



Dear Member

## **South Lanarkshire Community Planning Partnership Board**

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

**Date: Wednesday, 21 October 2020**  
**Time: 13:00**  
**Venue: via Microsoft Teams,**

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

### **Members**

Councillor Maureen Chalmers  
Cleland Sneddon, Chief Executive  
Paul Manning, Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Resources  
Rhonda Leith, Community Engagement Manager, Finance and Corporate Resources  
Heather Knox, Interim Chief Executive, **NHS Lanarkshire**  
Neena Mahal, Chair, **NHS Lanarkshire Board**  
Gabe Docherty, Director of Public Health, **NHS Lanarkshire**  
John Binning, Principal Policy Officer, **Strathclyde Partnership for Transport**  
Alan Fairbairn, Area Manager, **Scottish Fire and Rescue Service**  
Alan Waddell, Chief Superintendent, **Police Scotland**  
Val de Souza, Director, **Health and Social Care Partnership**  
Philip Campbell, Non Executive Board Member, **Health and Social Care Partnership**  
Gordon Bennie, Chief Executive, **VASLan**  
Mark Newlands, Head of Partnerships, **Scottish Enterprise**  
Clare Hicks, Local Director for South Lanarkshire, **Scottish Government**  
Hazel Mathieson, Head of Region, South West, **Skills Development Scotland**  
Elizabeth O'Reilly, Head of Campus Services, **University of the West of Scotland**

## BUSINESS

- 1 **Declaration of Interests**
- 2 **Note of Previous Meeting** 5 - 10  
Minutes of the Partnership Board held on 9 September 2020 submitted for approval as a correct record. (Copy attached)

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### Item(s) for Discussion/Decision

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- 3 **Community Planning Budget and Expenditure (to 4 September 2020 - Period 6)** 11 - 14  
Report dated 24 September 2020 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources), South Lanarkshire Council. (Copy attached)
- 4 **Lived Experience Fund Update** 15 - 20  
Report dated 24 September 2020 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources), South Lanarkshire Council. (Copy attached)
- 5 **Community Planning Partnership COVID-19 Pandemic Recovery and Renewal** 21 - 40  
Report dated 30 September 2020 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources), South Lanarkshire Council. (Copy attached)
- 6 **Community Planning Partnership Risk Register Update** 41 - 60  
Report dated 23 September 2020 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources), South Lanarkshire Council. (Copy attached)

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### Item(s) for Noting

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- 7 **Children in Need of Care and Protection - Inspection Improvement Action Plan** 61 - 72  
Joint report dated 24 September 2020 by the Director, Health and Social Care Partnership and Executive Director (Education Resources), South Lanarkshire Council (Copy attached)
- 8 **Update on Developments around Planning and Governance of the Children's Services Plan** 73 - 122  
Joint report dated 24 September 2020 by the Director, Health and Social Care Partnership and Executive Director (Education Resources), South Lanarkshire Council. (Copy attached)
- 9 **Local Child Poverty Action Report** 123 - 182  
Report dated 24 September 2020 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources), South Lanarkshire Council. (Copy attached)
- 10 **Annual Review of the South Lanarkshire Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan 2019/2020** 183 - 230  
Report dated 24 September 2020 by the Executive Director (Housing and Technical Resources), South Lanarkshire Council. (Copy attached)
- 11 **Community Planning Partnership Board - 2021 Meeting/Development Session Dates** 231 - 232  
Report dated 23 September 2020 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources), South Lanarkshire Council. (Copy attached)

**12 South Lanarkshire Register of Information**

233 - 236

Report dated 24 September 2020 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources), South Lanarkshire Council. (Copy attached)

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**Any Other Competent Business**

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**13 Any Other Competent Business**

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

***For further information, please contact:-***

Clerk Name: Hilary Tennant

Clerk Telephone: 01698 454185

Clerk Email: [hilary.tennant@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:hilary.tennant@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)



## SOUTH LANARKSHIRE COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Minute of meeting held by Microsoft Teams on 9 September 2020

### Chair:

Councillor Maureen Chalmers, Depute Leader, South Lanarkshire Council

### Representatives Present:

G Bennie, Chief Executive, VASLan

D Booth, General Manager, South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture

B Cameron, Area Manager, Skills Development Scotland

V de Souza, Director, Health and Social Care, South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership

B Connolly, Community Wealth Building, Scottish Enterprise

A Fairbairn, Area Manager, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

R Leith, Community Engagement Manager, South Lanarkshire Council

N Mahal, Chair, NHS Lanarkshire Board

P Manning, Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources), South Lanarkshire Council

A Murray, Community Planning and Governance Adviser, South Lanarkshire Council

E Paterson, Community Planning and Governance Officer, South Lanarkshire Council

D Richardson, Senior Auditor, Audit Scotland

H Tennant, Administration Officer, Finance and Corporate Resources, South Lanarkshire Council

### Apologies:

P Campbell, Non-Executive Board Member, NHS Lanarkshire

A Comrie, Senior Transport Planner, Strathclyde Partnership for Transport

G Docherty, Interim Director of Public Health, NHS Lanarkshire

C Hicks, Local Director for South Lanarkshire, Scottish Government

H Knox, Interim Chief Executive, NHS Lanarkshire

E O'Reilly, Head of Campus, University of the West of Scotland

C Sneddon, Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council

A Waddell, Chief Superintendent, Police Scotland

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### 1 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

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### 2 Note of Previous Meeting

The note of the meeting of the South Lanarkshire Community Planning Partnership Board held on 1 July 2020 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

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### 3 Community Planning Budget and Expenditure Report (to 10 July 2020 – period 4)

A report dated 12 August by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted which provided an update on the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Budget and Expenditure at 10 July 2020 (period 4).

The CPP available budget for 2020/2021 was £67,883 and total expenditure to the end of period 4 was £289, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

On 5 December 2019, the Board had committed funding of £41,731 for the establishment of a temporary post of Community Participation and Empowerment Officer. Recruitment for this post had been completed and, following the necessary pre-employment checks, it was anticipated that the successful applicant would take up post imminently.

A further update on the CCP budget 2020/2021 would be provided at the Board meeting on 21 October 2020.

**Outcome(s):** Update on the Community Planning Partnership Budget and Expenditure at 10 July 2020 noted.

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#### **4 Community Planning Partnership Self-Assessment and Best Value Assurance Review – Working Group Update**

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A report dated 12 August 2020 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the proposed new structure and membership of the Partnership, and to set out other actions for consideration.

During January/February 2019 the Board undertook a Self-Assessment Review and a summary of the priority improvement actions was detailed in Appendix 1 to the report. Proposals for a new structure were considered in December 2019 and a short life working group was established to develop those proposals. An update on this work was reported to the Board on 1 July 2020.

At a Development Session held immediately prior to the Board meeting, R Leith, Community Engagement Manager, South Lanarkshire Council gave a presentation on the working group recommendations in relation to the structure, governance arrangements and meeting arrangements for the Partnership.

The working group recommended a two-phased approach, short term and medium term, for internal and locality structural change, along with a membership proposal as follows:-

##### **Internal structural proposal**

###### **Phase 1 - Short-term (0-3 months)**

- ◆ transition to an interim structure and outcome leads from across the Partnership be sought for the eight themes in the current Community Plan

###### **Phase 2 - Long-term (7+ months)**

- ◆ final internal delivery structure to be aligned with the new Community Plan priorities

##### **Locality structural proposal**

###### **Phase 1 - Short-term (0-3 months)**

- ◆ transition to an interim structure of a locality planning group covering the Neighbourhood Planning areas

###### **Phase 2 - Long-term (7+ months)**

- ◆ engagement with the community to define how locality planning should be structured (taking account of any statutory requirements)

The following actions had also been proposed by the working group for consideration:-

- ◆ implementation of a partnership community engagement/capacity building structure with shared ambitions
- ◆ operation of the Board through a Programme Management approach with an agreed programme of activity aligned with the Community Plan
- ◆ forge stronger links between the CPP and the Public Protection structures
- ◆ reduce the number of Board meetings to four per year;
- ◆ review the Board agenda and develop a new partnership reporting template;
- ◆ Board's Terms of Reference to be updated; and
- ◆ development of a partnership agreement

- Outcome(s):**
- (1) Progress update noted.
  - (2) Progress update on the actions proposed at the Development Session in relation to structural change approved.
  - (3) Establishment of a Community Engagement Partnership Group approved.
  - (4) Reduction in the number of CPP Board meetings to four per annum approved.
  - (5) Progress update on governance arrangements, as detailed in the report and discussed at the Development Session, approved.

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## **5 Community Planning Partnership – Community Engagement Strategy**

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A report dated 12 August 2020 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the preparation of a draft Community Planning Partnership Community Engagement Strategy.

A short-life writing group had been established to develop a participation and empowerment strategy. A draft strategy had been circulated to community groups in October 2019 and revised in light of feedback received. The final agreed vision for the Strategy was 'Our Communities are at the heart of Community Planning in South Lanarkshire'.

The draft South Lanarkshire Community Engagement and Participation Strategy 2020-2025 was attached as Appendix 1 to the report. Following discussion, it was proposed that images used in the draft Strategy document be revised to be more representative of the community. On completion of the Equality Impact Assessment, the Strategy would be launched.

- Outcome(s):** Community Engagement Strategy approved, subject to revised images being incorporated to be more representative of the community

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## **6 Community Planning Partnership – Risk Register Update**

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A report dated 12 August 2020 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Risk Register.

In September 2019, the Board reviewed the CPP Risk Register and identified a number of additional risks. A Risk Register Workshop took place on 5 December 2019. At the Board meeting on 1 July 2020 the Community Planning Progress Group was asked to draft an additional COVID-19 Risk Register.

The revised CPP Risk Register 2020, Risk Control Plan and draft COVID-19 Pandemic Risk Card, attached as Appendices 1,2 and 3 respectively to the report, provided details of the risks identified and mitigating actions to control those risks. The finalised Risk Card would be presented to the Board on 21 October, for approval.

The Community Planning Progress Group would continue to monitor, review and progress actions of the Risk Register and Control Plan.

- Outcome(s):**
- (1) Community Planning Partnership Risk Register noted.
  - (2) Agreed that the finalised COVID-19 Pandemic Risk Card be presented to the Board for approval on 21 October 2020.

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## 7 Neighbourhood Planning Update and Annual Reports

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A report dated 12 August 2020 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on:-

- ◆ progress made in relation to neighbourhood planning and the impact of COVID-19
- ◆ development of new neighbourhood plans for Burnhill and Cambuslang East
- ◆ development of the first Annual Progress Reports for Springhall and Whitlawburn, Hillhouse, Udston and Burnbank, and Strutherhill and Birkenshaw

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 placed a statutory duty on Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs) to identify smaller areas within the local authority area which experienced the poorest outcomes, and to prepare and publish locality plans to improve those outcomes against the agreed priorities for those communities.

Draft plans had been created for Burnhill and Cambuslang East and were attached as Appendices 1 and 2 to the report. A Year 1 Progress Report for the existing neighbourhood planning areas of Hillhouse/Udston/Burnbank, Whitlawburn and Springhall and Strutherhill and Birkenshaw, which provided details of progress made on the delivery of actions against the top priorities, were attached as Appendices 3, 4 and 5 to the report.

Covid-19 had impacted on progress to achieve the priorities within each plan. The Community Engagement Team had produced a toolkit, which had been piloted in the Westwood, East Kilbride community, to assist with the creation of plans.

- Outcome(s):**
- (1) Progress towards developing neighbourhood plans noted.
  - (2) Draft Burnhill and Cambuslang East Neighbourhood Plans approved.
  - (3) First Annual Progress Reports for Springhall and Whitlawburn, Hillhouse, Udston and Burnbank, and Strutherhill and Birkenshaw approved for publication by the statutory deadline of 30 September.
  - (4) Impact of COVID-19 on implementation of the plans and next steps noted.

