

the reporter



GENERATION GAMES

New project brings young and old together

Inside: Good news on your council tax, plus all the latest on new schools and council homes across South Lanarkshire

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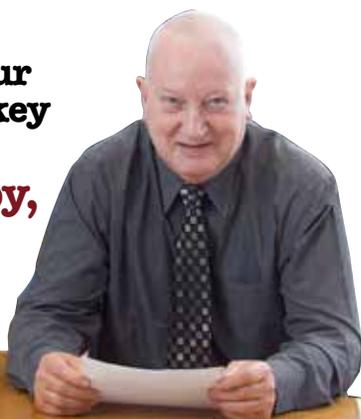
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WORKING HARD FOR OUR AREA'S

Even in tough economic times, your council will protect key frontline services

By Eddie McAvoy, Council Leader



WELCOME to the 2017 edition of *The Reporter*. We send this publication to South Lanarkshire residents once a year to make sure you know what your council is doing on your behalf.

There is a lot of work to tell you about, and this magazine is full of articles covering the wide range of services provided by the council.

This introduction also offers me a chance to let you know about some of the big decisions that councillors have taken on your behalf, especially around the process of setting the budget for the financial year ahead.

One of my abiding concerns has been to ensure that South Lanarkshire Council does everything possible to protect our residents from the ongoing economic difficulties and the impact of government austerity.

As you may already know, one early action I took to do this was to commit the current Labour administration to a council tax freeze for 2017/18. You will see more details on this decision in the article accompanying this welcome note.

The second key approach has been to continue to protect the frontline council services which residents

depend on across South Lanarkshire, especially those which support the elderly, the young and our most vulnerable citizens.

This has been an increasingly tough job. This year we faced another big cut in our government grant and have been forced to find another £19m in savings - and this is on top of the more than £100m of efficiencies that we have already had to make.

Inevitably, there has been an impact on some services. But your councillors and council officers have worked together to balance the budget once again, and we have made

sure that we can continue to provide the sort of services highlighted in this edition of *The Reporter*.

This includes the continuation of two ambitious programmes which I think epitomise our collective investment in the future of South Lanarkshire.

On **pages 8 and 9** you will see details of our council house building programme. In recent days I have

doubled our commitment, to building a total of 1,000 new homes, and this means we can make major inroads into the waiting list for much-needed social housing.

Then, on **pages 9 and 10**, there is an



KEY TO SUCCESS:

Isa Russell was the first resident to receive the keys to her new Fernhill home by Council Leader Eddie McAvoy

update on our Schools Modernisation Programme. With every secondary school already rebuilt, we are nearing the completion of our programme to replace all 128 of our primary schools. In the process we have created the best schools estate in Europe, and the benefits of teaching all our kids in a modern learning environment are being felt in hugely encouraging exam results.

On **pages 6 and 7** and **pages 32 and 33** you will see examples of how the council helps elderly residents too. Readers may be interested to know



TO BUILD FUTURE



that as part of the budget-setting process I have been able to secure extra investment which means we can accelerate our plans to build three new home care facilities.

Elsewhere in The Reporter you will be able to read about services which support families living with autism, or which get people into work and help local businesses grow. There are also details on everything from how we empty your bins to our projects as part of the £1.13bn Glasgow City Deal.

In fact, so much is being done

across our wonderful area that only a tiny proportion can be crammed into these 40 pages. But I hope it gives you an insight into some of the services that are being delivered day-in, day-out by your hard working council staff.

For my own part, I am standing down at this May's local elections after more than 20 years as a councillor. It has been a privilege to work for you.

NO RISE IN YOUR COUNCIL TAX

YOUR council has agreed that it will make **NO** increase to the Council Tax which will be paid by South Lanarkshire households this year.

This will continue the local Council Tax freeze for a tenth year, despite the fact that the national freeze previously agreed between the Scottish Government and local authorities has been ended, meaning taxes will rise in some parts of Scotland. But not in South Lanarkshire.

Council Leader Eddie McAvoy said: "It's a tough job to balance the budget every year, and after cuts to our government grant the council has been forced to find another £19 million in savings for 2017/18.

"We could have put up the council tax by as much as 3% and that would undoubtedly have made it easier to balance the budget. But I know that many of our residents are struggling

"We have been able to achieve plans for a balanced budget while continuing to protect the frontline services with their budgets too. Costs are rising everywhere and I think it is right that we do not add to the burden on our residents."

Mr McAvoy added that one reason he wanted to avoid a general council tax rise was because a number of householders were already facing higher bills after the Scottish Government introduced an increase on properties at Bands E to H which will apply across the country.

That change was ratified by the Scottish Parliament last November and will impact on about one in four households.

Mr McAvoy said: "That rise was not the council's decision. There were also many people suggesting we should impose our own increase, across all bands. Obviously if we had done that it would have helped to offset the cuts in funding we will receive this year from the government.

"However, we have been able to tackle this without adding further to the burden faced by council tax payers and we have been able to balance our budget while continuing to protect frontline services."

YOUNG AND OLD BENEFIT FROM PROJECT

BY LYNNE CARSTAIRS

AN innovative project bringing a group of four-year-olds together with older people with dementia is pioneering inter-generational learning in South Lanarkshire.

Crawforddyke Nursery School and the Jenny MacLachlan Day Centre, Carluke, have already reported “real and lasting” benefits from the programme where the group of five children – Charlie, Emma-Jane, Sophie, Leo and Reegan – visit the centre fortnightly, and spend an hour with service users with dementia.

This is the second phase of the project, with the pilot finishing last June when the first participants set off for primary school.

All involved describe “an emotional and life-affirming” experience from what started as an idea to widen community links when the nursery made contact through Early Years Practitioners Eleanor Duncan and Karen MacMillan.

Eleanor explains: “I had

been aware for some time of lots of good practice via inter-generational work and really believed that such a project could be something that each would benefit from.

“A lot of our children have grandparents who are really pretty young, and have very little if any contact with the ‘older generation’ which was again something that we considered as a bonus.”

With positive feedback from parents and the day centre to the initial idea, the teams spent a lot of time planning and risk assessing the project before the first phase was up and running.

“We are learning from each set of children too,” adds Eleanor. “Leo, for example was unsure in the first week, and very quiet. We spoke to him and his parents to see if we could help, or if maybe the project wasn’t going to be right for him. But all he wanted was to have some familiarity.

“Next time he brought some of his own toys along and took them round to show to all of the service users, and he was happy as Larry. Ever since he



has thrown himself into this with great enthusiasm.”

Christine Stillie, Senior Day Care Worker, said: “All of the nursery staff have been excellent and have put such a lot of hard work and effort into the project. Each week has a theme, often reflecting what is going on at that time of the year, which is fabulous for our service users as it provides context. They also seek input from the service users as to what they would like to do. It really is a collective.

“We have found it to be everything we could have hoped for and more – on so many levels.”

When The Reporter visited one session, there were eight service users sitting together with the children, creating sculptures and pictures with home-made play dough. The atmosphere in the cosy day room was relaxed and every now and then the

“One service user had formed a really strong bond with a little boy and when his parents had a new baby, he had us on the phone, checking on progress”

group broke into song – the theme for this week was old Scots nursery rhymes.

At a far table, Bobby and little Leo downed tools and were playing ‘one potato, two potato’, while across from them Mary and Sophie were creating a play-dough flag of Scotland. All were clearly at ease and enjoying each other’s company despite the noise level being markedly higher than normal for the environment.

Christine said of the success of



FUN: Bobby and Leo play one potato, two potato

Studies show benefits

- People with dementia had a higher level of positive engagement when interacting with children.
- Intergenerational programming allows adults with dementia to be able to teach children things, such as how to fold a towel, how to dust handrails or how to categorise things such as by seasons or colours.
- Interaction with older adults has also shown benefits for the children involved, including fewer behavioural challenges and improved social development.

SOURCE: Esther Hereema, Alzheimer's and Dementia expert.



BOND: Everyone involved in the project agrees special relationships are being built



REMINISCING: The children doing what comes naturally to them helps brings back many memories for the elderly people taking part in the project

the project so far, and of genuine bonds being created: "There have been many friendships built up. It is an amazing process to witness. Last year, these bonds transcended the project itself, with the parents bringing the children to visit in their school uniforms in August. It was all very emotional.

"One service user had formed a really strong bond with a little boy and when his parents had a new baby, he had us on

the phone, checking on progress and was so keen to meet the new arrival. His pride when they came in to visit is something I won't forget."

Eleanor Duncan also recalls a story which she admits opened her eyes to just how profound an impact the project was having.

"I met one of the service users with his daughter in the supermarket one Saturday afternoon. When I introduced myself, she instantly wanted to



talk about the project and to tell us what a difference it had made to her dad and, indeed to all of them as a family. I think we both left that encounter with tears in our eyes."

Tales like this come thick and fast. Many of the children who kicked off the programme still visit, and exchange Christmas and birthday gifts. The service users have attended nursery graduations and school shows and created bonds with wider

family and parents.

For Mary, who was an early level primary teacher, the staff at the centre can see how much working with the wee ones has really engaged her and brought back strong memories of a happy time in her life.

And indeed for all of the older people, the reminiscence aspect is a huge part of what makes the visits so valuable.

Added Christine Stillie: "The opportunity for reminiscence is key. Just by being themselves, the children are doing and talking about things that to many are their most vivid or relatable memories.

"I cannot speak highly enough of this project and the tangible benefits we have witnessed. I genuinely hope that our experiences will inspire others and I would happily invite any of our peers along to see for themselves."

One of the first couples to move into new home reveal how it has transformed their lives

BY ANDREW THOMPSON

SOUTH Lanarkshire's ambitious Housing Investment Programme (HIP) has been extended with plans announced to construct a further 500 new council homes.

The additional new houses and flats will build on the existing programme which aimed to deliver 600 new council owned homes for rent by 2020.

The construction plans are part of the HIP that is improving the fabric of thousands of homes in South Lanarkshire and has already seen scores of families and individuals moving into new homes.

Uddingston couple Jim and Isabella McCallum are among those already settling into a new home and they say the HIP has given them a new start in life.

The couple, who are in their sixties, were among the first to move into a new development of two blocks of flats on the town's Old Mill Road and Mill Place.

The new flats have been designed and built to meet the current and potential future needs of older people with even the choice of site, adjacent to Uddingston's bustling Main Street, selected to give easy access to local amenities.

Isabella fondly remembers her first childhood home which was just along the street on the corner of Old Mill Road and The Cut and was delighted when they were offered the house move. She said: "When I took the phone call telling us our application for a flat had been accepted I literally cried, tears of joy rolled down my face. This means so much to me and Jim, it will be a new lease of life."

The couple made the move to their new home in February leaving behind a flat that had not only been their home for 40 years but had been Isabella's parents' home before that.

That much loved family home had in recent years become more like a trap for Jim. Isabella said: "The big problem was that we

were three floors up in an older building with no lift access.

"We used to run up the 36 steps to the front door but in recent years getting in and out has been becoming more of a challenge.

"I work full time but without me to lend a hand there were times when Jim would struggle to get up and down the stairs so he was effectively trapped in the flat while I was out working.

"This move means we have our independence back, the lift and level access from the street and to the car park mean we can come and go without any fuss."

The two blocks of flats in Uddingston where the McCallum's are making their new home is just one of South Lanarkshire Council's new housing developments.

MORE THAN 1000 COUNCIL HOMES ARE TO BE BUILT

The new housing programme is set to deliver a total of more than 1000 new council houses in South Lanarkshire by 2020 and is an integral part of the council's ambitious Housing Investment Programme (HIP).

Executive Director of Housing and Technical Resources Daniel Lowe said: "From the outset our ambition has been to invest wisely and plan carefully to raise the standard of our existing housing stock to among the best in the country and to ensure all new homes we could provide meet or exceed that level.

"It started out with the Home Happening which saw brand new kitchens and bathrooms for



DELIGHTED: Jim and Isabella are relishing the independence their new home is giving them



every one of our 24,500 homes and which was only achievable with the support of tenants, who we very much view as partners in this process.

"The Housing Investment Programme has continued well beyond that original ambition and is now moving into a new phase HOME+ as we extend our new build target."

Chair of the South Lanarkshire Council Housing and Technical Resources Committee Councillor

Alex McInnes said: "The name chosen for the HOME+ programme reflects what is at the core of our ambition.

"We do not just want to give people a house or a flat we want them to have a home, somewhere to feel safe and secure, to make plans for the future and where you feel proud to welcome friends, family and others to visit.

"Our existing housing stock has seen over £430million spent on providing modern kitchens



Fernhill dramatic change is bringing families home

OVER the last nine years Fernhill has been undergoing a dramatic transformation in a massive regeneration project that has not only improved the physical fabric of the community but is also rekindling its spirit.

One measure of the success of the investment in Fernhill is a surge in applications to move in to the area, many of them from people keen to move back to where they grew up to raise their own families.

220 new council homes, 70 in the most recent phase, have been built and all are now occupied.

Housing improvements include improved insulation and energy efficient heating systems to give tenants warmer homes while cutting their fuel bills.

Saving tenants money is in itself making a contribution to the regeneration programme as it means they have more



RETURNING: The new homes and improvements to existing ones mean people are moving back to Fernhill

opportunity to spend money locally and to support improved local services including the new shops and the Fernhill Community Centre, which includes a gym and sports pitches.

