ACDG) have signed a 30 year lease with South Lanarkshire Council to manage the facility and have secured revenue funding for two initial years.

Katie Thomson from ACDG states "The project is progressing well and we are delighted each week to see how much further construction is coming along. The roof of the Old Schoolhouse is nearly complete and the lime rendering for the brick work has started. The modern extension that will be home to the gym is currently having the roof put on and brick work should be completed soon. Behind the scenes the Community Group are working hard to prepare for advertising the jobs, office space and the facility of the gym and multi-purpose room/community rooms.

We continue to be so grateful to the council for allowing us this incredible opportunity to develop and preserve the building whilst complimenting it with a modern extension. Investing in rural areas is so important and to be able to provide such an amenity and create jobs is a privilege".



Also in 2020-21 there is one formal application being progressed for Douglasdale Real Group, looking at the development of a community woodland, two applications are at an advanced stage of the process in Blantyre and Low Waters, one application formally withdrawn from Strathaven and 13 applications at the discussion/feasibility/early development stage.

## How can you get involved?

For South Lanarkshire Council, anyone interested in Community Asset Transfer can contact us at [communityassets@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:communityassets@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)

## Further information

Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015:  
Asset Transfer Guidance for Community Transfer bodies  
[www.gov.scot/publications/asset-transfer-under-community-empowerment-scotland-act-2015-guidance-community/](http://www.gov.scot/publications/asset-transfer-under-community-empowerment-scotland-act-2015-guidance-community/)



# Participation Requests

## How are we doing?

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

During 2020-21, there were no participation requests received by Community Planning Partners.

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

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

## Further information

Participation Requests

[www.gov.scot/policies/community-empowerment/participation-requests](https://www.gov.scot/policies/community-empowerment/participation-requests)



# COVID-19 Pandemic Community Response



## Clydesdale COVID Coordination Group

The Clydesdale COVID Coordination Group was established by Healthy Valleys as a result of the pandemic, with a view to ensuring communities had adequate support in place during lockdown and that resources were maximised and services not duplicated in the rural South Lanarkshire area.

## Membership

Local community groups, Clydesdale Community Initiatives, Healthy Valleys, Clydesdale CAB, Voluntary Action South Lanarkshire (VASLan), SLC Community Engagement Team and NHS Lanarkshire Health Improvement.

## Benefits

- Shared ideas and good practice
- Peer support
- Strengthened networks
- Increased information sharing
- Identified gaps where support was needed
- Development Plan in place
- Increased knowledge and understanding of each group/organisation and their roles and responsibilities
- Linked to and part of a global research study on community recovery and resilience
- Provides a 'go to' platform for our public sector partners

## Future direction

- Disbands and local groups become members of VASLan's Third Sector Forum
- Changes name and continues to grow independently of the above
- Widens membership
- Contributes to the new locality community planning structures
- Group members become part of the new local structure
- Larger organisations have a role to play in this process too

*"It has been a pleasure chairing these meetings and heart warming to hear the amount of time and effort local people have contributed to their communities, ensuring that those in need have received the support required. The type of support has included collecting and delivering prescriptions, freshly prepared cooked meals, food parcels, listening ear service and much, much more. Rural South Lanarkshire is an enriched place to live and work as a result of having these groups emerge during lockdown."*

**Lesley McCranor, Chair, Clydesdale  
COVID Coordination Group**





## Carstairs Junction Welcome All Hub and digital access in the local community

*“Dot at the Carstairs Junction Welcome All Hub has been fantastic, she explained the benefits system to us in a way we could understand, she sat with us and helped us with all the online forms for us to get support. It took a few times before I could manage to talk with my job coach online but the Hub Staff were there to help me. I truly think it's a brilliant resource for our community. I had got myself in a flap when I discovered that I had to apply for the support online but the Hub support really made it less stressful.”*

**Mr And Mrs F**

*“The Hub is ace. I needed to complete an online form on behalf of my son. I had no idea how to fill it out so Dot at the Hub did it with me. I then lost my bus pass and I had to go online to reclaim another one, again, Dot at the Hub helped me go online and get it replaced.*

*I think the Hub is great and I would be lost without the support they give me. I have limited computer understanding and it has helped me access services I would need to travel to Lanark for.”*

**Heidi Wilson**

*“Dear Jackie and Dot, Just to say how much the Hub IT room has helped me. Knowing that you can help print, scan and fill out online forms is a huge help, it means I don't need to go to the library in Lanark. Thanks.”*

**Member 23 (70 year old male)**



# Links to the National Performance Framework and UN Sustainable Development Goals

## Appendix 1





SLC  
print proof



Printed on eco-friendly  
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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](mailto:equalities@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)

**[www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk)**

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