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## 8 Community Plan Quarter 4 Progress Report 2019/2020 and Annual Outcome Improvement Report

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A report dated 12 August 2020 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on progress against the outcomes of the Community Plan at March 2020.

The South Lanarkshire Community Plan, approved in October 2017, set out the priorities and outcomes for the partnership over a 10 year period from 2017 to 2027. The Quarter 4 progress report, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, summarised progress against the Plan to March 2020. A draft Annual Outcome Improvement Report was attached as Appendix 2 to the report.

The report provided a summary of progress against the outcomes of the Community Plan using a traffic light system of red/amber/green. Appendix 3 to the report provided information on those indicators which had been amended or superseded.

- Outcome(s):**
- (1) Progress made against the outcomes of the Community Plan, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, noted.
  - (2) Draft Annual Outcome Improvement Report, attached as Appendix 2 to the report, was approved for publication by 30 September 2020.

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## **9 Role of the Community Planning Partnership during the Covid-19 Pandemic**

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A report dated 12 August 2020 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on experiential feedback received from partners during the COVID-19 pandemic and to provide an update on work to identify actions for recovery and renewal.

In July 2020, the Board considered feedback from CPP Partners and noted that VASLan and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service were still working on their submissions. Those submissions had now been received and included with feedback already received from Partners and attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

All Partner responses had been reviewed and additional themes had been identified as highlighted in the report.

**Outcome(s):**

- (1) Feedback from VASLan and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service on their experiences during the Covid-19 pandemic noted.
- (2) Update on the Partnership Action Plan noted.

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## **10 South Lanarkshire Child Protection Committee Annual Report 2019/2020 and Business Plan (2020-2021)**

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A report dated 25 August 2020 by the Director, Health and Social Care was submitted on the South Lanarkshire Child Protection Committee Annual Report 2019/2020 and Business Plan 2020/2021.

Child Protection Committees are required to publish an Annual Report and Business Plan. A copy of the South Lanarkshire Child Protection Committee (SLCPC) Annual Report 2019/2020 and Business Plan 2020/2021 was attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

A significant Inspection of Services for Children and Young People in Need of Care and Protection had taken place between August and December 2019.

The SLCPC Annual Report outlined key achievements and areas for improvement and identified priorities and planned developments required to continue to meet the needs of children and young people at risk of harm, abuse, neglect or exploitation.

**Outcome(s):**

- (1) Content of the draft South Lanarkshire Child Protection Committee Annual Report 2019/2020 and Business Plan 2020/2021 noted.
- (2) Work to progress actions based on local and national activity noted.

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## **11 South Lanarkshire Register of Information**

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A report dated 12 August 2020 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted which provided a summary of information which had been circulated to Community Planning Partners between 13 June and 12 August 2020, as outlined in Appendix 1 to the report.

**Outcome(s):** Noted.

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## **12 Date and Venue of Next Meeting**

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It was noted that the next meeting of the Board would be held on 21 October 2020 at 1.00pm by Microsoft Teams.

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**13 Any Other Competent Business**

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There were no other items of competent business.

# Report

Report to:	<b>Partnership Board</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>21 October 2020</b>
Report by:	<b>Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) South Lanarkshire Council</b>

Subject:	<b>Community Planning Budget and Expenditure (to 4 September 2020 – Period 6)</b>
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## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ provide the Partnership Board with an update on the Community Planning Partnership Budget and Expenditure as at 4 September 2020 (Period 6)

## 2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the expenditure at 4 September 2020 be noted;
- (2) that the payment of salary costs to South Lanarkshire Council as set out at 5.2. below be agreed; and
- (3) that expenditure is committed to producing a BSL version of the Community Participation and Engagement Strategy (see 5.3.).

## 3. Background

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

## 4. Budget and Expenditure

4.1. The total available budget for 2020/2021 is £67,883.

4.2. The total expenditure at the end of Period 6 is £441.92. Appendix 1 provides a breakdown of the expenditure.

## 5. Income and Expenditure during 2020/2021

5.1. Specific spend within this period relates to payments for printing and equipment.

5.2. At the Board meeting on 5 December 2019, members committed £41,731 of expenditure for a temporary post for the period of 1 year to be hosted by South Lanarkshire Council. The new Community Participation and Empowerment Officer started on 14 September 2020 and the salary costs will be paid to the Council over two budget years, with the first being debited in Period 7. The agreed payment arrangement is as follows:-

- ◆ 2020/2021 (198 days) - £23,321 (actual cost)
- ◆ 2021/2022 (167 days) - £19,670 (indicative cost)

The Board is asked to note that the initial salary cost provided in December 2019 has been adjusted to take account of a pay award in April 2020 and is currently £42,991. The Board is also asked to agree that the second payment due in 2021/2022 is carried over. The 2021/2022 cost may also increase if a pay award is agreed next year.

- 5.3. The Board is also asked to commit approx £1,000 to the production of a BSL version of the Community Participation and Engagement Strategy.
- 5.4. There is approx. £15,000 available from the partnership budget which could be aligned to community engagement initiatives to inform partnership actions for recovery and renewal. A recommendation asking for the Board's approval is set out in the Community Planning Partnership COVID-19 Pandemic Recovery and Renewal Report.
- 5.5. A further update will be provided at the next meeting of the Partnership Board on 2 December 2020.

## **6. Employee Implications**

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

## **7. Financial Implications**

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

## **8. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implication**

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

## **9. Other Implications**

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

## **10. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**

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

**Paul Manning**

**Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)  
South Lanarkshire Council**

24 September 2020

### **Contact for Further Information**

If you would like further information, please contact:-

Rhonda Leith, Community Engagement Manager, South Lanarkshire Council

Phone: 01698 455783

Email: [rhonda.leith@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:rhonda.leith@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)

<b>Community Planning Budget 2020-21</b>			
<b><u>Opening Balance April 2020</u></b>			<b>£19,533</b>
<b><u>Income</u></b>			
<b>Partner Contribution</b>			
		<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual to Date</b>
NHS Lanarkshire		18,350	18,350
South Lanarkshire Council		22,000	22,000
Police Scotland		5,000	5,000
Fire Scotland		3,000	3,000
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>£48,350</b>	<b>£48,350</b>
<b>Total available funding</b>		<b>£67,883</b>	<b>£67,883</b>
<b>Proposed Expenditure</b>		<b>Proposed Expenditure</b>	<b>Actual Expenditure</b>
Community Plan Delivery		*57,300	0.00
Printing/Stationery/Advertising/General		1,800	441.92
Reports, Strategies and Plans		1,500	0.00
Lived Experience Fund		5,000	0.00
Travel		283	0.00
Community Planning Events		2,000	0.00
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>£67,883</b>	<b>£441.92</b>

\*£42,991 committed to salary costs for the CPP Community Participation and Empowerment Officer



# Report

Report to:	<b>Partnership Board</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>21 October 2020</b>
Report by:	<b>Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) South Lanarkshire Council</b>

Subject:	<b>Lived Experience Fund Update</b>
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## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ provide the Partnership Board with an update on the progress made by the organisations who were funded from the 2019/2020 budget in light of the impact of COVID-19 and to outline the 2020/2021 funding process

## 2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the update on the progress made by the organisations who were allocated Lived Experience Funding be noted; and
- (2) that the intended purpose of the funding for 2020/2021 and the timetable for applications be approved.

## 3. Background

- 3.1. As agreed by the Board at their meeting of 17 April 2019, £5,000 from the budget was aligned to spend relating to capturing the lived experience of people who experience poverty, inequalities and/or deprivation. The Lived Experience application form and guidance for applicants was also approved by the Board on 19 June 2019.
- 3.2. Applications to the fund are restricted to local organisations operating in South Lanarkshire and to those whose work links with the Community Plan objective of Tackling Poverty, Deprivation, Poverty and Inequality.
- 3.3. All applications require to be supported by a constitution, a copy of the last year's final accounts and a signed Condition of Grants Acceptance Form.
- 3.4. Funding applications for 2019/2020 opened on 11 November 2019 and closed on 16 December 2019. All applications received were assessed against a standard criteria and were approved by the Board at the meetings held on 5 December 2019 and 12 February 2020.
- 3.5. It was agreed that information collated by these organisations on the 'lived experiences' of the people who use their services will be reported to the Board during 2020.

3.6. This report provides an update on the organisations that were successful however impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and sets out the purpose and process for applications to the fund for 2020/2021.

#### **4. Lived Experience Feedback**

4.1. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the majority of the successful organisations were unable to proceed with their proposed events and programmes. Many of the initial plans agreed depended on face to face contact which has been impossible during the required restrictions. Feedback from people who use their services therefore could not be collated.

4.2. The Council's Community Engagement Team has continued to maintain contact with each of the organisations awarded funding. Where possible they have been supported to change their methods in order to continue to gather lived experience in a way which was safe for participants, both in relation to COVID-19 and in relation to an emotionally safe environment. This means however that there are delays in some projects being able to collate and report on feedback from their original time scales.

4.3. Of the 9 organisations/groups funded, 6 have been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and 3 are complete. Appendix 1 provides an update from each of the organisations on their current position and for those who have experienced a delay, their future proposals to spend the allocated funding.

#### **5. Next Steps**

5.1. Lived experience information on 'tackling poverty, inequality and deprivation' collated by organisations will be submitted to the Board at a future meeting, following receipt of this from the remaining projects funded. The Community Engagement Team will continue to work with the organisations to support them in gathering this information.

5.2. For the 2020/2021 funding year it is proposed that applicants are asked to gather the lived experience of individuals and families during the COVID-19 Pandemic. This work will commence as per the timetable below:-

<b>Lived Experience Fund 2020/2021 Timetable</b>	
Opening date for applications	9 November 2020
Closing date for applications	14 December 2020
Application Criteria Check	w/c 14 December 2020
Submission to CPP Board	3 March 2021

#### **6. Employee Implications**

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

#### **7. Financial Implications**

7.1. The current Lived Experience allocation for 2020/2021 is £5,000.

**8. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implication**

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

**9. Other Implications**

9.1. The risk to the Partnership Board is that lived experience funding is not utilised for the purpose for which it was intended. This risk is mitigated by internal controls including audit procedures and a conditions of grant agreement. Successful applicants are required to submit an expenditure return and to share their findings. A 'Talking about Poverty in your Community' pack has been developed to support applicants to have conversations in their community.