South Lanarkshire Council has worked with partners including social landlords and the Scottish Government to deliver the regeneration of Fernhill.

Chair of Housing and Technical Resources Committee, Councillor Alex McInnes, said: "The regeneration of Fernhill has completely transformed the area. "Hundreds of older tenements and flats have been demolished and replaced with high quality housing, in addition hundreds of homes have been improved that alone will deliver improvements to health and happiness which will benefit individuals and the wider community.

"Opportunities for employment and training were created by the regeneration work and that along with workers coming into the area has help stimulate economic activity and support local businesses.

"Perhaps the biggest sign that this has been a worthwhile and very successful regeneration project is that people are applying for housing in the area so they can move back with their own families, that indicates a very positive future for the community in Fernhill".

and bathrooms, new central heating systems, roofing, doors, windows and insulation. These measures have all helped to improve the quality of tenants' homes and assist in tackling fuel poverty by reducing running costs."

Across all the developments energy efficiency has been built into the fabric of the buildings with top quality insulation, modern heating systems and boilers and whenever possible

"We do not just want to give people a house or a flat we want them to have a home"

renewable energy sources.

But more importantly for the McCallums HOME+ has meant a new home ideally suited to their needs and right where they feel most at home. Isabella said: "If we had been forced to move away from Uddingston to find accommodation that suited our needs it would have been heartbreaking but instead we have a new home in the heart of the community on the very street I grew up on. It is wonderful."

School building programme is largest in Europe

BY SARAH BURROWS

THE Primary Schools Modernisation Programme is the largest of its kind in Europe, making sure that South Lanarkshire's pupils are ready for the challenge of the future.

The council's £862 million investment will mean that by 2019 every single school in South Lanarkshire will provide a first class learning and teaching environment.

So far 121 modernised primary schools have been built, 10 stand alone nurseries and a specialist school for secondary aged pupils with additional social, emotional and behavioural needs.

The area's 19 secondary schools have also been rebuilt or refurbished as part of the £318 million Secondary Schools Modernisation Programme, meaning around 19,000 secondary aged pupils also have the very best accommodation possible.

The state-of-the-art primary school buildings allow pupils to learn in a dynamic and flexible way to ensure that all children get the most out of education and are ready for the challenges of secondary school and the world of work.

The modern, bright and inspiring buildings encourage creativity by providing a range of flexible accommodation that can be used for a variety of activities. Wide corridors and break out areas mean that smaller groups can be taught in more informal ways.

The classrooms are modern and bright with the latest technology incorporated.

The new schools boast fantastic stages and sound and lighting equipment to allow children to realise their full creative potential. Many of the new schools report that there has been an increased interest in drama and music productions amongst pupils and staff alike.

The sports facilities in the new buildings are most impressive - internally with modern gym halls and externally with Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs) to ensure a wide variety of

sports and activities can be taught.

And outdoor learning is encouraged through a range of outdoor teaching spaces, eco-gardens, play equipment and a selection of planting to encourage mini-beasts and wild flowers to the playgrounds.

In the Clydesdale area 35 primary schools have already been modernised and there are a number of projects underway.

Recently officially opened is Braidwood Primary School in Carluke. The school's 140 pupils are enjoying their new school.

Acting Head Teacher at Braidwood Primary School, Brendan Desport said: "We have found that the new school is much calmer than the old building, pupils are able to move freely around the school. It's apparent that a lot of thought has been put into the way our school works and how to enhance this in the new building.

"The biggest change we've noticed is that the children take more pride in their school and really feel a sense of ownership... after all they were involved in picking furniture and the colour scheme. We are delighted with the new building and know that we will continue to grow and prosper in our new home."

Also in the Clydesdale area, work on a brand new £5.2 million Tinto Primary School and nursery is ongoing and is scheduled to be open early in 2018.

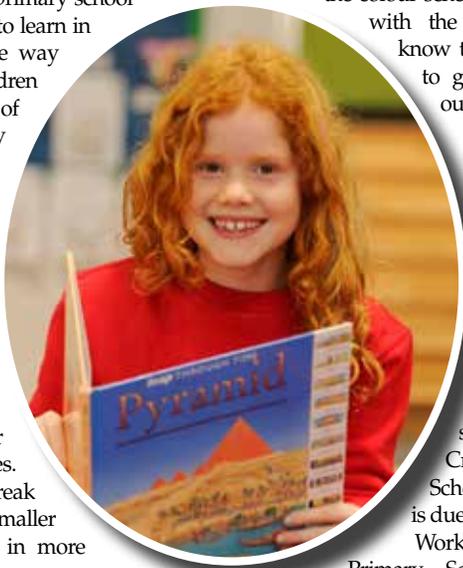
Similarly construction has started on a new Crawford Primary School - the £3.2m facility is due to open early in 2018. Work on Underbank Primary School and Walston

Primary School will start soon and all going well Underbank will be opened for pupils in summer 2018 and Walston in 2019.

In Rutherglen and Cambuslang 17 primary schools have been modernised already as part of the Modernisation Programme.

Recently celebrating its official opening is St Bride's Primary School in Cambuslang. The school boasts one of the most colourful exteriors and internally the spacious accommodation is well used by the school.

Head Teacher Amanda Maguire



"South Lanarkshire Council invested in the future of our pupils by giving us this fantastic building, which is fully equipped for 21st century learning"

commented: "We've settled in well to the new building. The flexibility of the space is key for us. We can teach groups of varying sizes in different locations in the school which is invaluable. The children are thriving in their new environment."

In the Rutherglen and Cambuslang area, Hallside Primary School is progressing well and pupils are due to start at the school early in 2018. And a brand new school in the Newton area is due to open in August 2017.

In East Kilbride and Strathaven there are already 31 fully modernised schools completed.

Gilmourton Primary School in Strathaven recently welcomed guests to the school to celebrate its opening event. Head Teacher

Top award for Depute Head Teacher

St Vincent Primary School in East Kilbride has recently celebrated the 10th Anniversary of the new school building.

Built in the first tranche of the Primary Schools Modernisation Programme in 2006 the school has grown from strength to strength.

The school also had another reason to celebrate as Depute Head Teacher, Danielle Timmons won the prestigious 2016 Scottish Teacher of The Year Award.

Danielle said: "It was a real honour to win the accolade and I am so grateful to my head teacher and South Lanarkshire Council, as well as the staff and pupils who are just so inspiring. It's a pleasure to work with



AWARD: Danielle won Teacher of the Year

them every day."

Danielle was nominated by Head Teacher Eileen Tompkins. She said: "I nominated her because I recognised something unique and exceptional about the manner in which she did her work. She has an amazing capacity to bring the best out of children. She brings so much to the school."

Danielle says that the fantastic school building makes her job easy. "When I was a student teacher I had placements in older school buildings that didn't quite provide the right atmosphere for learning. Coming to work in St Vincent's is fantastic as it's fully equipped for 21st century learning. The building is conducive to first class learning and teaching and working in such a modern and bright building is an absolute pleasure."



PROUD: Pupils are learning in modern, state-of-the-art buildings at Gilmourton (main pic), Braidwood (below left), St Bride's (above) and St Mark's (below)



Ellen Jack said: "We are so proud of our school and like the fact that it mixes modern design whilst preserving the school's history. Each school is individually designed, and ours incorporates the original gable which dates back to 1889. We are all very happy in our new building."

Work on a new St Patrick's Primary School in Strathaven is underway. This £11 million project also includes an integrated community facility and is due for completion early in 2018.

In Hamilton and Blantyre there are already 38 fully modernised schools completed.

In the Hamilton area, St Mark's Primary School celebrated its official opening ceremony with friends of the school community. Pupils

have settled in well to their new learning environment and Caroline Campbell, Head Teacher says: "South Lanarkshire Council invested in the future of our pupils by giving us this fantastic building, which is fully equipped for 21st century learning and we certainly make use of everything that the building has to offer.

"I know our pupils will make a difference to the future of Scotland and our job here is to ensure that each pupil grows to be all they can be. This building makes that easy."

Also in the Hamilton area plans are at an early stage to relocate the Early Learning Unit nursery to a more central location in the town.

ARCH IS THE WAY TO ORDER AND FAMILIARITY

Autism services flourish in new dedicated hub

BY ANDY LIVINGSTONE

IT is said, and it is very true, that if you say you know an autistic person, then all you know is one autistic person – you don't know autism."

Margo Mooney, an Early Years Homelink Worker with the council's Integrated Children's Services was explaining the enormity of the task facing anyone working to help in such a vast and complicated field.

"There is no one way that autism exhibits itself," Margo continued. "Every person affected by it can have a unique combination of the factors that are involved, and so we have to be prepared to deal with a different set of needs in every case."

While this uniqueness in every autistic person's situation is, of course, far from being the only factor that has to be considered when aiming to help them, it is a dominant and inescapable one when planning the way that care and assistance is structured.

Individuals and organisations have long worked to help autistic people in South Lanarkshire, but their selfless efforts were



ARCH TEAM: Margo and Ramon from the council, Ross from SAIL, Carolann from COAST with mother and daughter Michelle and Rebecca

given a major boost late last year with the opening of a new facility in Burnbank, Hamilton.

Known as ARCH (Autism Resources Coordination Hub), the resource has been established in the former Jean Brownlie Centre, in Reid Street, Burnbank, to offer a focal point for those working to provide support in relation to autism as well as for those with the condition and their carers.

Run by the council's Ramon Hutchingson, team leader in Social Work Resources, the building already hosts a variety of activities that are making a difference to people's lives, including having Margo – who has wealth of qualifications and experience regarding autism – seconded there two days a week.

For the first time, those working with

autistic people have a base in South Lanarkshire that acts as a focus for their services and allows the organising of activities and the sharing of ideas.

Several groups, such as parent-led charities SAIL and COAST, are heavily involved in running clubs, workshops and trips as well as offering support, advice and information to autistic people of all ages and those caring for them, and with a parent-carer steering group feeding in suggestions and requests based on practical experience, the hub is continuing to grow the invaluable services it can offer.

Ramon said: "The benefits of the centre are not only practical, in that it gives people working to support autism a physical place they can use free of charge. They are also seen in the synergy that comes from people with different experience and knowledge coming together and being interested and involved in each other's work, and in the many positive responses we get from people of all ages who benefit from familiarity. Here they can come happily to a place they know and mix with people they know.

"It is a hub for the voluntary, statutory and community sectors to come together and work together, letting us all give a consistent approach in a settled and dedicated setting."

With the premises being solely for ARCH rather than the service having to share a facility with other users, it has made it possible to adapt the light and airy building to provide exactly the facilities that are needed.

As well as a dining/kitchen area that is also suitable for anything from craft activities

SAIL offer support to adults

ARCH has not only helped existing groups to flourish, but has even enabled one charity to be set up in the first place.

Ross Macfadyen and Linda Morrow have around 20 years of experience between them in volunteering with the national autism charity, but it was not until ARCH opened that they were able to achieve their dream of forming a charity to help specifically in the local area.

"We needed premises like this to operate from and create a community hub," explained Ross.

SAIL (Supporting Autism in

Lanarkshire) was duly formed with an aim of supporting adults with autism.

Ross said: "When we looked at the services that already exist, it was clear that there was support for children and teenagers but nothing for those who have grown into adulthood. It is very often seen as a children's condition, but people forget that children grow up or that people can be diagnosed at any age, not just as young children. In fact, there are now three times more adults with autism than children."

In its first few months of

existence, SAIL has formed a group for 18 to 24-year-olds, known as the SAIL Crew, which is already growing with several friendships being formed already – something that Ross finds extremely rewarding to see as it is a significant step for an autistic person to make.

He added: "We are looking in time to grow and form groups to support people of older age groups also. But in the meantime, although the SAIL Crew is for a specific age range, we are happy to help people of any age who approach us."

FORWARD STEP: Michelle, with daughter Rebecca, has been impressed by the range of services the centre offers

Users at the heart of the service



Parent-carer Michelle Graham is so delighted that ARCH was created that she joined the centre's Steering Group.

"I have been involved from the very start, so it has been amazing to watch it grow and be a part of that," she said.

"The biggest possible step forward for helping with autism in South Lanarkshire has been this place. It is a permanent commitment from the council, and is it also ideal for its purpose – it is homely, welcoming and secure, which is perfect for many autistic children, such as my daughter, Rebecca, who feel overwhelmed easily by places that are large and noisy.

"It is not just the bricks and mortar, though – the people who you meet here are brilliant. Like many other autistic children, Rebecca has comorbid conditions, meaning that she has several medical conditions that exist alongside, and can affect, each other; in her case, it is dyslexia and sensory and auditory issues. That can be complicated, but everyone gets her here, and as a result she is so happy when she comes to this place. It is her safe haven."

Michelle believes that much of the success of ARCH has been the council's decision to establish the Steering Group.

"It means that the people who can benefit from the hub are able to have a meaningful input," she said. "We get together and discuss issues, ask questions and make suggestions, and these are taken on board fully – we are able to shape the way the facility operates.

"It is a wonderfully positive atmosphere here, because all of the groups involved see themselves as part of one big team, meaning that we can help parents whose children have recently been diagnosed as equally as those with long experience of caring.