**10. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**

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

**Paul Manning**

**Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)**

**South Lanarkshire Council**

24 September 2020

**Contact for Further Information:**

If you would like further information, please contact:-

Rhonda Leith, Community Engagement Manager, South Lanarkshire Council

Phone: 01698 455783

Email: [rhonda.leith@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:rhonda.leith@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)

## Lived Experience Fund 2019-20 – Post COVID-19 feedback from successful applicants

Organisation/Group	Award	Intended use of funding provided	Feedback	Status
Whitehill Funding Steering Group	£500	To host an intergenerational Burns themed event looking at what poverty looks like through the ages for those living in the Whitehill area.	Due to the COVID pandemic, the Whitehill Funding Steering Group were unable to host their Burns themed event. The group are rearranging an event to talk to their community, which will take place in a COVID safe manner.	Delayed due to COVID-19
The Machan Trust	£450	To support the setting up of a Youth Forum which will inform The Machan Trust of the type of work that they should be looking to develop.	<p>Due to the COVID pandemic, the Machan Trust have not been able to establish the Youth Forum. Most of the project team were furloughed between May and August. At the present time they are only back at work in a part time capacity, planning and working towards getting the activities back up and running.</p> <p>The trust are planning on starting the Youth Forum as soon as possible in line with the Scottish Government's guidance on Health and Safety.</p>	Delayed due to COVID-19
The Manda Centre	£487	To contribute towards the costs of transport and travel costs and the supply of work books and manuals for those participating in the Freedom Programme.	Feedback from those attending the Freedom Programme is being collated and will be submitted shortly to the Community Planning Team. This will be shared with the Board at a future meeting.	Complete
Joint Ex Service Veterans Garden	£500	To contribute towards the cost of the creation of a veterans garden.	Feedback from those attending the veteran's garden has been collated and submitted to the Community Planning Team. This will be shared with the Board at a future meeting.	Complete
Burnhill Action Group	£500	To host a summer barbeque which will allow members of the local community to meet and raise concerns about the effects of poverty and how working together can tackle inequalities and barriers that people are facing.	Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Burnhill Action Group were unable to host the summer barbeque. Further options are being considered including hosting an event at a later date and in a different way, in line with the Scottish Government's Health and Safety guidance. The group has advised that they will keep the Community Planning Team up to date with their proposals.	Delayed due to COVID-19

Organisation/Group	Award	Intended use of funding provided	Feedback	Status
PAMIS	£500	To hold Empowering Conversation Events which will allow families to meet and raise concerns around services in South Lanarkshire.	Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the information sessions with family carers had to be cancelled. It is now hoped that these sessions will take place remotely. This will take additional planning and an increase in family support to access appropriate IT in order to participate. They are now planned to go ahead in October 2020.	Delayed due to COVID-19
Blantyre Credit Union	£500	To create a campaign for feedback from the membership base to look to the future for the credit union and build a 'wanted' portfolio of financial products and services.	Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it has not been possible at present to maintain contact with the Credit Union. The Community Engagement Team will continue to make contact and seek alternative ways to support them to deliver their plans.	Delayed due to COVID-19
Carluke Men's Shed	£500	Contribute towards the cost of an open day to promote the activities and benefits of being a member of Carluke Men's Shed.	Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Carluke Men's Shed has been closed to members since March 2020 as per government guidance. The committee are proposing to hold the open day and shed promotional events in February/March 2021 in line with the Scottish Government's Health and Safety guidance. If this is not possible they will explore alternative ways to talk to their group.	Delayed due to COVID-19
Healthy Valleys	£500	To contribute towards the costs of running focus groups which will explore the impact of Welfare Reform on families living in poverty.	Feedback from those using the Healthy Valley service has been collated and submitted to the Community Planning Team. This will be shared with the Board at a future meeting.	Complete



# Report

Report to:	<b>Partnership Board</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>9 September 2020</b>
Report by:	<b>Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) South Lanarkshire Council</b>

Subject:	<b>Community Planning Partnership COVID-19 Pandemic Recovery and Renewal</b>
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## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ provide the Partnership Board with partnership actions for recovery and renewal and an update on the community conversations that have taken place to date

## 2. Recommendations

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

- (1) that the Board consider and agree the actions that the partnership should take in relation to recovery and renewal;
- (2) that the Board note the feedback from the initial conversations with communities; and
- (3) that the Board consider allocating spend from the Partnership budget as set out at section 7 to further inform partnership actions for recovery and renewal.

## 3. Background

3.1. Questions on the experiences of Community Planning Partners during the COVID-19 outbreak and the next steps being taken were provided by the Scottish Government and circulated to the Partnership Board for their comments.

3.2. The purpose of the Scottish Government consultation is to learn from partners and information provided will be helpful in harnessing recent energy and momentum towards longer-term ambitions and will advise on the role the Scottish Government should take across a range of policy themes as well as community planning.

3.3. On 1 July 2020, a report was submitted detailing the feedback received from most of the Community Planning Partners and noting that VASLan and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service were working on their submission. These were presented to the Board on 9 September 2020. Partner feedback has been shared with the Scottish Government Location Director and the Public Service Reform and Public Bodies Division. Initial feedback has confirmed that our experiences mirror the national picture.

3.4. The Board tasked the Community Planning Progress Group with identifying key actions and producing a Partnership Action Plan for movement through the Recovery and Renewal phases of the pandemic together with finalising the COVID-19 Pandemic Risk Card.

- 3.5. A key aspect to the developing work of the partnership will be the voice of the communities within South Lanarkshire. In September 2020 the Board agreed a new interim structure at strategic and locality levels, designed to support engagement with communities. In addition, the Board also agreed to a refresh of the Community Plan to ensure priorities are suitable for current needs, which would involve an intensive engagement exercise with geographical communities and communities of interest.
- 3.6. The work that has been undertaken to identify partnership actions for renewal and recovery recognises that partners are implementing their own recovery and renewal plans. It also recognises the importance of the voice of our communities and their role in the delivery of effective recovery and renewal actions. The approach taken here is to consider actions for renewal and recovery where value can be added through taking a more holistic partnership approach.
- 3.7. This report provides an update on the community conversations that have taken place to date and sets out the key themes identified through the feedback from the Partners and community conversations and sets out actions for the Board to consider.

#### **4. Conversations with Communities**

- 4.1. The Scottish Government announced the formation of the Social Renewal Advisory Board on 9 June 2020. The Board set out to make recommendations to build on the policy and practice shifts seen in response to the COVID-19 pandemic across Scotland, and using current practice, extensive knowledge and wide-ranging networks, focus on the social capital dimensions of renewal, paying particular attention to delivering equality and social justice. Members of the Board bring together expertise in housing, disability, poverty, equalities, homelessness, communities, volunteering, local government and the third sector amongst other disciplines.
- 4.2. Each local authority in Scotland has now carried out **Community Listening Events**. The events will help the Social Renewal Advisory Board hear directly from communities where we have seen inspiring efforts take place. These events were designed nationally as small scale focus groups to gather in depth the lived experience of people across the country, aiming for around 12 participants from each local authority area. In total 3 events were held for South Lanarkshire, allowing participants to talk in detail about their lives. 16 participants from South Lanarkshire were recruited to represent the diverse geographical communities and involve where possible those with protected characteristics. The events used open questions to explore what we can learn from people's experiences – what did and did not work for them, and what should be taken forward together for the future, to help drive progress towards reducing poverty and advancing equality. The three questions which were asked were:-
  - ◆ What changed for you and your community during lockdown?;
  - ◆ What worked and what didn't?; and
  - ◆ What does a good life look like to you?

Equalities monitoring details were collected, so alongside a geographical perspective information on protected characteristics was also collated.

- 4.3. The following key themes have been identified through the listening events and these have been reflected in the proposed renewal and recovery actions. A copy of the feedback from the South Lanarkshire events is attached as Appendix 1. The themes are:-

- ◆ the changing needs of communities and the changes to the groups of people who need support;
- ◆ the importance of organisations and communities working in partnership to maximise the use of available resources;
- ◆ the impact that strong community networks can have in supporting people and making them feel valued and respected;
- ◆ the mental health impact on staff, community volunteers and members of the public; and
- ◆ the need to continue with developing clear communication and information sharing routes for communities.

4.4. In addition, during the week of 3 to 7 August 2020, the social media team at South Lanarkshire Council posted a series of questions to engage local people in an initial discussion about their experiences of the pandemic. The questions asked were:-

- ◆ What good things and challenges have there been in the last few months?;
- ◆ What support do you feel you have had throughout the pandemic?;
- ◆ What good things should we all keep doing?;
- ◆ What is important to focus on for the future?; and
- ◆ What other things could we do together to help local people?

In total, 148 comments were received directly to the council social media accounts. These highlighted a range of topics, however there was a consistent theme of the importance of the support received to individuals and continuing to work in partnership, while encouraging those within communities to take actions themselves. Other responses were posted on partner social media and are being collated as widely as possible to identify themes. This was a first attempt at engaging in this manner and the approach of using soft questions on social media will be developed as one strand of the conversations which need to be held with communities in order to progress the development of the new Community Plan. Learning includes identifying the importance of working closely with partners who have strong social media presence to assist with promoting and collating responses from as wide a cross section of the community as is possible.

## 5. COVID-19 Recovery and Renewal

5.1. Partners have agreed that there should be a strong partnership approach to recovery and renewal and the following themes and actions take account of the known short term impacts of COVID-19 as highlighted by partners through their experiences. Whilst there are some practical actions that the partnership can take in the short term, key to building back better is understanding the impacts of the measures that have been taken during the pandemic on our communities. The following themes were identified from the feedback provided through the first community conversations (as set out at section 4 above), by partners (see feedback summary at Appendix 2), and in support of the ongoing COVID-19 response:-

Theme
Communication and information sharing
Digital Inclusion/Connectivity
Planning with communities
Economic Impacts
Volunteering
Mental and Physical Health Impacts
Poverty Impacts

5.2. Whilst the COVID-19 pandemic affects everyone, we know that the virus and the measures taken to stop the spread of the virus has a greater negative impact on those already living in poverty and who experience inequality. The following paragraphs consider each of the above themes, some of the work happening nationally, the key points from partner feedback and the resulting action that has been taken or has been identified.

### 5.3. **Communications and Information Sharing**

5.3.1. Support for the Community Planning Partnership is provided by the Council's Communications and Strategy service. The objectives of this support are laid out in a Communications Plan adopted in 2019, namely to raise general awareness of community planning and communities' understanding of, and involvement in, community planning.

The service leads on the provision of communications support for the partnership and board, but does so in liaison with the communications teams and officers of other partner organisations. This continues to ensure shared and consistent messaging from partners relating to partnership matters.

5.3.2 Local partner communications have been strengthened as a result of COVID-19 and partners have highlighted the benefits of communicating through online meetings; however national communications were found to be more challenging. A summary of the local issues highlighted by partners includes the following:-

- ◆ the processes for communicating with Third Sector organisations both at national and local levels were not as efficient as they could be;
- ◆ whilst partners are working well together to overcome issues re sharing information they are constrained by GDPR legislation; and
- ◆ given the nature of COVID-19, Information and Communications Technology (ICT) has been a critical factor in the partnership response. This has worked well, however is there a need to enhance resilience?

5.3.3. In relation to the feedback from the community conversations, the communications themes link with the feedback provided through the engagement undertaken for the new Community Participation and Engagement Strategy. The strategy has addressed these areas and sets out a number of actions for delivery relating to the development of clear communication and information sharing routes for communities.

**Action 1: Progress Group to undertake a partner audit to establish COVID issues relating to local communications; information sharing; and how resilient partner ICT is. Develop actions based on the findings.**

**Action 2: Partnership Community Engagement Officer with support from the wider partnership communications network to deliver the actions set out in the Community Engagement and Participation Strategy in relation to communications and information sharing.**

5.3.4. In relation to the ongoing COVID-19 response, whilst NHS Lanarkshire have a comprehensive communications plan in place which is supported by partners, given the combined size of our workforce and the diverse nature of our work, there may be untapped opportunities across the partnership to increase the potential reach and further promote the visibility of key messages particularly for

those groups that may be harder to reach including those who are digitally excluded.