"There really is something for everyone."

to meetings and social or fund-raising events, it also offers a sensory/private interview room, a lounge, and a treatment room for children with complex disabilities in addition to autism. There are also disabled toilets, a lending library to help parent-carers and a staff room to allow the administrative work necessary for such a busy facility, with all exits fully alarmed to give peace of mind about the security of those attending.

"We strive to make it a welcoming and nurturing place, whatever the reason for people to come here," Ramon said. "And we are aiming to offer as many different things as we can to allow us to cater for as many different people as possible.

"We offer a range support to people of all ages and it is all about listening to them, learning what they need and working out how to help them."

Carers should never feel alone

"Reducing isolation is such an important thing, and that is what we try to do."

So said Carolanne Fallone of COAST (Carers of Autism Spectrum Together), who meet at ARCH once a week. She continued: "There are many ways to feel on your own and helpless and we try to address as many as we can.

"In summer, for example, so many things that support your child are

closed or, just as bad, are too busy for an autistic child to attend, so we will organise activities each week that are appropriate. That is just one aspect where ARCH comes into its own, because it can be difficult meeting the expense of hiring a hall, whereas here we have the facilities available to us.

"We also look at fund-raising for trips away, such as when we went to Drayton Manor theme park last year. That is the sort of

thing that ordinarily would be difficult or impossible to take an autistic child to because of the nature of the place, but in a group of familiar faces it is amazing what can be achieved."

It is not only the children who COAST helps, but the parents directly as well. Feeling alone can also come when facing official or administrative situations for the first time.

Carolanne added: "We are there for them in whatever way is possible."

New road first major

THE first major transport project of the £1.1bn Glasgow City Region City Deal has been completed.

Cathkin Relief Road, which is a new 7.3 metre wide carriageway between the junctions of the existing Cathkin Bypass/Burnside Road and Fernhill Road/Croftfoot Road/Blairbeth Road, is now fully open

The anticipated final cost of the project will be approximately £18.6m and as well as the new carriageway there is a 2m wide footway on the south side and a 3m wide combined cycleway / footway on the north side. There are three crossing points along the new route, one of which is a controlled crossing. The controlled crossing is around halfway along the new stretch of road.

Chair of South Lanarkshire Council's Enterprise Services Committee, Councillor Chris Thompson, said: "We are delighted to be able to deliver the first major transport infrastructure project of the Glasgow City Region City Deal.

"Cathkin Relief Road supports the council's objective of enhancing the local and strategic road network and providing improved conditions for economic recovery - a key aim of the Glasgow City Region City Deal.

"It will provide improved infrastructure to employment areas across Rutherglen and Cambuslang and reduce traffic impacts on neighbouring roads.

"The road will also reduce congestion at peak times with the knock-on effect of reducing carbon emissions.

"Another benefit will be an improvement to public transport reliability and bus / rail integration in the area, primarily because the new road will remove congestion and through traffic from existing routes.

"The capacity and quality of the wider footpath and cycle network in the area has been enhanced which will improve access for cyclists and pedestrians.

The new paths are also Disability Discrimination Act compliant."

The council's contractor for the work at the Cathkin Relief Road has been Land Engineering. They will continue to provide maintenance of the landscaping



Road will ease congestion and bring benefits to communities



and noise barriers areas for the next five years.

Stuart Dillett, Managing Director, Land Engineering, said: "It has been a real honour for Land Engineering to be involved in delivering the Cathkin Relief Road, the first major transport project of the Glasgow City Region City Deal.

"Like most major projects of this type, the construction of the Cathkin Relief Road did present a number of significant challenges during the build period and everyone involved has had to work very hard to deliver the finished product.

"During the entire process we have striven to be a good neighbour to those local residents who live around the site and we would like to take the opportunity to thank them most sincerely for their patience and understanding during this time.

"We are confident the new infrastructure will significantly enhance the local roads network and we are especially pleased we will continue to be involved with this great project through our on-going contract to ensure that all of the landscaping works on either side of the new road become fully established."



Noise barriers have also been erected to mitigate the traffic noise for homes adjacent to the site.

The barriers are located between panels of willow, which on some sides

project of City Deal



PATH NETWORK: Artist's impressions show how the area will look when the landscaping has had a chance to grow



FINISHING TOUCHES: The council's Jim Lockwood, Bill Lees, Colin Park and Land Engineering's Joe McLaughlin on site as the project neared completion

number of community benefits for the wider area which the council will deliver.

South Lanarkshire Council's Head of Roads and Transportation, Gordon Mackay, said: "Wider complementary works have already been undertaken to improve the adjacent footpath network and traffic signals on neighbouring routes.

"Other improvements, including to nearby cycling and bus infrastructure and play areas, are being considered in order to lock in the benefits of the new road.

"The junctions at either end of the new carriageway have been designed to maximise the capacity and provide a controlled flow of traffic with enhanced pedestrian and cycle crossing facilities.

"We will also have detailed traffic surveys undertaken once traffic patterns settle down, to assess whether the level of benefits envisaged are being achieved."

Councillor Thompson added: "I am certain that this road will have immediate and long-term benefits to people who are in its vicinity as well as everyone in the wider community."

"I would like to thank our officers and our contractor Land Engineering as well as everyone involved in the Glasgow City Region City Deal who has made this project possible."

will grow and provide screening and more natural looking soundproofing as well as improving the overall look of the surrounding areas.

As well as the new road, there are a

City Deal boost for economy and jobs

The Glasgow City Region City Deal is an agreement between the UK government, the Scottish Government and eight local authorities across Glasgow and the Clyde Valley.

The UK and Scottish Governments will each contribute £500million in grant funding, and the local authorities will borrow a further £130million.

Officials from each of the eight local authorities as well as other local partner organisations worked to develop the City Deal.

It is estimated that up to 29,000 jobs may be created and there could be additional private sector investment in the region of £3.3 billion.

As well as significant infrastructure investment, there will also be investment in life sciences and business support as well as employment programmes.

The other areas to benefit from City Deal alongside South Lanarkshire are East Dunbartonshire, East Renfrewshire, Glasgow City, Inverclyde, North Lanarkshire, Renfrewshire and West Dunbartonshire.

CHANGE ON WAY FOR

BY LYNNE CARSTAIRS

THE Glasgow City Region City Deal – which includes South Lanarkshire – will generate more than £1bn of investment over 20 years to fund major infrastructure projects, and help thousands back into work.

It also aims to improve public transport and connectivity, drive business innovation and growth and generate billions of pounds of private sector investment.

A key part of the South Lanarkshire benefit under city deal is the identification of four Community Growth Areas (CGAs) in Newton, Hamilton, Larkhall and East Kilbride.

Essentially the £62m plan will help to deliver four new communities, with a range of housing types and tenure, enhanced transport links, education and community facilities.

Each CGA should also bring thousands of new jobs from construction activity and the operation of new facilities as the CGAs are built and developed.

The Newton CGA has already brought significant change to the former Newton Farm and Newton Colliery sites, lying to the north of Cambuslang, and adjacent to Newton rail station and the River Clyde.

Hundreds of new homes are in place from the original Newton Phase 1 development with another 320 homes in the process of being completed and the brand new £13.3m Newton primary school scheduled to open in August (more info on right).

As well as state-of-the-art educational facilities, South Lanarkshire's 128th primary school will feature a community wing with 3G all weather pitch which will transform the community and leisure facilities available in the area.

Construction of the school is being undertaken by South Lanarkshire Council Property Services and funded by City Deal, developer contributions and the council.



Council Leader Councillor Eddie McAvoys said: "‘Community growth’ is a perfect description of what is proposed through this project, in that the investment in housing, schools, local facilities and transport will improve all aspects of quality of life for people of all ages in the four areas of Newton, Hamilton, Larkhall and East Kilbride.

"This investment is tremendously exciting as it makes real and lasting differences to people's lives."

Councillor McAvoys added: "It's no secret that new housing is desperately needed, but when we are dealing with the development of such a high number of homes, it is vital that it is structured in a way to create a new community while at the same time benefiting the existing communities surrounding it.

"The City Deal allows us to do exactly that, and we are very much looking forward to seeing this major project take shape and start to improve lives."

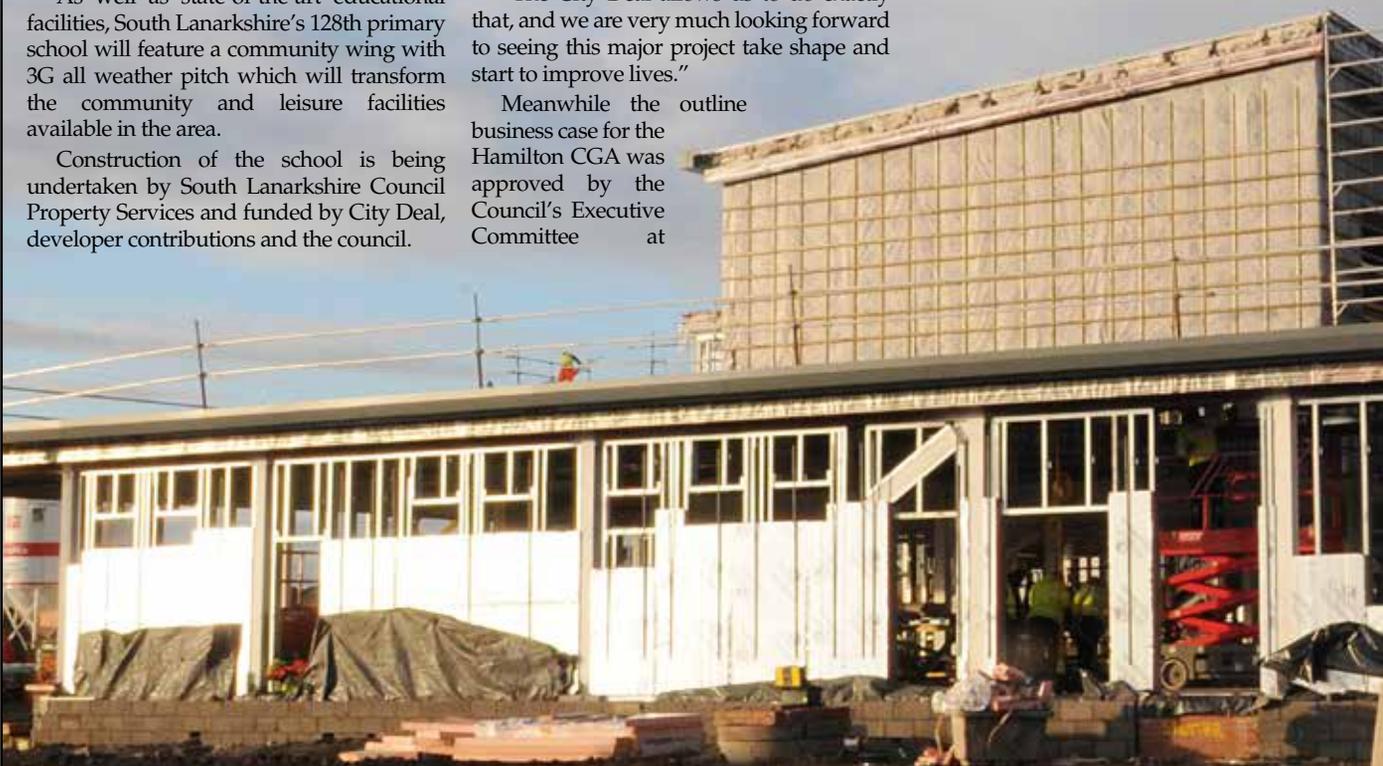
Meanwhile the outline business case for the Hamilton CGA was approved by the Council's Executive Committee at

the end of last year. With funding being approved shortly afterwards by the City Deal Cabinet, a series of Full Business Cases are now being prepared.

Community growth areas in focus: Hamilton

The proposed £21m investment will see up to 1800 homes built on two sites either side of Torhead Farm, honouring a long-standing commitment in the council's Local Development Plan.

The development will be undertaken by a consortium of major housing developers, including Stewart Milne Homes, Miller Homes and Avant Homes, over what was initially estimated as a 25-year build period – although work done through the City Deal funding could see this timescale



FOUR COMMUNITIES



reduced by as much as 11 years.

Proposals for three affordable-housing sites will contribute to the targets set out in the council's Housing Investment Plan. Investments are proposed at Woodhead and St Mark's Primary schools as well as Calderdale Academy, and a new nursery will meet early years provision.

Road junction improvements funded by City Deal, developers contributions and the council will be undertaken on a phased basis at key locations and routes between Hamilton Town centre and the CGA sites.

Larkhall

The outline business case for Larkhall is being finalised and seeks funding to accommodate infrastructure works associated with the new house building activity that will generate up to 1000 new homes on a site bounded by Duke Street and the A72 Lanark Road. City Deal funding will be

used to enhance facilities at Glengowan Primary School, Larkhall Academy and Holy Cross High School whilst road improvements will focus on the junction of the A72 / M74 slip roads and the creation of a new site access to the north of the CGA adjacent to the A72.

East Kilbride

The fourth CGA at East Kilbride, which could deliver up to 2500 homes, is at outline design stage and as discussions move forward with developers and planning applications are approved a more detailed set of City Deal infrastructure proposals will be defined. However it is proposed that a new primary school will be delivered along with a range of other transport and education projects.

BUILDING BLOCKS: The new school and community facility in Newton takes shape

New Head Teacher ready for challenge

AS work continues on the build of the new school at Newton – its head teacher is busy planning for an exciting and busy first term in August.