**Action 3: Partnership communication leads network with NHSL communications team to discuss the potential reach of CPP partners' communications and whether/how they could provide additional support to further strengthen COVID communications.**

#### 5.4. Digital Inclusion/Connectivity

- 5.4.1. Supporting the most vulnerable people to get online has been an area of focus for some time through the partnership Digital Inclusion group, however the extent of digital inequality has become even more apparent as a result of the pandemic. The restrictions meant that community spaces with digital access points closed at a time when the internet became a lifeline for many who used it to communicate with family and friends, work, learn, access help, information and services online. Partner feedback recognised that this is an area where more investment is required.
- 5.4.2. At a national level, this was recognised through the 'Connecting Scotland' initiative which provides iPads, Chromebooks and support to develop digital skills for people who are digitally excluded and on low incomes. The South Lanarkshire area benefited from 415 devices and free data during phase 1; and phase 2 is underway with up to 1015 devices being made available, primarily for families and for those with lived experience of the care system. The area will also benefit from just under 5,000 Chromebook devices which have been accessed through Scottish Government funding and will be distributed to pupils and their families by the Council's Education department. The government continue with their commitment towards 100% of premises being able to access superfast broadband which is being delivered through a combination of the R100 contracts, a Scottish Broadband Voucher Scheme and commercial coverage. Some sites in the Clydesdale area e.g. Lanark have been prioritised for the South Lanarkshire rollout.
- 5.4.3. At a local level, during 2019 the Digital Inclusion group carried out a survey to identify the causes of digital exclusion. Amongst other things, these included not having a phone or computer, the cost of an internet connection and it being too complicated/difficult to use. From the findings an action plan was developed however this was before the pandemic and access solutions have focussed on community based spaces such as libraries. The Local Child Poverty Action Report 2020/2021 sets out actions to support more low income families to get connected. Another example of getting people online during lockdown is from South Lanarkshire College who loaned their computers to their students. Some third sector groups also helped to redistribute donated devices to those who needed them.
- 5.4.4. There are practical actions that the partnership can take such as revising the digital inclusion action plan to take account of learning from the pandemic; considering how partners can provide further support to get people online; and helping vulnerable people who already have the capability to get online but lack the skills and confidence.

**Action 4: The Digital Inclusion group should consider the digital inequalities highlighted as a result of the pandemic, review their current action plan and identify partnership priorities for implementation.**

5.4.5 The work undertaken by the Digital Inclusion group should include identifying national and local initiatives/funding to get people online; mapping community/partner responses to get people online during the pandemic; where partners can offer further support to get people online; and helping vulnerable people who lack knowledge and experience to build their confidence to access online services and connect with others socially.

## 5.5. **Planning with communities/Poverty Impacts**

5.5.1. Supporting community recovery and resilience is a key area of work and the partnership has recognised that communities have a key role to play in setting out what is important to their recovery and how recovery efforts should be implemented.

5.5.2. In terms of the actions that the partnership has already taken, a number of actions have been agreed that will support this approach, for example reviewing the priorities in the Community Plan and establishing a partnership group which has a focus on engaging with communities and building capacity. Aligning the Lived Experience funding with capturing the experience of individuals and families during the pandemic will also help to inform recovery and renewal actions. Targeted work with some of the most deprived communities in South Lanarkshire is already underway through Neighbourhood Planning. Work is being undertaken through community networks to consider the options for more sustainable local food sources such as community larders and growing food. As a result of the pandemic, new relationships have been developed with local Third Sector and Community organisations and work continues to nurture these through the council's Community Engagement Team and VASlan.

5.5.3. The response to the pandemic has shown how responsive and resilient many of our communities are and there is a real opportunity to continue to build on this work through continuing to develop relationships with Third Sector and Community organisations and through meaningful engagement with communities.

**Action 5: The partnership, through the new community participation and engagement group, should undertake work to have conversations with communities to better understand what their issues are relating to recovery and renewal and agree the actions that should be taken.**

**Action 6: Lived Experience funding for 2020-21 should be used to capture the experiences of individuals and families during the pandemic to better inform recovery and renewal actions.**

**Action 7: Community led planning work should be further developed to encompass community resilience planning including plans for food security.**

**Action 8: Work should be undertaken by the partnership to revise existing plans to take account of the impact of the pandemic particularly on those who already experience poverty/inequalities.**

## 5.6. **Economic Impacts**

5.6.1 Whilst action has been taken nationally to try to mitigate the economic impacts of COVID-19 we know that the greatest impact has been experienced by those who are already in low paid jobs and working in the sectors that were affected the

most by lockdown restrictions such as food and hospitality. As unemployment rises it is expected that the number of people experiencing poverty will also arise.

- 5.6.2 At a National perspective there is a focus on protecting and increasing the number of jobs. There will be a £100 million package of support for people looking for work and those at risk of redundancy who will receive additional assistance to move into work or retrain. At least half of this will be set aside to help young people get into work. In addition, Fair Start Scotland employment support service has been extended by a further two years to March 2023. The UK Government has also announced a [Kickstart Scheme](#) which provides funding to employers to create 6-month job placements for 16 to 24 year olds who are currently on Universal Credit and at risk of long-term unemployment.
- 5.6.3. From a partnership perspective, a collaborative approach to economic recovery and growth is being taken through a new Lanarkshire Economic Forum. The work of the Forum aims to 'provide a coordinated pan-Lanarkshire approach to support the economic well-being of Lanarkshire and deliver sustainable and inclusive economic long-term growth for Lanarkshire businesses and improved opportunity and quality of life for its residents'. Early actions include a mapping exercise of current and proposed activity including areas where outcomes can be achieved more effectively and efficiently through collaboration. Further information will be provided to a future meeting of the Board.
- 5.6.4. With reference to the recent presentation to the Board delivered by Public Health Scotland, the potential for the partnership to be involved in work being done through the Scottish Government on Community Wealth Building (CWB) was highlighted. Community Wealth Building is a whole systems approach to building back better, fairer and greener by redesigning the economy from the bottom up through inward investment. This approach also provides a mechanism to further develop relationships with our communities and to tackle poverty and inequality. There are 5 pillars of community wealth building and these are:-
- ◆ **Building the generative economy** - Develop and grow small, locally owned enterprises which are more financially generative for the local economy - locking wealth into place.
  - ◆ **Finance** - Increase flows of investment within local economies by harnessing and recirculating the wealth that exists, as opposed to attracting capital.
  - ◆ **Land and property** - Deepen the function and ownership of local assets held by anchor institutions, so that financial and social gain is harnessed by citizens.
  - ◆ **Spending** - Utilise public sector procurement and commissioning to develop dense local supply chains of businesses likely to support good employment and retain work locally.
  - ◆ **Workforce** - Exercise fair employment practices and work to develop a more just labour market to improve the prospects and wellbeing of local people.

The Council is currently developing a strategy and is working with the Chief Executive of the Centre for Local Economic Strategies who has been seconded to the Scottish Government to help roll out Community Wealth Building in Scotland. The Board will be updated on the development of this work and the council would look to identify scope for a CPP workshop to look at this approach over the coming months.

**Action 9: South Lanarkshire representatives from the Lanarkshire Economic Forum to present the plans for recovery and renewal to the Board.**

**Action 10: Work with Public Health Scotland to develop a proposal for the Board on actions for recovery and renewal that they will support.**

**Action 11: In relation to the Kickstart Scheme, the council's employability team are seeking job placements for young people and partners are asked to consider if they are able to support this by offering places.**

### **5.7. Volunteering**

- 5.7.1. Nationally, volunteering is recognised by the Scottish Government as an important contributor to both the economy and to community life. In 2019, the Government published its national outcomes framework for volunteering, Volunteering For All. During the pandemic, there have been several national drives to recruit volunteers, supported by the Scottish Government and led by SCVO and by the Red Cross. Some confusion however was caused by these national initiatives not being linked in locally to existing volunteer structures, which caused poor communication to local partners and a lack of clarity as to how volunteers could be engaged in activity.
- 5.7.2. In South Lanarkshire, VASLan the third sector interface led on supporting local volunteers during the COVID-19 response. Just under 1600 local people stepped forward to offer their services through this route, a response which was far in excess of the need at the time. Moving forwards, it is essential to maintain as much of this goodwill and social support as is possible, and to show the volunteers that are active within communities that they are valued and that they themselves have access to appropriate support.
- 5.7.3 It should be noted that volunteers are not without cost – there is need for resources to make sure they have adequate mechanisms for support and care in the same way that paid staff do, but recognising the specific needs and requirements of individuals that volunteer. A key way to do this is to make sure that volunteer involving organisations themselves have the skills and capacity to ensure this is in place for their volunteers. Accreditation such as the 'Volunteer Friendly Award' offered by VASLan can give assurance that this is in place. A comprehensive approach across the partnership to supporting volunteering and working with volunteer involving organisations who demonstrate good practice, as well as leading on this within the partner organisations, will help contribute to a robust and thriving volunteer scene within South Lanarkshire.

**Action 12: Develop a partnership volunteering strategy and invest in volunteer training to ensure a good experience for those volunteering with partners.**

**Action 13: Increase the number of accredited volunteer organisations and recognise and support these across the partnership.**

### **5.8. Mental and Physical Health Impacts**

- 5.8.1. Partners highlighted the damaging physical and mental health impacts for many people in our communities as a result of lockdown. Mental health was also a concern raised through the community conversations. It is also anticipated that the demand for mental health services will grow in the coming months, due both to the pandemic and the likely impacts of the economic downturn.

5.8.2. Nationally, the Scottish Government had made a number of commitments in relation to mental health including the publication of a Mental Health Transition and Recovery Plan in autumn 2020. They are working with communities and partners across Scotland and are being guided by the lessons learned so far. The plan aims to equip individuals, families and communities to support their own, and each other's, mental wellbeing. An approach that will go beyond the traditional remit of health and will consider everything that influences mental health and wellbeing, considers the needs of different groups, and seeks to reduce inequalities.

5.8.3. Locally, during lockdown in addition to the national supports available, communities and local third sector organisations worked together to support some of the most vulnerable people, for example by having systems in place to check that people were feeling ok, creating and delivering wellbeing packs and offering a friendly phone call.

NHS Lanarkshire and the Health and Social Care Partnership continues to work through its re-mobilisation process and refocus their key strategies post-COVID as required. Key partnership strategies include the Lanarkshire Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy; the Health and Social Care Strategic Commissioning Plan; the Tobacco Strategy; and the Healthy Weight Strategy.

**Action 14: Partners are asked to continue to support the actions contained in key NHS Lanarkshire and Health and Social Care Partnership Strategies.**

## **6. Next Steps**

6.1. The Board is asked to consider and agree the actions for recovery and renewal. A full list can be found in Appendix 3.

6.2. Following approval, work will be undertaken by the responsible Partnership Groups/ Partners to implement/further develop the actions and progress will be monitored through the Progress Group and updates provided to the Board.

## **7. Employee Implications**

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

## **8. Financial Implications**

8.1. There is approximately £15,000 available from the partnership budget which could be aligned to community engagement initiatives to inform partnership actions for recovery and renewal. If the Board are in agreement, a spending proposal will be developed by the partnership's new community participation and engagement group.

## **9. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implication**

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

## **10. Other Implications**

10.1. There is a risk of pursuing partnership recovery and renewal actions without fully understanding the impacts of the pandemic on our communities.

## **11. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**

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

11.2. Partnership recovery and renewal actions will be informed and shaped by communities through a range of new engagement and community participation initiatives which will be co-produced by the partnership's new community engagement group.