Catherine Meechan – currently HT at High Blantyre Primary School – will take up the reigns at the yet to be named new school in the coming months.

With school enrolment ongoing, and the process of bringing together a new school community, Mrs Meechan relishes the challenge of the months ahead.

She said: "I have been given a unique opportunity to work with our team in Education Resources, staff, parents and pupils, to establish and run this fabulous new primary school.

"We have enjoyed a successful enrolment period with lots of interest from the local community and I now look forward to meeting with all involved as we move forward.

"An early task is to give the school a name which will be decided along with pupils and parents, and from there we have a busy summer ahead. It will all be worth it when we welcome our families through the gates, and write our opening page in our history book, in August."

Mrs Meechan, has been a teacher since 1994 and has led High Blantyre Primary since 2008.

She added: "I have had a wonderful time at High Blantyre and will miss this community very much. But I know they will continue to go from strength to strength."



RISE IN RECYCLING RATES AS HOUSEHOLDS CLEAN UP

Significant amount of waste now being recycled instead of going to landfill



HOUSEHOLD recycling rates are expected to be above 50 per cent for the first time ever in South Lanarkshire.

And it's all thanks to improved services which have now been rolled out to more than 140,000 households in the area.

Changes in the past few years mean that burgundy bins are now for food and garden waste (there are also new kitchen caddies to collect food waste before transferring to the burgundy bin), light grey bins are for plastics, cans and glass, blue bins are for paper and cardboard and black or green waste bins are for non-recyclable materials.

The new food and garden waste service has been extremely popular with residents.

High presentation rates have resulted in more than 15,000 tonnes of food and garden waste being collected in 2016.

Chair of South Lanarkshire Council's Community Services Committee, Councillor Hamish Stewart, said: "It's great news that it looks like more than half the waste generated by households will be recycled.

"We are always looking to improve recycling rates so we will work with residents to ensure that this positive trend continues.

"With regards the 15,000 tonnes of food and garden waste collected in 2016, a significant amount of this waste would have previously gone to landfill.

"Instead of the waste decomposing in landfill to generate greenhouse gases and toxic leachate it is turned into a high quality compost that then have a variety of uses including landscaping and land remediation.

"We appreciate that there is always a period of adjustment when changes are put in place with regards bin collections, but we have to thank our residents for their patience.

"The figures show they are clearly embracing the recycling opportunities they now have and are recognising the importance of doing so for future generations."

One family who are a prime example of that are Paul Henderson, his wife Donna and sons Connor (4) and Alfie (1) from East Kilbride.

Connor in particular is a recycling "champion" and said: "Recycling is good for the world around us and everybody should do it. It is good not to waste things."

Mum Donna said: "With the different bins I think the next generation will just think it is natural to recycle and will do it without



having to think about it.

"That can only be a good thing for the future. Connor is already a keen recycler and there is a spin off bonus that he is learning about different materials and their properties as he helps sort the tins, bottles, paper and plastics."

Dad Paul added: "I think it really is a case that if you have not been brought up with recycling it seems like a bit of work to learn



CHAMPION RECYCLERS:
The Henderson family have embraced the changes to bin collections



“The kitchen caddy for food waste is really handy, I had expected something bigger but it is small enough to fit in without getting in the way”

what goes into each bin and to change long established habits of just throwing it all out, but for children growing up with the process it is just the normal, natural thing to do.”

Paul admits to feeling quite apprehensive when he found out about the changes.

He said: “I think everyone was quite sceptical before we had the new bins delivered. It was something new, we did not know what to expect and we did not know whether the collection rota would work for us. But speaking for ourselves we have found it really easy to adapt and find it works really well.”

Donna said: “The kitchen caddy for food waste is really handy, I had expected something bigger but it is small enough to fit in without getting in the way. It does also help you to think about where food is being wasted and where you could maybe save a bit.”

And any concerns Paul had about collection days were also quickly rectified. He said: “I find it really easy to follow the collection rota and make sure we put the right bin out, I just look it up on the online calendar.”

■ For information on bin collection dates and more, go to www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk

HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE COUNCIL PLAN

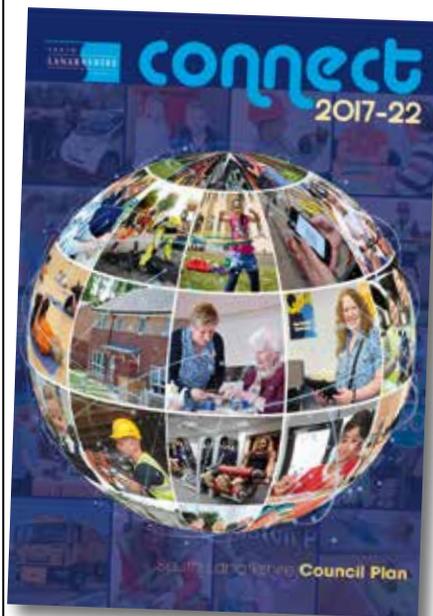
The work of South Lanarkshire Council is guided by the Council Plan – Connect, which sets out our Vision, Values, Ambitions and Objectives. The current version of Connect will come to an end in March 2017.

We are preparing a new plan for the period 2017 to 2022 and we are keen to hear your views on how we can make the Council Plan better.

The Council Plan – Connect sets out what we aim to achieve over the next five years and how we will do this, making the most effective use of resources to deliver the best possible services for you and your family.

Learning from experience and from previous plans, we are taking the opportunity to update Connect to make it clearer, in terms of explaining what is important, what we plan to do and what difference this will make.

Our vision “to improve the quality



of life of everyone in South Lanarkshire” remains at the heart of Connect and we also recognise that we do not operate in isolation. This version of Connect shows how we link with a range of partners.

Have your say by completing our survey at <http://tinyurl.com/SLC-CONNECT>

A paper copy of this survey can be supplied on request:

Email us at: performance@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Telephone us at: 01698 453927

Write to us at: Improvement Unit, Finance and Corporate Resources, Floor 7, Almada Street, Hamilton ML3 0AB

“We should not underestimate the importance of good quality play

MAKING PLAY

BY ANDREW THOMPSON

SUCCESSFUL partnerships with the community and a drive to secure external funding has helped the council deliver a programme of improvements and redevelopment of play areas throughout South Lanarkshire.

From urban parks in the larger towns, through visitor destinations such as country parks, to local facilities in rural villages a safe, fun and adventurous play areas are important resources for children, parents, grandparents and carers who look after them.

The council's Landscape Development Team has taken an imaginative approach to delivering their programme of redevelopment to ensure the most benefit is squeezed from every penny invested and also to maximise additional funding from external sources.

Key to securing that additional funding has been the development of partnerships with various community groups, some of which already existed and some of which were established with a clear goal of supporting local play facilities.

South Lanarkshire Council Chair of Community Resources Councillor Hamish Stewart said: “We should not underestimate the importance of good quality play areas in



the life of our communities.

“They support healthy outdoor play for children from the very young to their teenage years, they provide a meeting place and an opportunity for social engagement for both

the young and their parents and carers, and they can bring added value to visitor destinations.

“The Landscape Development Team and their partners in communities the length and breadth of South Lanarkshire are doing a great job working together to support these play facilities.”

Executive Director of Community and Enterprise Resources Michael McGlynn said: “Beyond meeting upkeep and maintenance costs for our play parks there is very little available money within our budget to replace damaged equipment or add new items.

“By working with partner organisations the Landscape Development Team has been able to support grant

applications for funds that would not be directly available to South Lanarkshire Council. In fact, more than £1million of investment has been drawn down through this route in 2016/17.”

Uddingston Pride is one such community partner. The group worked hand-in-hand with the council to mastermind and drive through a major investment in play equipment for the town's Crofthead Park.

Completed in April 2016 new play facilities in the park include a designated toddler area, a junior area and an all weather multi use games area (MUGA). There is also outdoor fitness equipment in a gym zone.

The work at Crofthead Park



DELIGHT: Local children are loving the facilities

areas in the life of our communities”

WORK

10 PLACES TO PLAY



BALANCING FUN: Friends Erin, Evie, Ellie and Ava from Muredge Primary School enjoy hanging out at Crofthead Park



Play areas fill an important role in both urban and rural settings and South Lanarkshire Council is committed to working with communities to maintain and improve these facilities and equipment.

The council is working with community partners to secure grant support for investment in play facilities and here are some of the most recently completed projects:

- **Greenhills Park, East Kilbride** – the redeveloped play area opened in April 2016 and incorporates rockscapes that offer a range of climbing challenges.
- **Crawford** – also completed in 2016 and suitable for toddlers and juniors.
- **Calderyn Country Park** – with funding from sportscotland the country park’s new adventure play area takes advantage of landscape features
- **Rosebank** – redeveloped in March 2016 the new play equipment is complimented by planting Crofthead Park, Uddingston – a popular town centre park was redeveloped with a new toddler and junior play area
- **Bracehead** – the village play area has been significantly updated with work completed in November 2016
- **Tarbrax** – improvement works were completed in January 2017



standing relationship with Uddingston Pride that the Landscape Development Team could tap into to ensure the project could go ahead, but Crawford presented a different situation.

“Our team worked with the community who established a group to specifically support the play project and who could identify funding opportunities and apply for grants that would not be available to South Lanarkshire Council on its own.

“As a result of that partnership with the community we have been able to develop a facility that is not just an excellent resource for local children but can also serve as an attraction to encourage visitors to the area to stop in Crawford and perhaps spend a little money locally – I might add it is extremely handy for taking a break on a long journey on the M74.”

Gail Coulter, Crawford Community Council member, said: “Working as a community we were able to secure a maximum grant of £197,609 from SSE’s Clyde Wind Farm Fund to finance the play park and we are absolutely delighted with the results.

“It took four years of work and planning but when you see the children, families and friends enjoying it shows it was well worth the effort.

“Our former chair Robert Gemmel deserves recognition for working tirelessly to make this happen but I think we must also recognise the support, encouragement and hard work of our partners in South Lanarkshire Council.”

Almost 700 children attend primary schools close to the centre of Uddingston and this has given them a new, safe place for healthy outdoor play.

“The play equipment and sports area are part of the wider redevelopment of the park which our group continues to support to provide a space for all to enjoy in the heart of our community.”

Some thirty miles south of Crofthead Park in the village of Crawford a similar transformation has taken place to deliver a safe, modern place to play for toddlers and older children.

Mr McGlynn said: “In the case of Uddingston the council already had a long

“Our team worked with the community who established a group to specifically support the play project

was made possible through a partnership approach which has seen Uddingston Pride secure £185,000 in National Lottery funding to support South Lanarkshire Council’s Landscape Development Team in the redevelopment.

Secretary of Uddingston Pride Sandy Robertson said: “This was an important project for us and has helped transform the park into a place for all generations.

Coming soon:

- **Blackwood Park** – funding has been secured with work starting early this year.
- **Sandford** – work is due to get underway with grant support now in place.
- **Glassford** – another project starting this year thanks to a successful funding bid.

Working with community partners to maximise external investment in play is a crucial part of South Lanarkshire Council’s strategy in the current challenging financial climate.

If you are part of a constituted community group and would like to discuss a potential project in your area then email Amenity Services ffgs@southlanarkshire.gov.uk or telephone 0303 123 1020.

Perfect Haven in the

Located in the village of Forth the facility will provide much needed services to all surrounding local communities

SITTING in rural Clydesdale, a newly-built facility is allowing a charity to reach out to the surrounding areas and provide support to people with life-limiting illness.

The Haven offers free and confidential care, complementary therapies and information to people affected by illnesses such as cancer, multiple sclerosis, motor neurone disease, Parkinson's disease and Huntington's disease, as well as support to

their carers and family members.

With more than 14 years' experience in developing and delivering healthcare to around 750 clients through 14 employees, 18 self-employed therapists and more than 50 volunteers, the charity operates from bases in Blantyre, Wishaw and, until now, from a flat that it leased in Forth.

However, it had outgrown the Forth flat and needed premises suitable for its level of work, with the construction of a custom-

designed facility the best approach if it was to offer the full range of services that the charity wished to provide.

Officers from across South Lanarkshire Council combined their areas of expertise to work with the Haven Caring Counselling Communication Centre and funding organisations to assist the new premises to become a reality.

Janice Williams, Chief Executive Officer at The Haven, said: "Development of the

A local service that stretches the arms of care far and wide

THE Haven offers a programme of support designed to help individuals cope with the physical, emotional and practical aspects of their illness and to enable them to face the future with hope.

Support is offered to people of all ages, including children, and to family members and carers. It is specifically tailored to meet the needs of the individual and is provided for people at all stages of their illness from the point of diagnosis onwards.

Operating as a drop-in centre with no need for medical referral, the charity provides all services free of charge, and the team of specialist nurses,

therapists, and volunteers work closely together to provide the highest standard of care.

The new facility in Forth has been designed to allow the charity to offer its full range of services to the people of Clydesdale while, at the same time, playing its part in the local village community.

The Haven's Janice Williams said: "The new purpose-built centre provides the warm, welcoming and non-clinical Haven environment that we know our clients need, where they can access emotional support to manage the impact illness or caring has on their lives - an environment with

wonderful, panoramic views across countryside to the Tinto Hills!