**Paul Manning**  
**Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)**  
**South Lanarkshire Council**

30 September 2020

**Contact for Further Information**

If you would like further information, please contact:-

Rhonda Leith, Community Engagement Manager, South Lanarkshire Council

Tel: 01698 455783

Email: [rhonda.leith@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:rhonda.leith@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)

## Feedback from South Lanarkshire Listening Events

What changed for you and your community during lockdown?	
Comment	Participant number*
Poor rural transport links. During lockdown no shops, no activities but a much greater sense of community relying on each other and supporting each other.	1
Initial response to COVID was very organisation focused. Equal partnerships coordinated in a short space of time. Local people became more involved and made the operations more effective. Demand was coming from unexpected groups and changed from before; individuals who were in receipt of benefits actually lived in a more stable environment.	2
A lot more volunteering was created within the rural community. We introduced services to support local people and it was much easier to access funding. The community rallied round to support each other.	3
a) Community groups mobilised, had conversations to respond to a common issue. Built relationships that will change how we work local from now on. b) Third and public sector engaged in real partnerships, based on equal footing, to address a big issue. It has made me believe we can use this model to improve service delivery models going forward. c) My personal experience has led me to plan to focus my time in future on continuing to build on what has been achieved locally, because I believe this is how we can better serve our community.	4
Decisions that would usually take a longer period of time were made in the space of 24 hours. Local services such as chemists had significant queues and occasional fights. The vulnerable people pre covid are not the same as during covid. There was a lot more communication between organisations which resulted in better coordination in services to look after the community. The community doesn't always pull together effectively in the area but everyone stepped up to the plate during covid.	5
When it first started we went right into the covid groups needed to support community in the town. We 3000 on the FB page helping the hospitals. We had no issues crossing areas as a community chipped in together. It help to bring people together - everyone chipped in together, money donations as well.	
Works for NHS as nurse for ambulance service front line staff but off due to zero hours contract and family members shielding. Juggling work with family life (being with kids) actually helped as could be there for the kids. Support services were no longer there. Mixed stress levels. A lot more parent carers were private messaging due to feeling isolated suddenly and all supports withdrawn. Came up with zoom sessions for support groups and still do them a couple of hours a week.	6 7
Autistic community really affected, shielding groups also really affected. Left nurses hat and took on a more community hat. More family time was good and bad - fitness levels increased going cycling more.	8

<p>Voluntary group really active going to shops. Pensioners were getting meals/food parcels. Waving into the houses and a lot more community interaction and aware of each other more but from a distance.</p>	
<p>Organisations came together with the others in the same area to coordinate a quick response. The usual politics disappeared and the response was simply focussed on what the community needed and how we could all work together to achieve it. More aware of what organisations did and their roles.</p>	9
<p>Brought the community closer together trying to get food. Family was shielding so was difficult so tried to get other people to help. It all became more difficult.</p>	10
<p>Agree with problems with guidelines and social distancing. Some people were more helpful though more negative; some nice people who stayed positive helped. Voluntary org helped out with loads like catch ups or if you had any problems rather than through Council.</p>	11
<p>Mental health difficulties for families supporting people in their life. New people had come to town from a distance with big groups and If you said anything looked at funny. Working from home wasn't easy, better being around people. Opportunity to volunteer which is good. Getting involved in groups such as these is positive, lots of people wanted to help and lots is going on in the community.</p>	12
<p>Question can be taken in different strands. Asked to work from home which was a challenge at first. Looked at essential services for isolation and shielding as a first stage and mental health was 2nd stage for response group. Bingo group online took off. Environmental project for the kids just ran with that momentum. Projects to work on together as a family. Had to go outside for educational projects where kids created posters about their community and take ownership of their community. Adults were easy to help for mental health.</p>	
<p>Struggled with mental health and had to stick in with and had nowhere to escape, had to stay home. Village had a café and then it was gone and we didn't have anything. Not many people helped people. Catch up was good with voluntary org and helped with things such as house appliances.</p>	13
<p>Split in the community between who followed and didn't follow guidelines. Causing a bad atmosphere and a rift at our village. There was confusion and mixed messages from the Government.</p>	14
<p>Lots of communities did come together more and helped each other out more than before. Found their feet then had community people help out. Didn't know where was best to help; took time to settle down and help people.</p>	15
<p>We had to cease the operation of our community cafes in all six of our distribution centres and our community store at (Town) Church. This made interaction with our users very hard, as many need the social engagement each week. It has also made it harder for us to help with anything else other than food.</p>	16
<p>All six of our centres remained open but just distributed food parcels, with strict social distancing rules in place. In order to help the community further we started a delivery service five days a week and very quickly added fresh food</p>	

<p>packs to our delivery service in addition to the normal food parcels. The number of parcels we distributed more than doubled during lockdown.</p>	
<p>What worked and what didn't?</p>	
<p>Comment</p> <p>The determination of the community drove forward the fast response. Working locally allowed us to identify the most vulnerable in the community and we didn't wait to find out what we were supposed to do we did what needed done.</p> <p>Local partnerships worked really well. Local people had a significant involvement in coordinating local responses which allowed us to identify and fixed issues.</p> <p>We used social media and got 40 plus volunteers which was good. Neighbours looking after each other acting as a immediate support before South Lanarkshire Council got involved. Working with the Community Engagement Team in South Lanarkshire Council to set up food hubs in the local area and the ease that we could access funding from Coalfields was a benefit as well.</p> <p>a) Local mobilisation worked very well. The local response attracted private sector support. Our aim was that no-one fell through the net. Every person counted.</p> <p>b) Flexibility and speed of funding release worked well. It let us hit the ground running.</p> <p>c) Third-public-private partnership worked extremely well, and still is.</p> <p>d) The restrictions of GDPR created problems as we didn't have access to those who would benefit from the offerings we were making. I think it would be helpful for this to be revisited in the hope of finding a solution to sharing contact info between service deliverers to ensure support gets to those in need who may not ask.</p> <p>e) Due to the speed of effort needed on the ground, it wasn't possible to put our usual volunteer recruitment procedures in place. But we have learned from this and now have a plan for the future.</p> <p>f) This would have been a great opportunity to show the bigger picture of the whole response and include the local stats as well from community groups but the reporting seemed focused on SLC stats only.</p> <p>It is widely acknowledged that the efforts of the community groups were crucial and it would have been a positive step on the council's behalf, to be seen to be working with the community and third sector.</p> <p>Having a solid set up within the organisation allowed us to work from home in a few days. The decisions been made quickly allowed us to move everything around and get everything in place. Income has been impacted throughout; covid funding has covered for this period but wonder what it will be like moving forward. Moving forward we need to look at how we emotionally support people to start to leave their homes and also how to support people with mental health issues that is set to become a growing issue.</p> <p>As the group worked together nothing was negative at all. Getting to the hospital was an issue.</p>	<p>Participant number*</p> <p>1</p> <p>2</p> <p>3</p> <p>4</p> <p>5</p>

<p>It was a good experience to get involved with partners such as SLC and expand the service that we were delivering prior to the partnership. Still getting food from supermarkets and working with drug addiction team and mental health. Need to put a better structure in place for mental health. The rate of suicides seems to be high and covid didn't seem to help the situation, lack of structure and knowledge didn't help people with mental health. Still needs to be addressed and should be a focus on this. People become concerned about neighbours and family members especially if not seen face to face. Tried to make things as light hearted as possible for people in this situation. We considered now stopping the covid group but changed mind and look to continue.</p>	6
<p>Home schooling didn't work. ADHD and autism made it even more difficult and the children wouldn't access education in that way. Had to find different ways to interact that they could learn. The isolation was really difficult particularly for autism - tried online but not interested in talking to people on a computer. No problem with social distance, they always liked that. Guilt of should you be in work (that is your career) and weighing up the safety of the family if you go to work. Emphasis on kids with school meals never really thought of kids who have clubs, the fridge is a revolving door. Didn't get paid due to zero hours contract and just got by on one wage. A lot did work for community but other things could work better.</p>	
<p>Organisation came together and put the usual politics aside. Community volunteers have been fantastic throughout the pandemic and the partnership working with South Lanarkshire Council (Community Engagement Team) has been effective.</p>	7
<p>Government boxes helped a lot, voluntary org helped with shopping and drop off fresh fruit, cleaning stuff. Doctors surgery could have notified that someone would bring prescriptions - health service being more aware and communicating with individuals would help. Anxious waiting for to be seen by doctors. The kids education - trying to do that from home was difficult and had challenges.</p>	
<p>Voluntary org, all the volunteers were amazing, activities for the children was good. Human contact was good and care workers were good. Had issues with housing, advice from voluntary org helped with this and started to get things moving. Tried to keep family healthy, again issues with people not following social distancing. Heating in the houses also an issue again disappointed with landlord response.</p>	8
<p>Hope the council will listen more and work closer together to make it easier for people. Community building is being taken back by health, covid group work need a building to do their work. Got to be a space to work in for their response. The third sector stepped up to the mark.</p>	9
<p>Working with the coordination group in the locality which was a very quick turnover to set up. Think the council was caught out and didn't have much warning of the lockdown which led to a slow response. Public confusion initially whereby people didn't know who to call for help with different numbers. Community groups on the ground established trust with response teams. It would be good to share information on shielding; some people were being missed out and if another lockdown occurs information sharing should be easier. Better communication with the council and the groups would help.</p>	10

<p>Would like to see best practice shared amongst the groups, standardised some of the practice. Volunteers going back to work makes it harder as people still very anxious.</p>	
<p>The response from voluntary org has been impressive. They have helped with many things such as food parcels, activity bags, colouring books and essential goods. Issues with council and the length of time taken to respond to e.g. repair needs. The local shop was fantastic and took telephone orders which they then delivered.</p>	11
<p>Community hall concerns, could be kicked out soon and taken back over from local authority. Group needs to get into community flat (Community Asset Transfer was being considered) but paused due to covid. Family support was good and information for parents was positive; got people together to share ideas.</p>	12
<p>Larder programme has been greatly received; town smilemania was good, online worked okay. Also commented on a slow response from the council.</p>	13
<p>Initially we were just delivering our normal food parcels, very quickly realised that wasn't enough and those who couldn't get out also needed: milk, bread, fresh fruit and veg, so we added these to our deliveries</p>	
<p>We are very thankful for our amazing current volunteers and the many from the community who volunteered their services after being put on furlough etc. We wouldn't have been able to run the additional delivery service without these extra volunteers as many of our volunteers also had to shield. The deliveries did work well but we had to bring that to an end at end of July due to volunteers returning to work, we were unable to sustain it any longer.</p>	14 15 16
<p>We were very fortunate throughout lockdown with the support we received from the council, supermarkets, businesses and the wider community, everyone adapted well and quickly</p>	
<p>What does a good life look like to you?</p>	
<p>Comment</p> <p>Family, health, doing your bit for the community. Fan of universal basic income, take away the problems and give people enough to live off. No discrimination and homelessness. Listening ear service was set up for emotional wellbeing just a chat line to help people talk to someone. Real need for support/advice in getting these people out of isolation.</p> <p>Not having to really on foodbanks, donations of clothes and have some stability, Situation where there is enough money to live independently and not have the stresses of debt and cover basics. Concern about the example of Glasgow and the funding being cut from CAB and service being cut from this.</p> <p>Echo what was said. Family is key, been able to communicate, appreciate each other, its uncomfortable finding ways of getting people out who is isolating and shielding as people are terrified to go out and need support for this. Love, happiness and family key but worried about isolation and the impact this has had on people. People not looking well and need to improve people's emotional wellbeing.</p>	<p>Participant number*</p> <p>1</p> <p>2</p> <p>3</p>

<p>a) Having enough money to feel secure  b) Living in a nice environment  c) Contributing to the life of the community in any small way  d) Having support available when needed</p>	4
<p>Agree just the tip of the iceberg - the effect of isolation. 3rd sector played an integral part in this work but getting by on short term funding is not effective and looking for better investment in the 3rd sector.</p>	5
<p>Getting back to normality from lockdown. It's been a struggle while also businesses struggled like clubs and catering. Back to socialising and having less of the restrictions and to getting money back in.</p>	6
<p>A very personal question. Your health, family and individual, is important. Getting that work life balance is important. Maintaining that work from home as a balance a more flexible work pattern and ways of working. Kids need parents and need to get that balance. Good life is your health and money helps.</p>	7
<p>Autistic community looking at flexible education as anxiety was less when he was at home. Moving forward nationally getting the balance right for children with additional support needs with blended learning methods. Find new ways of engaging with families through digital technology. Mental health services were lacking, going to people with crisis not necessary people who are lonely before crisis. Pockets of community will have negative experiences dependent of the circumstances. We moved quickly and are a 24/7 society; that put a lot pressure on people - when do you relax? What would happen without the internet? Also some aspects of life before the internet would be beneficial. Disconnected with human contact but connected digitally but we need to leave the phone to get that human contact. We got to get back to basics and were forced to spend time with family.</p>	8
<p>I think there is different tiers in the 3rd sector. Third sector interface need to be more local focused. More equal society generally for all and each locality have a safe place for people to go to.</p>	9
<p>Good health, my kids being healthy and brought up well, less money worries. Would like to thank for the help did receive through this.</p>	10
<p>Support for everybody not just particular groups. Everyone should be treated equally. Just be nice. Should be able to have their own haven nice, safe and healthy. There is still a stigma around mental health so be more nice about the topic.</p>	11
<p>Health and wellbeing important, keeping mental health the same as physical health. Achieve safety and wellbeing through keeping active and healthy.</p>	12
<p>Maslow hierarchy of needs is a good framework for a good life; safety needs, physiological needs, achieve all these needs and that should help get a good life. Also sees working from home as an opportunity. A new workforce to improve skills, broadband and digital inclusion and allow them to help with childcare, transport, carers responsibilities and entering a whole new world.</p>	13
<p>Agree should be equal opportunities for all.</p>	13

Feeling safe in an environment and getting support when you need it. Having hope for the future. She discussed education, employment and child care and the importance of having support for these in place. We should promote good news stories.	14
No response	15
Having family and good friends around you, a good support network. A roof over your head and food on the table.	16

### Key Themes emerging from Partner experiences

<b>Reflections</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local partners have adapted and responded quickly and appropriately, but this has been challenging due to the pace of change re new and revised policies and guidance.</li> <li>• National and local approaches have not always complimented each other and this has caused some difficulties, for example volunteering streams.</li> <li>• Communication between partners has been strong, however this sometimes came from multiple sources and not all messages received were accurate.</li> <li>• Communities have mobilised themselves effectively and efficiently to provide local responses.</li> <li>• Negative economic effects will be substantial and have an ongoing impact on the demand for services</li> <li>• Partnership working both planned and spontaneous has been a positive.</li> <li>• National reporting requirements have been challenging.</li> <li>• Mental and physical health impacts can already be evidenced and will continue long term.</li> <li>• Technology is an important part of the recovery and renewal phases as well as the response.</li> <li>• Digital exclusion remains a real issue.</li> <li>• Sharing information particularly at a local level has been constrained by GDPR.</li> <li>• Approximately 1,500 volunteers came forward however many were unallocated as there wasn't sufficient volunteering opportunities.</li> </ul>
<b>Looking Ahead</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Particular consideration will need to be given to the long-term poverty related impact of the pandemic and the response needed to address the issues from this.</li> <li>• It is important to harness and develop the community contribution and the strong relationships that have been developed.</li> <li>• Community responders could provide support with other emerging issues in their communities such as severe weather, loss of power, etc.</li> <li>• The financial impact upon partners requires clarification.</li> <li>• We need to consider how services can be delivered differently, including the demand as suspended services are restored and the increased demand from financial and health pressures.</li> <li>• Digital connectivity should be an area of focus and needs more investment.</li> <li>• Engage in appropriate community conversations to identify priorities.</li> <li>• Planning for potential long term events with communities.</li> <li>• Strong partnership approach to recovery and renewal.</li> </ul>

## Community Planning Partnership

## COVID-19 Pandemic Recovery and Renewal Actions

Action No.	Theme	Action	Person Responsible
1	Communication/ information sharing	Undertake a partner audit to establish COVID issues relating to local communications; information sharing; and how resilient partner ICT is. Develop actions based on the findings.	Progress Group
2	Communication/ information sharing	Deliver the actions set out in the Community Engagement and Participation Strategy in relation to communications and information sharing.	Partnership Community Engagement Officer and Partnership Communications Network
3	Communication/ information sharing	Discuss the potential reach of CPP partners' communications and whether/how they could provide additional support to further strengthen COVID communications.	NHSL Communication Team and Partnership Communications Network
4	Digital Inclusion/ Connectivity	Consider the digital inequalities highlighted as a result of the pandemic, review their current action plan and identify partnership priorities for implementation.	Digital Inclusion Group
5	Planning with Communities/ Poverty Impacts	Undertake work to have conversations with communities to better understand what their issues are relating to recovery and renewal and agree the actions that should be taken.	New Community Participation and Engagement Group
6	Planning with Communities/ Poverty Impacts	Lived Experience funding for 2020-21 should be used to capture the experiences of individuals and families during the pandemic to better inform recovery and renewal actions	CPP Board
7	Planning with Communities/ Poverty Impacts	Community led planning work should be further developed to encompass community resilience planning including plans for food security.	New Community Participation and Engagement Group
8	Planning with Communities/ Poverty Impacts	Work should be undertaken by the partnership to revise existing plans to take account of the impact of the pandemic particularly on those who already experience poverty/inequalities	Thematic Groups

<b>Action No.</b>	<b>Theme</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>
9	Economic Impact	Present the plans for economic recovery and renewal to the Board.	Representatives from the Lanarkshire Economic Forum
10	Economic Impact	Work with Public Health Scotland to develop a proposal for the Board on actions for recovery and renewal that they will support.	Community Planning Team
11	Economic Impact	In relation to the Kickstart Scheme, the council's employability team are seeking job placements for young people and partners are asked to consider if they are able to support this by offering places.	All partners
12	Volunteering	Develop a partnership volunteering strategy and invest in volunteer training to ensure a good experience for those volunteering with partners.	All partners, VASlan lead
13	Volunteering	Increase the number of accredited volunteer organisations and recognise and support these across the partnership.	All partners, VASlan lead
14	Mental and Physical Health Impacts	Partners are asked to continue to support the actions contained in key NHS Lanarkshire and Health and Social Care Partnership Strategies.	All partners

# Report

Report to:	<b>Partnership Board</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>21 October 2020</b>
Report by:	<b>Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) South Lanarkshire Council</b>

Subject:	<b>Community Planning Partnership Risk Register Update</b>
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## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ present the updated risk register to the Community Planning Partnership Board

## 2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the changes to the risk cards set out at 4.1. and 4.2. below be approved; and
- (2) that progress in the delivery of the action plan be noted.

## 3. Background

3.1. A Community Planning Partnership risk register and risk control plan is maintained to formally record, assess and aid management of strategic risks faced by the Partnership.

3.2. On 11 September 2019, the Partnership Board approved the process to review the risk register and noted progress with the implementation of actions to mitigate risks. A risk workshop was subsequently held on 5 December 2019 to discuss and review the feedback received and to consider proposed amendments to the risk register.

3.3. Earlier in 2019, a separate risk workshop had been held to identify the risks posed by Brexit which could potentially affect the delivery of the Community Plan. The outcome of this workshop was reported to the Partnership Board on 28 February 2019.

3.4. At the Partnership Board on 12 February 2020, it was agreed that a report on the monitoring of the risk register and risk control plan be a standard agenda item at the Partnership Board meetings. This was followed by approval at the Partnership Board on 1 July 2020 that the Community Planning Progress Group be tasked with completing the draft COVID-19 Pandemic Risk Card.

## 4. Risk Register

4.1. The Community Planning Partnership risk register is attached at Appendix 1. The format of the risk cards is based on the Council's risk management process which has changed and a new risk matrix has been produced. The scores on all risk cards have now been revised to reflect this. The Brexit Risk card has also been updated. Appendix 2 shows the new risk scoring matrix, likelihood and impact definitions.

4.2. At their meeting on 11 August 2020, the Progress Group agreed the draft COVID-19 Pandemic Risk Card and that this should be considered alongside the work being carried out by the Group looking at the actions for movement through the Recovery and Renewal phases of the pandemic. This work is now complete and the final draft is attached as Appendix 3.

4.3. The top risks are summarised in the table below:-

Risk Category	Key risk	Inherent Risk Score	Residual Risk Score
<b>1 Very High (15-25)</b>	Partners are required to redirect their resources to respond to and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. This may result in less support being available to those who are experiencing disadvantage or poverty. This could also lead to the partnership not being able to deliver outcomes within the Community Plan. Risk Number: CPP/2020/002	25	20
	The UK leaving the EU could adversely impact on partner organisations delivery of the Community Plan and those who depend on the services provided. Risk Number: CPP/2020/001	20	20
<b>2 High (8-12)</b>	Failure to have the appropriate structures in place to deliver the outcomes of the Community Plan and Neighbourhood Plans efficiently and effectively. Risk Number: CPP/2018/008	16	9
	Failure to achieve the outcomes of the Community Plan 2017-2027. Risk Number: CPP/2018/001	20	8

4.4. A summary of progress in the delivery of the Risk Control Plan is noted below and additional information can be found in Appendix 4. Of the 14 actions contained in the plan:-

Status	Summary
<b>Complete</b>	<b>Two actions</b> that were delayed due to COVID-19 are now complete. These relate to the Participation and Engagement Strategy and the Neighbourhood Planning Annual Reports.
<b>On target</b>	<b>Seven actions</b> that were delayed as a result of COVID-19 are currently deemed to be on target to deliver within the timescale set.
<b>Not started</b>	<b>One action</b> relating to the Board having a clearer understanding of resourcing community planning initiatives has not been started and is on hold as a result of the Board's planned work on structures over the next few months.
<b>Minor slippage</b>	There has been minor slippage for <b>two actions</b> which relate to the review of the community planning structures and community planning communications.
<b>Major slippage</b>	Due to COVID-19, targets have not been met for <b>two actions</b> relating to the review of the CPP Board membership and the new Neighbourhood Plans. Progress has been made against both actions.

## **5. Monitoring and reporting arrangements**

- 5.1. The Community Planning Progress Group will continue to progress actions and monitor and review the Community Planning Partner's Risk Register and Risk Control Plan.

## **6. Employee Implications**

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

## **7. Financial Implications**

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

## **8. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications**

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

## **9. Other Implications**

- 9.1. Failure to demonstrate that risk is actively considered and managed could adversely affect the delivery of the Community Plan and could affect the reputation of the Community Planning Partnership. The work undertaken to identify and review the Community Planning Partnership's strategic risks and to determine the risk controls and actions necessary enabled the Community Planning Partnership to manage the impact.