"The centre also gives us a hub from which we can reach out to communities across Clydesdale, 'being there' for people at all stages of illness - at diagnosis, during treatment and providing bereavement support for families.

"Over time, the centre will also be developed as a resource for local communities and we look forward to working with organisations and community groups to 'make a difference' and support a wide range of health and wellbeing initiatives."

The centre offers premises designed to allow the provision of confidential counselling, therapeutic and complementary therapies and group activities, while there is also an office base to co-ordinate the Haven@Home service that provides treatment and support in clients' own homes.

Operated by full-time staff, the facility also includes an information hub containing literature and information on local and regional health, social care and voluntary sector support services as well as information on groups and local activities for members of the local community.



heart of Clydesdale



TEAMWORK:
the council,
Haven
representatives
and local
organisations
worked together
to make the new
building possible

new Haven centre in Forth would not have been possible without the generous financial support of The Levenseat Trust, SLC Renewable Energies Fund and The Robertson Trust.

“However, it was not just financial assistance that made this possible: South Lanarkshire Council also provided advice and guidance at every stage of the project and this was invaluable. From the first step of securing a lease on land, through to planning applications, finance, tendering, roads and building control, every department in SLC that we have worked with has been extremely supportive and this has been very much appreciated by the Board of Directors and project staff.

“We are delighted that The Haven can now extend our services into Forth and rural areas across Clydesdale. We know that rural communities face particular challenges in accessing local support and that this can be particularly difficult for families affected by life-limiting illness.”

Councillor Catherine McClymont, chair of the Clydesdale Area Committee, lent her support to the project and worked with the

council’s Estates officials as, with Haven representatives, they identified a suitable, council-owned site in Forth and developed a business case for a reduction in the rental price on community-benefit grounds to £1 per annum.

Councillor McClymont said: “I am extremely happy and proud to see what has been achieved with the new facility for people with life-limiting illnesses in our area. I was approached a couple of years ago to see if I could arrange new facilities as they were growing out of the one-bedroomed flat the council had been happy to provide for more than 10 years.

“I managed to work with SLC to secure the Haven a long lease over the piece of ground and then the ball started to roll when the funding was obtained via the Levenseat Trust, of which I am a Trustee, and the Renewable Energy Trust.

“I cannot thank the funders enough and I know they are extremely proud of the new facility and the legacy this will be for the area. This was an idea from Jessie Griffin who co-founded the original Little Haven and I know she will be extremely happy with the outcome.”

Funding amounting to £169,083 was granted from the Renewable Energy Fund, which distributes Community Benefit Funds from windfarms and which is administered by the council, to add to £340,000 from the Levenseat Trust, which uses Landfill Tax Credits and donations from local landfill and recycling company Levenseat Ltd to support projects aimed at improving the environment for the benefit of local people.

William Haggarty, chairperson of the Levenseat Trust, said: “The Directors of the Trust were delighted to provide the major funding for the new Haven Project. The worthiness of this new purpose-built facility allowed the Directors to agree to make the largest funding award in the history of The Levenseat Trust in the sum of £340,000.

“Located in the village of Forth the facility will provide much needed services to all surrounding local communities and the directors are sure that all the end users will appreciate their new surroundings. The new centre, built on a previously derelict site, also greatly enhances the appearance of the local area.”

Chris Walker, managing director of Muirhall Energy, said: “We are delighted that we could help towards the new building, knowing that it helps so many local people.

“We have been involved with supporting the Haven for a number of years now, and it is great to see the positive impacts that the money generated by wind farms can have in the community.”

**“Not just funding,
the council
provided advice
and guidance at
every stage of the
project and this was
invaluable”**



TAKING CARBON EMISSIONS TO TASK

THE East Kilbride Task Force continues to work collaboratively to attract investment and business to the town. And it is looking for ways to secure and create jobs as well as encouraging economic growth for East Kilbride.

The public/ private sector partnership includes representatives from South Lanarkshire Council, Scottish Enterprise, Business Gateway Lanarkshire Enterprise Services, Skills Development Scotland, Lanarkshire Chamber of Commerce, South Lanarkshire College and Orion Capital Managers, on behalf of East Kilbride Town Centre.

The Scottish Government introduced new regulations last September requiring owners of non-domestic buildings to improve their energy efficiency and reduce the CO2 emissions of their building.

And a major focus of the Task Force over the last two years has been on developing a low carbon economy strategy to put East Kilbride on the map as a centre for excellence in Scotland.

To date the Task Force and Zero Waste Scotland have been involved in the early stages of a town-wide business and industrial site low carbon retrofit project, which is now moving to the delivery phase.

There are many commercial and business properties within East Kilbride that were constructed more than 25 years ago and, as they stand, would find it difficult to meet these new targets.

So this initiative will offer practical advice, guidance and support to business owners and occupiers to ensure that they reap all the benefits of becoming carbon neutral or low carbon.

Businesses can sign up for specialist bespoke energy efficiency assistance and information on the range of financial support available. In addition, businesses without an existing Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) will receive a free EPC assessment.

The project will improve the appeal and marketability of East Kilbride as a centre for growth by providing business properties with support for owners and occupiers to

better understand how becoming carbon neutral can benefit them.

The Minister for Business, Innovation and Energy Paul Wheelhouse attended a meeting of the Task Force in December to hear about the ambitious plans to put East Kilbride at the heart of the low carbon sector in Scotland.

Mr Wheelhouse expressed interest in the proposals and welcomed the initiative being taken in the town. The Minister said he would bring forward suggestions as to how the Scottish Government could support the plans.

Councillor Chris Thompson, Chair of the East Kilbride Task Force, said: "We have a number of business and industrial properties in the area that are more than 25 years old and due to the age, condition and type of construction would struggle to be compliant with the emerging energy performance criteria.

"This initiative will ensure that, over the next 5 years, we can refurbish many of these to upgrade their energy potential and show best practice to others.

"East Kilbride, with its local concentration of similar properties is the ideal focus for this initiative within Scotland and is well placed to become a hub for low carbon industry.

"By doing this it will not only secure around 8,000 jobs but has the potential to create 1,000 jobs for East Kilbride. This is not only good for the environment but great news for the local economy too.

"East Kilbride provides the ideal opportunity to bring together the objectives of Zero Waste Scotland and Resource Efficient Scotland to deliver a project that



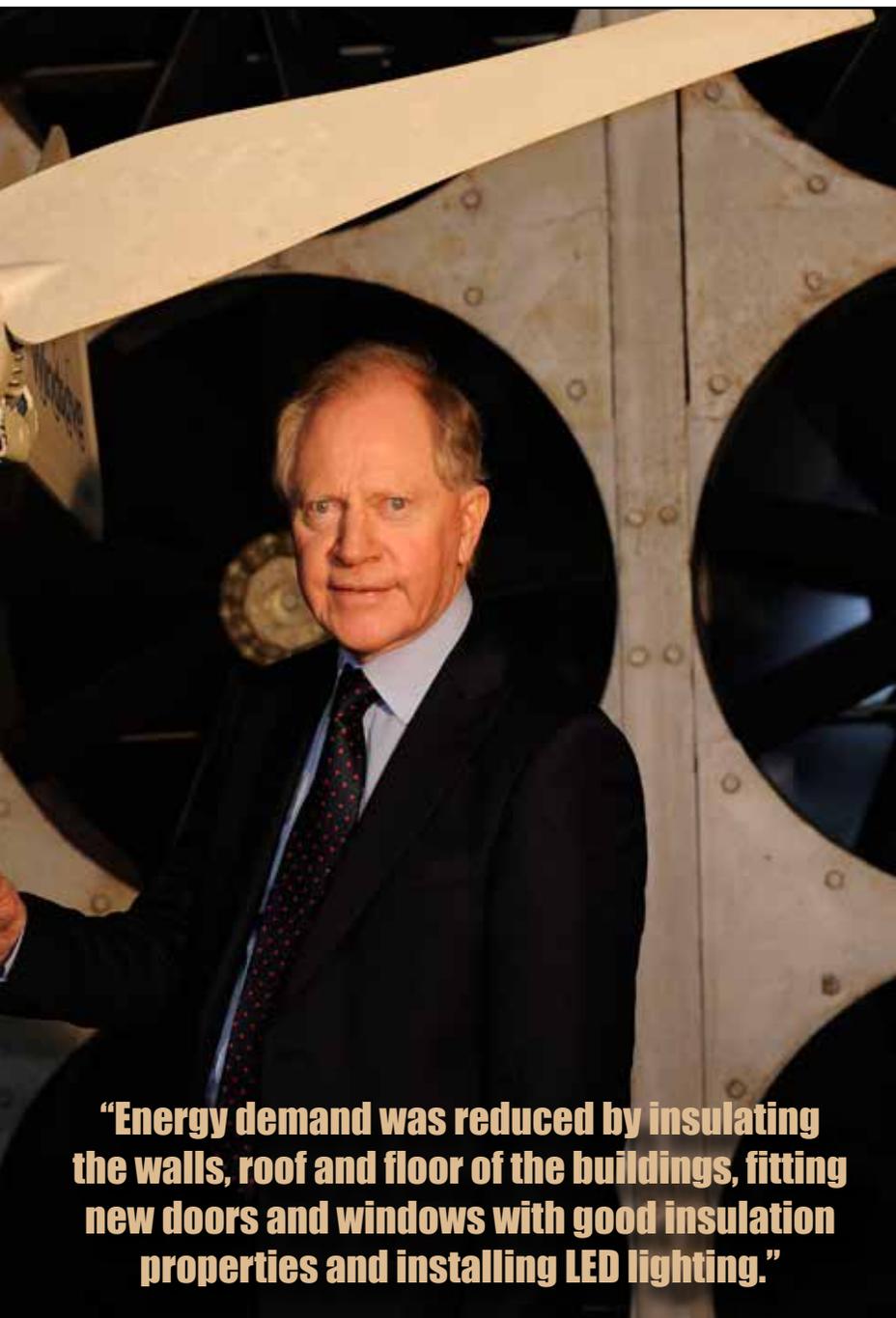
RENEWABLE: John Bingham says ETC is at the forefront of the drive for sustainable energy (main pic), while Greystone also provide carbon reduction services



will have local, regional and national benefits of the next 5 to 10 years. Much of the initial work is complete and the project can be complete in a timeframe and on a scale that is not possible anywhere else in Scotland."

One East Kilbride Company who is growing in this sector is the Greystone Group. The company, which employs 55 staff, has been providing carbon reduction services to a wide and diverse range of clients in both the private and public sectors.

The company offers a variety of services to help businesses reduce their carbon footprint. From LED lighting to infrared



“Energy demand was reduced by insulating the walls, roof and floor of the buildings, fitting new doors and windows with good insulation properties and installing LED lighting.”

heating and a number of measures to rectify heat loss in older buildings.

Craig Smith, Managing Director of Greystone said: “Commercial and business buildings can benefit from retrofit measures resulting in substantial savings and improvement to the Energy Performance rating.

“The work already undertaken by the East Kilbride Task Force will ensure that local businesses can benefit from carbon reduction and really put the town on the map as a centre of excellence.”

Energy Technology Centre, based in the Scottish Enterprise Technology Park in East Kilbride, is at the forefront of new developments in renewable energy. This local engineering company, which has both facilities and analytical capability, undertakes development of new technology in the wind energy, marine power and low carbon heat sectors and has clients across the world.



ETC has also implemented energy efficiency measures at its own premises and in 2014 completed an EU-funded refurbishment of the property to reduce energy demand and to meet that demand partly from renewable supplies.

John Bingham, Chief Executive of ETC said: “Our refurbishment was very successful. Energy demand was reduced by insulating the walls, roof and floor of the buildings, fitting new doors and windows with good insulation properties and installing LED lighting.

“To provide renewable energy to the facility, a biomass boiler was installed for heating and a wind turbine and PV panels were used for delivering green electricity. Effective management of these energy sources is being enhanced by the installation of thermal and electrical energy storage systems.”

N-ice development in EK

The East Kilbride Task Force has worked closely with the Town Centre on the substantial redevelopment within the Olympia Mall.

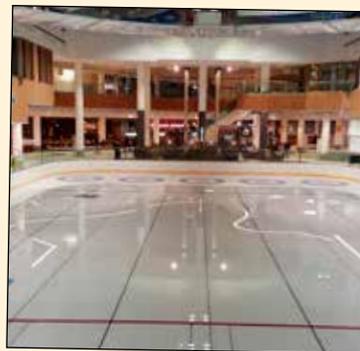
A new leisure hub has recently been opened, featuring a variety of family-orientated restaurants including Nandos and Frankie and Benny’s, a new commercial gym, the existing cinema complex and a better and brighter ice rink.

The ice rink re-opened its doors to the public in December and feedback has been very positive.

The £2.2M refurbishment included a new ammonia and air handling plant, ice pad, redecoration and improved access for those with disabilities.

The majority of the costs involved in the refurbishment of the ice rink were met by the council with contributions secured from Sportscotland, Renewable Energy Fund and Orion, the Town Centre Developer.

Chair of South Lanarkshire Council’s Enterprise Services Committee, and chair of the Task Force, Councillor Chris Thompson, said: “The ice rink forms a key part of the exciting new leisure hub and it is



something that as a council we are delighted to be involved in.

“Before the refurbishment, the ice rink attracted around 100,000 visitors a year, and with these improvements we hope that even more people will come and spend a day enjoying all the facilities on offer in East Kilbride.”