## **10. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**

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

**Paul Manning**

**Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)  
South Lanarkshire Council**

23 September 2020

### **Contact for Further Information:**

If you would like further information, please contact:-

Rhonda Leith, Community Engagement Manager, South Lanarkshire Council

Phone: 01698 455783

Email: [rhonda.leith@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:rhonda.leith@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)

## Community Planning Partnership Risk Register

<b>Risk Number</b>	CPP/2018/001				
<b>Key Risk:</b>	Failure to achieve the outcomes of the Community Plan 2017-2027				
<b>Risk description</b>	<b>Root cause</b>	The partnership fails to achieve the Community Planning outcomes as expressed in the Community Plan			
	<b>Trigger</b>	Due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partners financial and budgetary pressures and constraints</li> <li>• Partners ineffective co-ordination of resources</li> <li>• Increased service demand/expectations from individuals and communities</li> <li>• Lack of joined up working between partners</li> <li>• Lack of a clear and evidence-based understanding of local needs, circumstances and opportunities</li> </ul>			
	<b>Impact</b>	This could lead to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reputational and credibility damage to the partners</li> <li>• Impact on individuals and communities as outcomes (poverty and equality) not realised</li> <li>• Political impacts</li> <li>• Unsuccessful future partnership working</li> <li>• Failure of the partnership to meet the requirements of the Community Empowerment Act</li> </ul>			
<b>Classification</b>	Planning and implementing priorities and actions				
<b>Inherent impact:</b>	4	<b>Inherent likelihood:</b>	5	<b>Inherent risk score:</b>	20
<b>Control Measures:</b>					
<b>1</b>	Early intervention/prevention approaches				
<b>2</b>	The Partners have signed up to the Community Plan 2017-2027				
<b>3</b>	Partnership Improvement Plans at thematic levels				
<b>4</b>	Individual partner targets, monitoring and reporting				
<b>5</b>	Performance management reporting process				
<b>6</b>	Consultation mechanisms				
<b>7</b>	Management of expectations, e.g. public information				
<b>8</b>	Decommissioning				
<b>9</b>	Community Planning Partnership budget				
<b>10</b>	Annual performance reporting (published report)				
<b>11</b>	Strategic needs analysis				
<b>12</b>	Scrutiny at Thematic Board/CPP Board level				
<b>13</b>	Use of IMPROVe to track performance (interventions and statistical)				
<b>14</b>	Joint Problem Solving Groups - Community Safety Partnership				
<b>15</b>	Community Planning Progress Group				
<b>16</b>	CPP maximise use of community assets				
<b>17</b>	Community Planning Conference				
<b>18</b>	Dedicated temporary Partnership Community Officer post agreed				
<b>19</b>	Community Plan actions mapped to National Performance Framework Outcomes				
<b>Assessment:</b>	Peer/Adequate/Good				
<b>Treatment</b>	Transfer/Reject/Accept/Mitigate				
<b>Residual impact:</b>	4	<b>Residual likelihood:</b>	2	<b>Residual risk score:</b>	8

<b>Risk Number</b>		CPP/2018/002			
<b>Key Risk:</b>		Ineffective engagement with communities			
<b>Risk description</b>	<b>Root cause</b>	The CPP fail to engage effectively with communities (as required in the Community Empowerment Act) in the planning, design and delivery of improved outcomes and inequalities			
	<b>Trigger</b>	As the CPP does not have the appropriate structures, resources and processes in place to enable full and active participation with communities.			
	<b>Impact</b>	This could: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Affect the ability of the CPP to deliver outcomes in the Community Plan</li> <li>• Harm the reputation of the partners</li> <li>• Attract political involvement</li> <li>• Lead to the CPP failing to meet legislative requirements of the Community Empowerment Act</li> </ul>			
<b>Classification</b>		Community participation			
<b>Inherent impact:</b>	4	<b>Inherent likelihood:</b>	5	<b>Inherent risk score:</b>	20
<b>Control Measures:</b>					
1	Community Engagement Framework				
2	Partnership Community Engagement Co-Ordination Group				
3	Community Planning Progress Group				
4	Participation requests				
5	Neighbourhood planning approach				
6	Improved engagement with elected members, local MP/MSPs				
7	Participatory Budgeting activity				
8	The CPP maximises the use of community assets				
9	Community Planning Partnership Website				
10	Community Planning Conference				
11	Community Planning engagement activity				
<b>Assessment:</b>		Peer/Adequate/Good			
<b>Treatment</b>		Transfer/Reject/Accept/Mitigate			
<b>Residual impact:</b>	2	<b>Residual likelihood:</b>	2	<b>Residual risk score:</b>	4

<b>Risk Number</b>		CPP/2018/003			
<b>Key Risk:</b>		Failure to meet sustainable development principles			
<b>Risk description</b>	<b>Root cause</b>	The partnership does not deliver its outcomes in a way which is consistent with the principles of sustainable development			
	<b>Trigger</b>	Due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• conflicting partner priorities</li> <li>• lack of resources and funding</li> <li>• lack of awareness of sustainable development amongst partners</li> </ul>			
	<b>Impact</b>	This could lead to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• environmental impacts</li> <li>• political involvement</li> <li>• reputational damage</li> <li>• financial impacts to individual partners</li> </ul>			
<b>Classification</b>		Performance management and reporting			
<b>Inherent impact:</b>	4	<b>Inherent likelihood:</b>	3	<b>Inherent risk score:</b>	12
<b>Control Measures:</b>					
1	Sustainability partnership				
2	Sustainability embedded within the Community Plan				
3	Community Empowerment Act – Provision of allotments				
4	Each individual partner has sustainability targets and controls				
5	The Board are presented with the State of South Lanarkshire's Environment report every 2 years				
6	Partnership food strategy being developed				
7	Community Plan themes aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals				
<b>Assessment:</b>		<del>Poor</del> /Adequate/ <del>Good</del>			
<b>Treatment</b>		<del>Transfer/Reject</del> /Accept/Mitigate			
<b>Residual impact:</b>	2	<b>Residual likelihood:</b>	2	<b>Residual risk score:</b>	4

<b>Risk Number</b>		CPP/2018/004			
<b>Key Risk:</b>		Differing partner priorities			
<b>Risk description</b>	<b>Root cause</b>	There is a lack of shared commitment to CPP objectives and delivery of outcomes			
	<b>Trigger</b>	As a result of differing partner priorities, which could be caused by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial pressures and constraints</li> <li>• Lack of resources</li> <li>• Lack of communication between partners</li> <li>• Varying national pressures on partners from government and other agencies</li> <li>• Lack of clear plans</li> <li>• Partners Service and Business Plans not containing relevant links to the Community Plan</li> </ul>			
	<b>Impact</b>	This could lead to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Being unable to deliver the outcomes in the Community Plan/Neighbourhood Plans</li> <li>• Reputational and credibility damage to the partners</li> <li>• Impact on individuals and communities as outcomes (poverty and equality) not realised</li> <li>• Political involvement</li> <li>• Unsuccessful future partnership working</li> <li>• Failure of the partnership to meet the requirements of the Community Empowerment Act</li> </ul>			
<b>Classification</b>		Leadership			
<b>Inherent impact:</b>	4	<b>Inherent likelihood:</b>	5	<b>Inherent risk score:</b>	20
<b>Control Measures:</b>					
1	Partners signed up to the Community Plan 2017-2027				
2	Thematic Partnership Improvement Plans				
3	The CPP Board has a strategic overview				
4	Community Planning Progress Group				
5	Thematic Boards in place for the 4 key disciplines				
6	Exercise undertaken to ensure partners service and business plans are aligned to the objectives and outcomes of the Community Plan				
<b>Assessment:</b>		Peer/Adequate/Good			
<b>Treatment</b>		Transfer/Reject/Accept/Mitigate			
<b>Residual impact:</b>	2	<b>Residual likelihood:</b>	2	<b>Residual risk score:</b>	4

<b>Risk Number</b>		CPP/2018/006			
<b>Key Risk:</b>		Failure to share data/information between partners to deliver the outcomes of the Community Plan			
<b>Risk description</b>	<b>Root cause</b>	Partners are unable/do not share service and client/named person information			
	<b>Trigger</b>	Due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>legislative requirements e.g. General Data Protection Regulations;</li> <li>IT system capabilities</li> </ul>			
	<b>Impact</b>	Which could: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>reduce the Partnership's ability to jointly review and improve services</li> <li>result in a lack of a joined up approach amongst partners</li> <li>impact services and outcomes for individuals, e.g. vulnerable persons</li> </ul>			
<b>Classification</b>		Performance management and reporting			
<b>Inherent impact:</b>	4	<b>Inherent likelihood:</b>	4	<b>Inherent risk score:</b>	16
<b>Control Measures:</b>					
1	Information shared at Thematic Board level				
2	It is within the remit of the Community Planning Board to develop information sharing amongst partners (systems and individuals)				
3	Ad-hoc data sharing agreements already in place throughout the CPP				
4	Lanarkshire Data Sharing Partnership				
<b>Assessment:</b>		Peer/Adequate/Good			
<b>Treatment</b>		Transfer/Reject/Accept/Mitigate			
<b>Residual impact:</b>	2	<b>Residual likelihood:</b>	3	<b>Residual risk score:</b>	6

<b>Risk Number</b>		CPP/2018/008			
<b>Key Risk:</b>		Failure to have the appropriate structures in place to deliver the outcomes of the Community Plan and Neighbourhood Plans efficiently and effectively			
<b>Risk description</b>	<b>Root cause</b>	There is the risk that structures are not aligned to the priorities outlined in the Community Plan and Neighbourhood Plans and the requirements of the Community Empowerment Act.			
	<b>Trigger</b>	Structures do not fully address the requirements of the Community Empowerment Act.			
	<b>Impact</b>	This could result in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the failure to deliver the Community Plan</li> <li>• a failure to comply with legislation</li> <li>• adverse impact on individuals and communities</li> <li>• damage to the reputation and credibility of the partners</li> </ul>			
<b>Classification</b>		Leadership			
<b>Inherent impact:</b>	4	<b>Inherent likelihood:</b>	4	<b>Inherent risk score:</b>	16
<b>Control Measures:</b>					
1	CPP Board				
2	The Community Plan sets out the strategic direction				
3	Thematic Partnership Improvement Plans				
4	Thematic Groups				
5	Neighbourhood Planning Groups				
6	Neighbourhood Plans				
<b>Assessment:</b>		Peer/Adequate/Good			
<b>Treatment</b>		Transfer/Reject/Accept/Mitigate			
<b>Residual impact:</b>	3	<b>Residual likelihood:</b>	3	<b>Residual risk score:</b>	9

<b>Risk Number</b>		CPP/2020/001			
<b>Key Risk:</b>		The UK leaving the EU could adversely impact on partner organisations delivery of the Community Plan and those who depend on the services provided.			
<b>Risk description</b>	<b>Root cause</b>	<p>At the European Referendum that took place on 23 June 2016, the people of the UK voted to leave the European Union (EU) and Government triggered Article 50 of the EU's Lisbon Treaty to commence the process of leaving the EU. The UK left the European Union political structure on 31 January 2020 and entered a transition period that is due to run until the end of the year.</p> <p>Negotiations have been ongoing between the EU and the UK Government since June 2017 to agree the process and principles for the UK leaving the EU. Should these negotiations cease or fail to conclude agreement before October 2020 there remains the risk of a "no-deal Brexit".</p> <p>If a deal is not agreed, there could be significant impacts on the Community Planning Partners which would require to be managed effectively. Areas could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Procurement and Trade <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Costs of goods and services</li> <li>○ Supply chain issues</li> <li>○ Availability of goods and medicines</li> <li>○ Currency/exchange rate fluctuations</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Finance and Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Loss of EU funding</li> <li>○ Difficulties accessing alternative funding streams</li> <li>○ Inflation on goods</li> <li>○ Trade tariffs</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Local communities and economies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Lack of planning/engagement by public sector organisations</li> <li>○ Employment opportunities</li> <li>○ Reduced growth investment</li> <li>○ Financial pressures on individuals/families</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Workforce <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Loss of the available workforce</li> <li>○ Skills shortages</li> <li>○ Loss of experience</li> <li>○ Settlement Scheme Application Process</li> <li>○ Recruitment difficulties</li> </ul> </li> </ul>			
	<b>Trigger</b>				
	<b>Impact</b>				
<b>Classification</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operational, continuity and performance</li> <li>• Financial</li> </ul>			
<b>Inherent impact:</b>	4	<b>Inherent likelihood:</b>	5	<b>Inherent risk score:</b>	20
<b>Control Measures:</b>					
1	Procurement and trade <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engagement with suppliers</li> <li>• Identification of alternative/replacement products</li> <li>• Contingency Plans</li> <li>• Regional Resilience Planning</li> </ul>				
2	Finance and funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Existing EU projects – funding guaranteed by HM Treasury</li> <li>• Monitoring of contract costs</li> <li>• Budget/Financial planning processes</li> </ul>				
3	Local communities and economies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partners represented at Scottish Government Resilience Room Meetings, Lanarkshire Local Resilience Partnership, Regional Resilience Partnership and Scottish Resilience Partnership</li> <li>• Contingency plans</li> <li>• Annual reviews of the Community Plan/Quarterly reviews at Thematic Board Level</li> </ul>				