Councillor Hamish Stewart, Chair of Community Resources Committee said: “This is a major investment project to improve leisure facilities for the people of East Kilbride and surrounding areas and going from the feedback we’ve received it will be very popular indeed.”

ZOO

WITH A VIEW

BY LYNNE CARSTAIRS

THE advent of Spring is signalling new beginnings at Calderglen Zoo.

And some recent additions to the collection are tentatively showing themselves to the public, having spent the winter adapting to their new surroundings.

Regular visitors to the South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture (SLLC) attraction, may already be acquainted with the Fennec Foxes – three brothers named Frank, Foxy and Fred.

Their home is a new desert exhibit in the conservatory where animal keeper Natalie Martin has enjoyed watching their personalities develop.

She revealed: “The trio arrived at the end of last year and were off display for a while so they could get used to the keeping staff. However they have settled into their new exhibit nicely. Frank is the cheeky boss of the group who will sometimes steal his brothers’ food when they’re not looking. Foxy likes to investigate new toys and food in their enclosure, and Fred is shy and prefers to relax on the sand in the corner, hiding under the plant.”

In fact the zoo team has its finger on the pulse of one of the biggest gaming phenomena of the last year with this gang of newbies.

Avid collectors of ‘Pokemon Go’ will recognise Fennekin – a fennec fox fire pokemon first introduced to

fans in 2013 in the Pokemon X and Y game. (See picture, bottom right.)

Young visitors to the zoo have already been delighted to find a ‘real’ pokemon or three in their midst.

Also joining the new animals on the block are two cute cusimanses. Members of the mongoose family, they are best described as bigger, browner versions of meerkats. Natalie adds: “They are still a bit nervous around the public but are gradually becoming more confident. They are hidden in the middle of the zoo in the enclosure between the meerkats and polecats and like to hide. But they should be out a lot more in the warmer months. Visitors may be able to catch a glimpse of them if they are very quiet and sneak up so that the cusimanses can’t hear them...”

Finally, four young male coatis have arrived from Curragh Wildlife Park on the Isle of Man. Although not a new species for Calderglen, the current coati enclosure has been fully refurbished in anticipation of their arrival, creating a warmer indoor space for colder weather. In the wild, coatis – which most closely resemble raccoons – have widespread habitats. Their habitats range from hot and arid areas to humid rainforests and even cold



Andean mountain slopes.

So, the changeable Scottish climate suits them well.

And for visitors who want to do a little more than look at the zoo’s expanding collection, Calderglen is continuing some of its most popular hands-on activities throughout 2017.

THESE INCLUDE

- ‘Wake up the Zoo’ - participants feed breakfast to coatis, porcupines, caracara, polecats, wildcats, kookaburras, guinea pigs, rabbits and meerkats. Running for an hour from 9am, this unique experience is open to adults and children aged 6+ (maximum three people) and must be booked in advance. (weekdays only)
- ‘Meet the Meerkats’ – a hugely popular experience where adults and children get to meet the meerkats



EVENTS

Upcoming Events at
Calderglenglen Zoo – dates for
the diary

Playful Pets - 11:30am-3:30pm
on Wed 28th-Fri 30th June.

Handling sessions with animals
that also make great pets.

**Wild about Wildlife Week Mon 3rd-
Fri 7th July - Activities on offer will**
include minibeast hunting, worm
digging, pond dipping, owl pellet
dissection and butterfly and
bird feeder craft activities.

**Big Bug Bonanza -
Monday 7th-Friday
11th August from
11:30am-**

3:30pm - There will be
minibeast handling sessions,
bug hunting and worm
digging sessions taking place
throughout the day in an attempt
to raise awareness of how cool
these little critters really are.
**Reptile Awareness Week - Monday
16th- Friday 20th October from
11:30am- 3:30pm - Reptile
handling sessions and reptile-
themed craft sessions take
place throughout each day.
*50% off Calderglenglen
Zoo animal craft
activities for ACE
members.**



up-close in their enclosure.
The experience lasts about
15-20 minutes with a
maximum of 3 people in
the enclosure at one time.
(weekdays only)

And new for 2017 is the
Calderglenglen Zoo Summer
School. Aimed at youngsters
aged 6-11, the summer school
will run daily from 24th to
28th July. Each day is based
around a different theme and
promises lots of scavenger
hunts, fun outdoor activities
including worm digging
and minibeast hunting, and
competitions with prizes up
for grabs.

Spaces will be limited and
advance booking is a must.
Summer school will cost £100
for ACE members and £125
without ACE membership.

Calderglenglen Country
Park is a four-star tourist
attraction which as well
as the zoo – home to more



FEEDING TIME: Natalie Martin gets up close with
a coatis (main pic), while new additions include
cusimanses (bottom left) and fennec foxes (above)

than 50 different species -
has a tropical glasshouse,
ornamental gardens, nature
trails and walks, courtyard
cafe, play areas and an 18
hole golf course.

■ For more info or to book
email calderglenglencountrypark@southlanarkshireleisure.co.uk
giving details

of your group, including
contact person, address,
phone number and email
address. Please also include
the number of children
and number of adults and
any additional needs or
requirements. Calderglenglen
Zoo is a disability-friendly
attraction. Alternatively
telephone 01355 236644.

THANK YOU

The Calderglenglen Zoo
staff would like to say
a massive thank you
to all who donated to
the Amazon Wishlist
in 2016. The animals
received lots of objects
including hammocks,
rope ladders, food
balls, hedgehog houses
and cat chase toys.
If you would like to
donate, the link to
the Calderglenglen Zoo
Amazon wish list is:
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/registry/wishlist/?ie=UTF8&cid=A821178FJSQ4L> Alternatively
click on the 'Your Lists'
tab in Amazon and then
type in 'Calderglenglen Zoo'
in the search bar.

The Reporter speaks to two families who have provided

LOTS TO CELEBRATE ABOUT FAMILY LIFE



MOST young people in South Lanarkshire will look forward to their birthday and perhaps Christmas as days of celebration, gifts and parties.

But for two lucky children they each get a third annual day of celebration with their family, when they go out for a meal and get taken to the Bear Factory as a treat.

For Jack and Sophie are adopted, and their family chooses to mark the day that their adoptions were finalised.

South Lanarkshire parents John and Susan feel that it's important to mark the day their children legally became part of their family.

John said: "It was the end of a very long road and it's only right we celebrate it. The children look forward to it each year. We got them a bear the first year and since then they've had a new outfit for their soft toy and get to choose what they want for dinner as a special treat."

Susan and John are happy to talk about their adoption experience to highlight the need for adoptive families in South Lanarkshire. Indeed, the council has recently launched a Find 40 Families campaign where they hope

that 40 children can be paired with their forever families within the next year.

John and Susan married in 2005 and immediately started trying for a family. They quickly discovered that it was not going to be possible for them to have birth children and they ruled out having fertility treatment.

After much soul searching they decided that adoption was the way forward for them and they began the assessment process in 2006. Susan said: "We put our details on the SLC website to request more information and the information pack came through really quickly.

"We met with a social worker and were enrolled in a preparation class which was a group session along with other prospective parents."

John said: "It was actually really informative when we got there and there are couples we met there that have been a support right through the process and we remain friends with even now."

When a potential match became available the couple were introduced to Jack in 2009. He was an adorable 2 and a half year old who was living with a foster family. They immediately

knew that he was going to be their son.

The match was approved and they made preparations for him in their home.

Susan comments: "That week was very strange, we visited him for an hour on the Monday and then gradually upped the time we spent with him until we finally brought him home.

"The support we received from the council was phenomenal and they kept in touch to make sure we were all doing well. We kept

"How great it is that we have kids in our lives, making us a family. We get so much out of it."

it very low key to begin with and slowly introduced Jack to our extended family and friends."

The court proceedings came about six months later when the adoption was granted. It was then that their family tradition started as they took Jack for a teddy and for a special meal to celebrate the momentous day in their family history.



SUPPORT: The council are there to help anyone thinking about adoption (picture posed by models)

FOSTERING A LOVING HOME FOR CHILDREN

THE council needs foster carers to look after children of all ages who can't live with their birth families.

While the priority is helping families stay together, there are many reasons why children need a period of fostering.

It could be that a parent has to go into hospital or is suffering a period of ill health. There could be bereavement in the family or it could be that a child is being abused or neglected.

Some children stay in foster care for only a few days or weeks until their families are able to care for them again. But in some cases it isn't possible for them to return home and the council needs to make plans for permanent care.

Foster carers give children the opportunity to grow and develop in a safe and secure environment. They work as part of a team with the child's social worker, birth parents and any other agencies involved in the child's care.

Councillor Lynsey Hamilton, Depute Chair of South Lanarkshire Council's Social Work Resources Committee said: "We are currently looking for carers over the age of 21 from all walks of life. We need single people and

couples whether they are married, living together or in a civil partnership. We are also looking for families with children and without, and people from all ethnic groups."

One young woman whose life was completely turned around by a foster family is 18 year old Shaddelle Reid, from Stonehouse.

She and her brothers were placed with her foster family when she was 10 years old.

Shaddelle says that from the minute she entered

to me, she has taught me everything I know, from cooking and lots of practical skills, to encouraging me how to be the best me possible.

"I have absolutely no doubt that my life would have taken a different path if it hadn't been for the grounded, safe and stable home Hazel was able to offer me."

Shaddelle feels so strongly about children getting the best start possible that she is now a spokesperson for Who

Cares? Scotland and aims to help other young people who can't be cared for in their family homes.

She said: "One of the reasons that I tell my story is that I know mine has been really successful.

"I'm really lucky that I was kept with my brothers and that my placement has been stable. I have a happy ending.

"For me, every child in care should have that positive experience.

"I hope that by people hearing my story, they will realise that fostering really can change lives.

We need good foster carers in the South Lanarkshire area so if you think you could help out a child like me then please get more information."



LOVING: Shaddelle Reid and foster mum Hazel

her foster carer's house she felt loved and safe.

Shaddelle remembers: "Up until then I'd never been read a bedtime story and I just remember Hazel tucking me up in bed and reading to me. I felt like the luckiest girl in the world.

"Over the years Hazel has been such a support

They noticed that their son loved other children so decided that they would start the process again and adopt another child.

They made another application and this resulted in the adoption of their daughter, who was 13 months old. Susan said: "Of course, I got a bit carried away and after all the blue I painted everything pink in her room and had lots of girly outfits."

Sophie moved in with her family just before Christmas and John and Susan say they felt their family was complete.

Jack is 10 now and Sophie is 6, and both of them are happy children doing well at school.

John said: "The thing that annoys me most about people's perceptions of adoption is that they say how very good of you to have helped a child. Actually I think how great it is that we have our kids in our lives, making us a family. We have got so much out of it. I can't imagine our lives without Sophie and Jack and I am thankful every day."

■ To get more information on becoming a foster carer or adopting a child please visit www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk or contact the Family Placement Team on 0303 123 1008.

JOBSPOTS HELP 600

BY ANDREW THOMPSON

YOUNG people and businesses in South Lanarkshire are being given a massive head start with South Lanarkshire's Youth Employment Initiative.

Branded as Jobspot, the initiative was launched in February 2016 and by the end of the year it had already worked with 1400 young people and seen 600 of them starting work in the first 300 days.

Jobspot offices are operating in Hamilton, East Kilbride, Rutherglen and Lanark, giving young people and businesses access to the support they need right on their doorsteps.

News of the initiative's success has spread beyond South Lanarkshire prompting a visit from the Minister for Employability and Training Jamie Hepburn MSP to the Hamilton Jobspot in December.

The minister also visited a thriving Hamilton business which has benefited from the financial and training support that the programme provides.

South Lanarkshire Council Chair of Enterprise Services, Councillor Chris Thompson, said: "It is no secret that the public sector is working under tough budget constraints but investment in the future of our young people is vital and the success of the South Lanarkshire Youth Employment Initiative shows that investment pays off."

The Youth Employment Initiative in South Lanarkshire is funded by South Lanarkshire Council, the European Social Fund and the Youth Employment Initiative.

After visiting the Hamilton Jobspot office the Minister met former trainees who are now working at Henderson's Butchers in the town's New Cross Shopping Centre.

The firm has been able to help six young people into good jobs. The Minister said: "It was interesting to hear how the South Lanarkshire Youth Employment Initiative has been working with young people and employers at the local level to really focus in on the training individuals need to help them find work.

"From what I have heard this project has made a very strong start and I would wish it continued success in the future."

Shop owner Andrew Henderson said: "We have developed a really positive relationship with Jobspot and working to ensure that I could recruit the right young people with the skills I am looking for has 30 the reporter

"I am really grateful for the support I have been given to get started in a job that I love and that gives me real opportunities to develop a career"



been of great benefit.

"The young people who have come to us have got here through their own hard work but have undeniably benefitted from getting the right training and have quickly become real assets to the business."

Apprentice Butcher Ryan Miller from Glassford said: "I am really grateful for the support I have been given to get started in a job that I love and that gives me real opportunities to develop a career.

"Everyone at Henderson's is really

friendly and supportive and Jobspot were brilliant in making it all happen for me."

Delicatessen Assistant Aimee Craw from Larkhall said: "I felt that the staff at Jobspot were really able to help me figure out what I needed to do to improve my chances of getting into work and then they knew how to make sure I got the training and development to make that happen.

"I think it is great that Henderson's are willing to give young people a chance and I would really encourage other businesses

YOUNG INTO WORK

High performance vehicle for youth employment



"I felt that the staff at Jobspot were really able to help me figure out what I needed to do to improve my chances of getting into work"

Through Jobspot the Youth Employment Initiative in South Lanarkshire is engaging with a wide range of employers and is able to work with young people to help them get into careers that suit both their skills and their interests.

Keiran Murphy and Sam Meldrum share a love of cars and for them the opportunity to work day to day dealing with some of the most prestigious cars on the road was a dream come true.

With support from Jobspot Kieran and Sam were taken on by East Kilbride based Concierge Vehicle Solutions, a specialist car buying company that offers its clients expertise in sourcing the car they want and in negotiating the best possible deal.

Concierge are one of many local companies who have welcomed support to their businesses from South Lanarkshire's Youth Employment Initiative as well as the energy and enthusiasm that young people bring.



DREAM JOB: Kieran and Sam are loving the opportunities given to them thanks to Concierge and Jobspot

Director Andy Aird said: "We use our specialist knowledge and contacts to get our customers the best car and the best deal."

"Jobspot used their expertise to give us the support to create two new jobs and to find the two young people to fill them."

"Sam and Keiran came in at the perfect time as we needed that additional help to manage an increase in customer enquiries while maintaining the high standards of customer satisfaction we demand."

"The funding and training support from Jobspot was essential in allowing us to take them on and to prepare them for the roles they have undertaken. We see this as business and public sector working in harmony to increase long term local productivity, reduce unemployment and offer young people real opportunities."

to see if Jobspot can help them offer opportunities to people of my generation – we want to work and we won't let you down".

■ A range of financial incentives, training support and recruitment assistance is available. If your business could create new jobs with the support of Jobspot please contact Sandra Cuthbertson on 01698 454395 or email Sandra.cuthbertson@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

WORKING HARD: Ryan Miller from Glassford and Aimee Craw from Larkhall are both employed at Henderson's Butchers thanks to support from Jobspot

NEW APP IMPROVES CARE FOR THOUSANDS

BY EUAN DUGUID

MOBILE PHONE applications have made managing many areas of life easier.

Keep fit plans, sorting out finances or staying a step ahead of the changeable weather, for example, are all at people's fingertips.

Now a specially-designed smartphone app has become a vital tool of the trade for workers with the caring touch.

South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership's Home Care Service operates seven days a week, 365 days a year to help people remain as independent as they can possibly be in their own home.

It's a vital service amid increasing demand as people live longer lives.

Deborah Mackle, Home Care Service Manager, explained how technology is playing a vital role in the delivery of the frontline service.

She said: "The rollout of the app represents a quantum leap in terms of how home care is managed and coordinated. Daily schedules were traditionally drawn up and distributed to some 1000 home care staff in paper.

SUPPORT: Sheltered housing resident Mary Liddell (93) known as May from East Kilbride pictured with home carer Allison Duncan.



"The smartphone app now sets out personalised schedules at our workers' fingertips and they can be updated instantly and as required."

Home carers' roles can involve helping a person to wash, dress or get ready for bed. Some home carers are also trained to give more personal assistance such as help with medication, incontinence or catheter care.

"A full time home carer can visit numerous service users a day – so coordination is vital," Deborah added.

"The app sets out the day's workload – it tells home carers who they've got to see, what time they've got to see them and sets out what tasks the home carer needs to carry out."

The apps use the latest encryption technology to guarantee security.

Overall, the development translates to better care for people in South Lanarkshire receiving the service.

Agnes Austin, Home Care Operations Manager in Rutherglen, added: "As well as providing staff with details, the app provides real-time updates of the home carer's working day to central offices. If there is any issue or challenge with any service user that creates a delay in the schedule, the knock-on is reported via the app.

"That means the local office can inform the next service user if their carer



is running a little late or make alternative arrangements to send another member of staff if the delay is going to be significant.

"This reduces any anxiety for service users and allows our staff to fully focus on the task in hand."

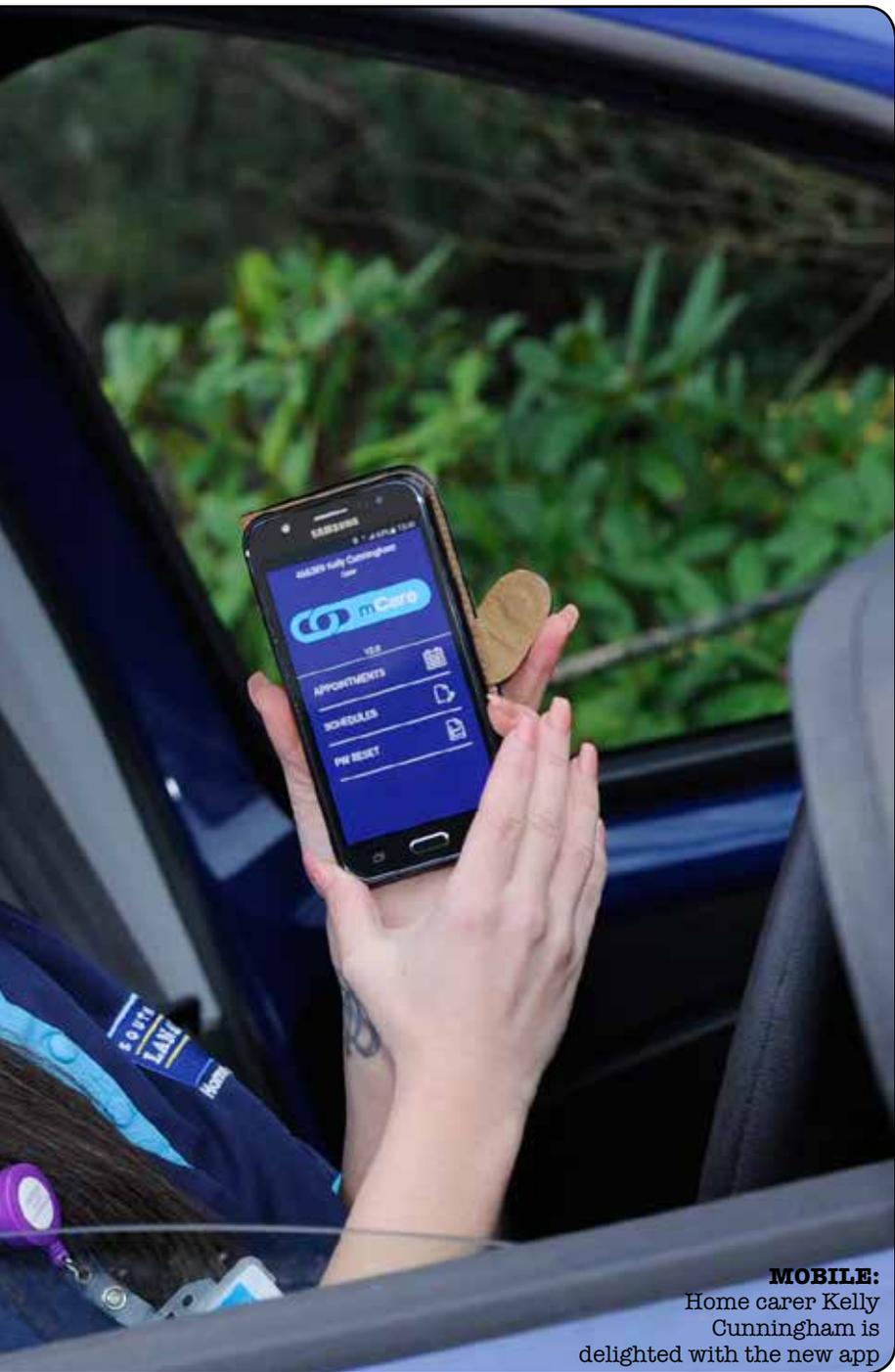
Kelly Cunningham, a home carer, says the app has been hugely helpful in her day-to-day work.

Kelly said: "We may be meeting a service user for the first time but that person won't find themselves repeating their story or background.

"The most up-to-date information is at our fingertips. We are using technology but it helps us to continue to ensure our approach is very person centred."

Home carers are a vital part of integrated working across health and social care.

schedules to home carers”



MOBILE:
Home carer Kelly Cunningham is delighted with the new app

“The local office can inform the next service user if their carer is running a little late or make alternative arrangements to send another member of staff if the delay is going to be significant”

The service, for example, plays a key part in the Integrated Community Support Team in South Lanarkshire.

The ICST, which is active across South Lanarkshire, aims to prevent unnecessary hospital or care home admissions and reduce the length of stay in hospital.

Recipients have ranged from those with

complex care needs to people with less serious conditions which could require hospital admission if left untreated.

Work is currently underway to develop the app with partners in health to reinforce links with community nursing and consolidate the flow of relevant information and expertise.

Val de Souza, Director of Health and Social Care for South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership said: “The rollout of this app is reflective of our commitment to making continuous improvement in service delivery.

“This is also about making sure our staff are equipped to work in the most efficient and effective way possible – which enables a smooth and coordinated approach for the people at the centre of care.”

Help us #FindFraser

A simple text message is being used to help people in South Lanarkshire take care of their hearts, minds and general health.

And a new animation brings the cutting edge system in to sharp focus.

The short film tells the story of Fraser – a busy thirty something who’s living with high blood pressure. Traditionally, that means he would have had to make regular trips to his GP to have his blood pressure monitored.

But now, thanks to the help of a system called Flo, he can text his readings from home - ensuring his safety and reducing the need to attend the doctor’s surgery for routine checks.

Morag Hearty, of South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership,



explained: “This system is easy and intuitive to use and is supporting people with a range of conditions and challenges including mental health, smoking cessation, diabetes, heart failure and respiratory conditions, to name but a few.

“Fraser’s story provides a practical, easy to follow example of the technology in action.”

You can watch the animation here:
https://youtu.be/0UsK_vFbuAY

Can you #FindFraser?

The animation’s main character, Fraser is so active, in fact, you’ll now be able to find him across South Lanarkshire – so keep your eye out for a special poster.

If you see it, take a picture of Fraser with your camera phone then post on Facebook or Twitter with the hashtag #FoundFraser.

Fraser himself will come back with a special reply!

BUSINESSES REAP REWARD

Support
available
to local
companies

BY ANDY LIVINGSTONE

A CHANCE sighting in the Caribbean led to an East Kilbride couple operating a business in Edinburgh – and with its roots in such varied places, how fitting that the business offers tours with a difference!

While working as a purser for an airline cabin crew 20 years ago, Alison Simpson happened across a restaurant that was housed in a stationary vintage London bus. She was captivated by what she thought was a great idea with only one thing wrong with it – the bus wasn't mobile.

Married life and motherhood – with Stuart and Bradley respectively – meant that time became limited and her business idea had to be put on the back-burner. However, once Bradley reached high school age, Alison dusted off her plans... and Red Bus Bistro was born.

The business now offers tours around Edinburgh in a classic red Routemaster double-decker bus that has been stylishly fitted out to also offer afternoon teas and gourmet burgers. A landmark ruling this year has also seen the bus being licensed as a premises to sell alcohol – the first such licence to be granted in the UK since a blanket ban was put in place to address "party buses". But things were not always plain sailing.

"It took a while to get things up and running," Alison revealed. "No one in the UK had ever attempted to have a vehicle that was capable of both touring and serving food and drink like this, so not only were there a huge amount of regulations that we had to comply with, but also the agencies had to work out in the first place exactly what regulations were relevant to us!"

"Just to be able to start up at all, we had to work with the



councils in South Lanarkshire and Edinburgh, the food Standards Authority, Scottish Enterprise, Business Gateway, Environmental Health, Health and Safety, the Alcohol Licensing Board and the Office of the Traffic Commissioner.

"In the meantime, we had bought the bus in September 2015 and had been working extensively on it to ensure we were ready to go as soon as we were given the go-ahead. The work included lovingly restoring the paintwork inside and out, fitting it with a galley kitchen and upholstering original Routemaster seat frames – overall, we were determined to keep as much of the character of the bus as laws and regulations allowed us to do.

"The Business Support team at South Lanarkshire Council

were a great help at this time, assisting with our website – which is so important for a commercial business these days – and with the final part of the refit, as well as offering advice on a regular basis. It was great to have on hand people who knew the process of setting up in business as it was totally new to us, and that combination of reassurance and advice was invaluable."

Stephen Keating, Business Support & Property Development Manager at South Lanarkshire Council's Business Support team, said: "It is gratifying to see someone not only make a success of starting a new business, but doing so with a ground-breaking concept, which means that they have no comparable businesses to learn from but have to work it all out from scratch."



CHANGE: Taher's leap of faith is paying off

OF COUNCIL ASSISTANCE



“The council were a great help. It was great to have on hand people who knew the process of setting up in business”

SUPPORT: Alison’s idea has the full backing of husband Stuart and son Bradley

Making a clean break was a beautiful move

A NEW business is cleaning up when it comes to awards – and clothes.

My Beautiful Laundrette, based in Hamilton, was a complete change of direction for Taher Purwaiz following 15 years of running a shop in Hamilton.

The leap of faith has, however, been worth it. What Taher set up was Scotland’s first laundrette that offered wet cleaning, a relatively new process that avoids the disadvantages attached to dry cleaning and allows almost any item to be given a deep and highly-effective clean.

And in only two years of existence the business has been rated number one for the best cleaners in South Lanarkshire on the Three Best Rated website and received a Best Newcomer Award

at the Laundry and Cleaning News Awards, covering the whole of the UK.

“I can’t speak highly enough about the help we got from the council. They were our first port of call on any matter and were instrumental in enabling us to get off the ground, guiding us through every stage of the process.”

Robert Tomkins from the council’s Business Support team said: “What Taher was proposing to set up in the unit was attractive to the council not only because it would provide a service that was needed in the area, but also because it would create new jobs for local people, and would train those new employees to a high standard in what is an emerging industry.”



VISION: Neil’s dream is set to become reality

World first gets off to a flyer thanks to council support

THE idea of creating the world’s first zero emission, all electric off road motorcycle track was not an easy one to sell but South Lanarkshire Council’s Business Support Team stepped up to make it a reality in East Kilbride.

Business partners Neil Buchan and Gary Brennan have put a lot of time, energy, sweat and investment into developing their Hyper Trax concept and building the tracks and facilities. But they found it difficult to get support from traditional funders.

Taking a hard-earned break from construction Neil said: “The banks were not interested, they thought the idea too new, too risky but South Lanarkshire Council understood the potential and have provided invaluable support.”

With funding from South Lanarkshire Council’s Youth Employment Initiative, a young workforce aged between 16 and 29 has been recruited from Jobspot, East Kilbride, and trained on the job and building Hyper Trax have gained a range of construction skills, valuable team working experience and access to opportunities.

Neil said: “The team are great and come from a wide range of backgrounds. Some

had disengaged from education at school, one had dropped out of university but they have all blossomed in here. They have bought into the vision and thanks to support from SLC we have been able to give them a chance and a leg up into employment.”

The team have worked miracles turning old scaffolding boards into polished rustic tables, building tracks out of recycled earth and scrap wood, converting old pallets to beautiful scorched wood wall cladding and a multitude of other recycling, repurposing and reusing feats.

Neil said:

“Demonstrating and teaching practical uses of recycling and renewable is very important to this project. We are currently completing plans which will have solar power used in charging the bikes so that they run on sunshine – they may be dirt bikes but that’s clean energy!”

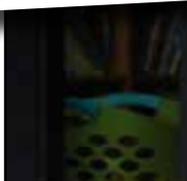
South Lanarkshire Council Chair of Enterprise Resources Councillor Chris Thompson said: “I see huge potential for Neil and Gary’s project to create a great local leisure asset and to help bring people into South Lanarkshire from far and wide to have a go.”

“Demonstrating and teaching practical uses of recycling and renewable is very important to this project”

70 YEARS



SPLASHING TIME: The paddling pond in the town centre in the 1970s (above) and Duncanrig Secondary School library and reading room in the 1980s (below)



CONGRATULATIONS:

Pupils from Maxwellton Primary and Greenburn School were on hand to wish the town a very happy birthday

Take a trip down memory lane as The Reporter looks back on history of town

HAPPY birthday East Kilbride – Scotland's first "new" town is celebrating its 70th birthday this year.

Previously a village of around 2500 residents, the decision back in 1947 to transform East Kilbride into a new town was the catalyst to create one of the UK's foremost business and commercial centres.

On Friday, August 8, 1947, the first meeting of the East Kilbride Development Corporation was held, with the task of drawing up and executing the new town plans that would allow both an influx of people moving from the city of Glasgow and new industry to provide them with employment.

Developed around a central shopping and office area, a series of residential neighbourhoods emerged with, on the outskirts, industrial areas and business parks. Each neighbourhood was planned to ensure there were shops and schools nearby.

As the town grew most of the housing was public rented but with the 1980s came a

gradual rise in owner occupation as tenants were able to buy their properties - by the early 1990s East Kilbride had reached the



NEW BEGINNINGS: Elizabeth Mitchell, Secretary of State for Scotland Arthur Woodburn and Sir Patrick Dollan put the first stake in place for new homes in Whitemoss

west of Scotland average and 75% by 2001. This was reinforced by the development of large private housing estates to the north and south of the town.

The reorganisation of local government in 1996 resulted in East Kilbride becoming part of South Lanarkshire Council with the local authority celebrating its own 20th anniversary last year.

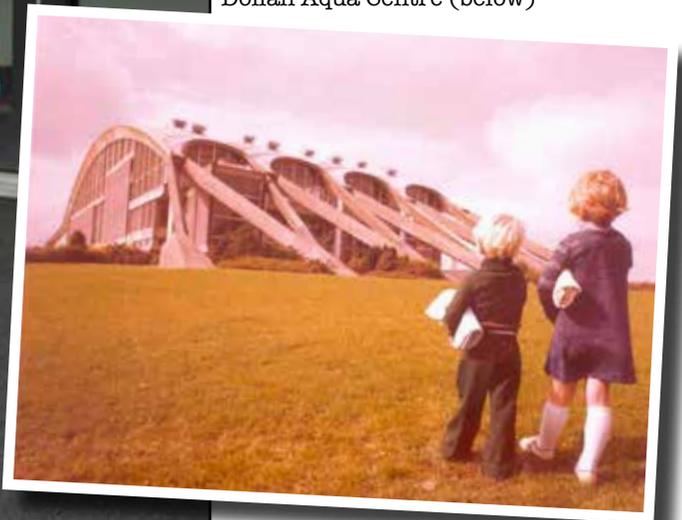
Since then there has been massive investment in East Kilbride, with almost all its school buildings either completely rebuilt or modernised. There have also been significant improvements to the council housing stock, particularly through the Home Happening project. And the council's Roads Investment Plan has been instrumental in the upgrade of several key routes throughout the town.

The Reporter has trawled through the archives to provide a pictorial memory of the town through its seven decades.

YOUNG!



VIEW FROM ABOVE: An aerial shot of the town centre from 1982 (above) and children making their way to the Dollan Aqua Centre (below)



WORK, REST AND PLAY: Houses in Westwood from 1969 (above); Rolls Royce machine shop (below left) and Princes Street in the 1960s (above left)



The changing face of General Practice in Lanarkshire

The provision of GP practices across Scotland and the UK is now an urgent national challenge. There are a number of factors that contribute to this including the lower number of doctors coming into general practice, more GPs who will reach retirement age over the next decade and our increasingly ageing population. Patient demand and expectation has never been higher.



“Patients in Lanarkshire will start to see these changes being put into practice over the coming months and years and we want to reassure them that continuing their high level of care remains our absolute priority.”

Patients can help their GP a lot by following the simple guidance in **‘Know Who To Turn To’**.

Given the essential services that GPs provide in meeting the nation’s health needs, it’s no surprise that a major programme of action is underway to address the situation. In Scotland, work is ongoing at a national level between the Scottish Government and the British Medical Association to put in place a number of measures that will relieve the current pressures on GPs and create a new, common operating model that is fit for the future.

The situation in Lanarkshire is no different, with work going on at a local level to identify effective solutions. NHS Lanarkshire has established a programme of change for primary care and mental health services, with a particular focus on General Practice.

Dr Chris Mackintosh, Medical Director for South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership, explains, “It’s important that people know that steps are being taken now to resolve the wider primary care and GP issues as part of an integrated approach to improving primary and mental health care.

“We’ve already identified a number of ways we can improve the current position including greater use of technology, increasing the role of a variety of health specialists in treating patients, and helping patients to look after themselves. It is important that all of this is managed in a way that we know is safe and an improvement for all. However, all of this takes time.

“Putting patients and staff at the forefront of redesigning primary care and mental health services is at the heart of this work, as is the need to close the gap in health inequality.

SELF CARE

For hangover, grazed knee, sore throat, coughs & colds keep a well-stocked medicine cupboard



PHARMACIST

Your pharmacist can offer advice on coughs and colds, indigestion, constipation, aches and pains

DENTIST

For check ups, routine care and emergency appointments



OPTOMETRIST

Lanarkshire’s Eye Health Network Service (LENS) treats eye problems, call 0300 30 30 243 for more details

GP

For conditions including vomiting, ear pain, sore tummy and back ache



OUT OF HOURS

If you are too ill to wait until your GP opens then contact NHS 24 on 111

MINOR INJURIES

For cuts, burns and suspected broken bones, visit services at Hairmyres, Monklands, Wishaw, Kello & Lady Home



A&E / 999

For suspected stroke or heart attack, serious illness or injury

Know who to turn to: Choosing the best route to feeling better

When we're feeling unwell, we want to get the right treatment in the shortest possible time so that we can start feeling better quickly. That doesn't always mean going to our GP, which can add an unnecessary step in many cases, taking it longer for us to start getting the treatment we need.



"NHS Inform is a national health information service providing a co-ordinated approach and a single source of quality assured health information for the Scottish public.

"For many conditions, the pharmacist or optician on the 'High Street' can provide specialist advice, support and often treatment without the need for you to go to your GP.

"Community pharmacists should also be considered as a first port of call for advice and treatment of minor ailments. For certain conditions, like sore throats, sticky eyes, stomach upsets, diarrhoea, bad colds and needing pain relief, a visit the pharmacist will result in the same treatment offered by your GP but you don't need an appointment and you're usually seen within a few minutes.

Our **'Know Who To Turn To'** guide is available on our website – www.nhslanarkshire.org.uk - and provides advice on how to access the right health service in the shortest time. The guide has information on a range of emergency and non-emergency care options including NHS services - pharmacies, dental practices, optometrists, out-of-hours services, and minor ailments – and self care.

George Lindsay, Chief Pharmacist, Primary Care, said, "It's important that people understand what the different services can offer them, so that they take the quickest and most effective route to care. Making the right choice also means that resources are getting directed to where they're needed most and we've all got a part to play in this.

"Self-help can often be overlooked but many illnesses can be managed at home without having to see a GP. NHS Inform is Scotland's national health information service and it offers a self-help guide for minor illnesses and injuries as well as a directory for health services. You can go online at www.nhsinform.scot where you can chat live with the health information team or you can call the helpline on **0800 22 4488**.

"Many patients are also eligible for the NHS funded Minor Ailments Service which makes the treatments available at no cost to the patient.

"For urgent eye problems – red or sore eyes, disturbance in vision or deterioration of eyesight – or eye injuries, the optometrist is the best person to assess and treat eye conditions rather than a GP. They have the professional training and necessary equipment to assess most eye problems.

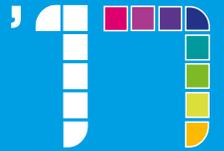
"Many optometrists are part of the Lanarkshire Eye-health Network Scheme (LENS) and can offer an appointment and assessment service. We want to help people to get to the right person first time and to understand that often this will not be their GP. We all want to get better as quickly as possible and knowing who to turn to for help is the best place to start."

Scottish Local Government Elections

take place on Thursday 4 May 2017

elections

Your vote counts



On **Thursday 4 May 2017** voters in South Lanarkshire will go to the polls for the Scottish Local Government Elections. This will be the first time that 16 and 17 year olds have been able to vote in the Scottish Local Government Elections. Polling stations will be open from 7am – 10pm.

Vote using numbers

For your vote to count you should vote using numbers. The instructions on the ballot paper are to “Put the number **1** in the voting box next to your **first** choice. Put the number **2** in the voting box next to your **second** choice. Put the number **3** in the voting box next to your **third** choice. And so on. You can make as many or as few choices as you wish”.

There will be either 3 or 4 Councillors elected to each of the 20 Wards in the South Lanarkshire Council area. There will be a total of 64 Councillors elected.

Voting information

If you are registered to vote, you will receive a poll card telling you where to go to vote, alternatively, if you are on holiday on polling day, or you are working, or prefer not to go to the polling station, do you know you can:-

- vote by post
- ask someone to vote on your behalf (ie by appointing a proxy)

If you are applying to vote by post please take into consideration the time this may take to be delivered to you. Appointing a proxy may be a better option if you are applying to vote by post close to the deadline.

Make sure you are registered to vote

You can register to vote online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote.

If you need to check you are registered to vote contact the Electoral Registration Office.

Deadlines:

- **Registration** – If you are not registered to vote, you must register by **midnight on Monday 17 April 2017** to vote at these Elections.
- **Postal vote** – if you wish to apply for a postal vote (or make changes to your existing postal or proxy arrangements) you must do this by **5pm on Tuesday 18 April 2017**.
- **Proxy** – if you wish to appoint a proxy to vote on your behalf you must do this by **5pm on Tuesday 25 April 2017**.

To check if you are already registered or arrange a postal or proxy vote contact:

Electoral Registration Office, North Stand, Cadzow Avenue, Hamilton ML3 0LU

Freephone: 0800 030 4333

Email: ero@lanarkshire-vjb.gov.uk

Website: www.lanarkshire-vjb.gov.uk

Interested in standing at the Scottish Local Government Elections?

If you wish to stand at these Elections simply contact the Election Office for your Nomination Pack and more information. The deadline for lodging Nominations is **4pm on Wednesday 29 March 2017**. You can also download a Nomination Pack from the South Lanarkshire website at www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk from **Wednesday 1 March 2017** onwards.

For information on voting arrangements or to stand at this election contact:

Election Office, 21 Beckford Street, Hamilton ML3 0BT

Phone: 0303 123 1019

Email: elections@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Website: www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk