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Councils able to assist at a local level</li> <li>• Support and guidance to businesses located within South Lanarkshire to help them to prepare</li> </ul>				
<b>4</b>	Workforce <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication with staff</li> <li>• Employee support teams</li> <li>• Work undertaken to identify numbers of EU Nationals</li> <li>• Citizens Advice Bureau funding and legal helpline to assist EU Nationals</li> </ul>				
<b>Assessment:</b>	<del>Poor/Adequate/Good</del>				
<b>Treatment</b>	<del>Transfer/Reject/Accept/Mitigate</del>				
<b>Residual impact:</b>	4	<b>Residual likelihood:</b>	5	<b>Residual risk score:</b>	20

## Risk scoring matrix, likelihood and impact definitions

## Likelihood

Score	1	2	3	4	5
<b>Description</b>	Rare	Unlikely	Possible	Likely	Almost certain
<b>Likelihood of occurrence</b>	1 in 10 years	1 in 3 years	1 in 2 years	Annually	Monthly
<b>Probability of occurrence</b>	The event may occur in certain circumstances	The event could occur	The event may occur	The event will probably occur	The event is expected to occur or occurs regularly

## Impact

	Reputation	Financial	Service delivery/ Time to recover	Compliance	Safety
<b>1 Negligible</b>	Public concern restricted to local complaints	<£50,000 per annum	No impact to service quality; limited disruption to operations.	No external interest	Minor injury – no lost time
<b>2 Minor</b>	Minor adverse local/public/media attention and complaints	£50,000-£250,000 per annum	Minor impact to service quality; minor service standards are not met; short term	Very minor attention from legislative/regulatory body	Minor injury – resulting in lost time
<b>3 Moderate</b>	Adverse national media Public attention	£250,000 to £500,000 per annum	Significant fall in service quality; major partnership relationships strained; serious disruption in service standards	Short-term attention from legislative/regulatory body	Major injury or ill health resulting in lost time
<b>4 Major</b>	Serious negative national or regional criticism	£500,000 to £1million per annum	Major impact to service delivery; multiple service standards are not met; long term disruption to operations; multiple partnerships affected	Medium-term attention from legislative/regulatory body	Fatality; Or injuries to several people
<b>5 Catastrophic</b>	Prolonged international, regional and national condemnation	>£1million per annum	Catastrophic fail in service quality and key service standards are not met; long term catastrophic interruption to operations; several major partnerships are affected	National impact with rapid intervention of legislative/regulatory body	Multiple fatalities; Or injuries to large number of people

The assessments for impact and likelihood combine to provide an overall inherent risk score on the scale of between 1 and 25, using the Council's recognised risk matrix.

<b>Likelihood</b>	<b>5</b> Almost Certain	5	10	15	20	25
	<b>4</b> Likely	4	8	12	16	20
	<b>3</b> Possible	3	6	9	12	15
	<b>2</b> Unlikely	2	4	6	8	10
	<b>1</b> Rare	1	2	3	4	5
		<b>1</b> Negligible	<b>2</b> Minor	<b>3</b> Moderate	<b>4</b> Major	<b>5</b> Catastrophic
		<b>Impact</b>				

The risk score is calculated as follows:

**Likelihood score x Impact score = Risk Score**

## CPP COVID-19 Risk

<b>Risk Number</b>	CPP/2020/002	
<b>Key Risk:</b>	<b>COVID-19 Pandemic</b> Partners are required to redirect their resources to respond to and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. This may result in less support being available to those who are experiencing disadvantage or poverty. This could also lead to the partnership not being able to deliver outcomes within the Community Plan.	
<b>Risk description</b>	<b>Root cause</b>	The partnership does not have sufficient or appropriate services/plans in place to help those in poverty or who experience deprivation/inequality to recover from the pandemic.
	<b>Trigger</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scale of the impact of Covid-19 on those in poverty/experience deprivation/ inequality</li> <li>• Lack of robust recovery support plans (collaboration – overall CPP recovery plan)</li> <li>• Lack of appropriate services to meet new challenges</li> <li>• Existing mental health challenges</li> </ul>
	<b>Impact</b>	<b>Community Plan Theme/Impacts</b>  <b>Effect on inclusive growth</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in the number of businesses failing as a result of lockdown measures</li> <li>• Economic impacts on local communities</li> <li>• Reduced transport provision as a result of physical distancing measures</li> <li>• Reduced transport provision (impact on relatively remote communities and communities with low car ownership (primarily due to cost of car ownership); equalities; access to jobs, education, healthcare and food and other retail might be compromised both at present and potentially in the future)</li> <li>• Increased levels of job-related training and re-skilling due to unemployment</li> <li>• Disruption to supply chains and business continuity</li> </ul> <b>Effect on financial inclusion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased food insecurity</li> <li>• Increasing levels of welfare advice required</li> <li>• Increasing financial hardship and inability to make regular payments for rent, heating, etc.</li> <li>• Inability to plan due to uncertain future income</li> </ul> <b>Effect on supporting parental employment and childcare</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional childcare pressures as a result of the closure of schools due to lockdown measures including the impact on ability to work/access employment opportunities/education and training opportunities due to reduced childcare (re-opening of childcare)</li> <li>• Furloughing of employees (currently reducing 100% ends July)</li> <li>• Home working policies (in the longer term)</li> <li>• Increased unemployment due to failing businesses</li> <li>• Increasing levels of employability advice required</li> <li>• Increasing levels of in-work poverty due to the reduction in hours/childcare issues</li> </ul> <b>Effect on improving housing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased levels of homelessness</li> <li>• Increased fuel poverty</li> </ul> <b>Effect on Education, Skills and Development</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in the poverty related attainment gap</li> <li>• Reduction in training/FE/employment opportunities for young adults (school leavers) and adults/parents/carers looking to improve employment situation (confusion re future job market post COVID)</li> <li>• Impact on Modern Apprenticeships (challenges regarding work placements in the short term)</li> </ul>

		<p><b>Effect on Health Inequalities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased mental health and emotional wellbeing issues</li> <li>• Increased impact of loneliness and social isolation on health</li> <li>• Closure of public facilities such as leisure services</li> <li>• One third of third sector will no longer provide services</li> <li>• Increased numbers of people stopping smoking; cycling and walking (impact of increased car commuting/weather)</li> <li>• Increased risk on the BAME community</li> <li>• Widening of health inequalities between the least deprived and the most deprived</li> <li>• Increased impact of poverty on health and wellbeing</li> </ul> <p><b>Effect on safeguarding from risk and harm</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in the number of incidents of domestic abuse</li> <li>• Less visibility of child protection issues and risks go unnoticed</li> <li>• Less visibility of child and adult protection issues and risks go unnoticed</li> <li>• Increase in the use of alcohol and drugs increasing risks</li> </ul> <p><b>Impact on improving the environment and communities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in public disorder – Police resources deployed in other areas</li> <li>• Digitally excluded unable to access online services and information</li> <li>• Increase in the number of Anti-Social Behaviour incidents – (Police Scotland, SFRS and SLC)</li> <li>• Increase in volunteering which we know has a positive impact on health and wellbeing</li> <li>• People feeling reconnected with their families</li> <li>• Increased sense of community and helping neighbours</li> <li>• People recognising problems as their own and seeking help to improve their life</li> <li>• Increased emissions due to switch from public to private transport</li> <li>• Partnership staff need appropriate training in emergency response skills</li> </ul>			
	<b>Classification</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operational and performance</li> <li>• Reputational</li> <li>• People</li> <li>• Financial</li> </ul>			
<b>Inherent impact:</b>	5	<b>Inherent likelihood:</b>	5	<b>Inherent risk score:</b>	25
<b>Existing Control Measures:</b>					
1	Test and Protect measures in place and individuals and families being supported through the Wellbeing Helpline. Implementation of the National Health Protection and Social Distancing guidance.				
2	CPP Board meetings				
3	Monitoring of national guidance – Government/Scottish Government				
4	Third sector and community response network (volunteers support and capacity building)				
5	Community Plan focus on tackling poverty, inequalities and deprivation				
6	Scottish Welfare Fund/Money Advice Services				
7	Free school meal payments				
8	Scottish Government food fund supporting emergency food provision				
9	Mental Health and Wellbeing supports				
10	Connected Scotland project				
11	A number of partnership plans are in place including Rapid Re-housing Transition Plan (RRTP); Children's Services Plan; and Child Poverty Plan.				
12	Recovery plans are in place				
13	Monitoring the cumulative impacts of concurrent risks such as Brexit, Pandemics				
14	Local Resilience Partnership (LRP)				
15	Green space investment				
16	Partnership Response to Redundancies				
17	Extend partnership involvement (Money Matters/Advice Services)				

<b>Assessment of effectiveness of existing control measures:</b>	Poor/Adequate/Good			
<b>Risk treatment</b>	Transfer/Reject/Accept/Mitigate			
<b>Residual impact:</b>	4	<b>Residual likelihood:</b>	5	<b>Residual risk score:</b> 20
<b>Residual Risk Score Rationale</b>	Despite robust resilience arrangements and numerous controls having being implemented to manage the impacts of the pandemic, the nature, scale and prolonged period of the issues arising from COVID-19 and its potential impacts present unprecedented challenges to the partnership, most of which are outwith the partnership's control.			
<b>Action Plan (Additional control measures required to mitigate the risk)</b>				
<b>No.</b>	<b>Action:</b>	<b>Responsible person:</b>		<b>Target completion date:</b>
1	Discuss the potential reach of CPP partners' communications and whether/how they could provide additional support to further strengthen COVID communications.	NHSL Communication Team and Partnership Communications Network		31/12/20
2	Lived Experience funding for 2020-21 should be used to capture the experiences of individuals and families during the pandemic to better inform recovery and renewal actions	CPP Board		31/12/20
3	Present the plans for economic recovery and renewal to the Board.	Lanarkshire Economic Forum		31/12/20
4	Work with Public Health Scotland to develop a proposal for the Board on actions for recovery and renewal that they will support.	Community Planning Team		31/12/20
5	Undertake work to have conversations with communities to better understand what their issues are relating to recovery and renewal and agree the actions that should be taken.	New Community Participation and Engagement Group		31/12/20
6	Community led planning work should be further developed to encompass community resilience planning including plans for food security.	New Community Participation and Engagement Group		31/03/21
7	Work should be undertaken by the partnership to revise existing plans to take account of the impact of the pandemic particularly on those who already experience poverty/inequalities	Thematic Groups		31/03/21
8	Consider the digital inequalities highlighted as a result of the pandemic, review their current action plan and identify partnership priorities for implementation.	Digital Inclusion Group		31/03/21
9	Develop a partnership volunteering strategy and invest in volunteer training to ensure a good experience for those volunteering with partners.	All partners, VASlan lead		31/03/21
10	Increase the number of accredited volunteer organisations and recognise and support these across the partnership.	All partners, VASlan lead		31/03/21
11	Partners are asked to continue to support the actions contained in key NHS Lanarkshire and Health and Social Care Partnership Strategies.	All partners		31/03/21

Community Planning Partnership – Risk Control Plan

Status update key:



Not started



Complete



On target



Minor slippage



Major slippage/Failed to meet target

Key Risk	Action	Responsible person	Target completion date	Status update	Comments
Failure to achieve the outcomes of the Community Plan 2017-2027	Review of CPP Structures	Community Engagement Manager	31/03/21		At the meeting on 9 September 2020, the Board agreed the proposals for the interim and final structures for the CPP. It was agreed that the interim structures should be in place by December 2020 with the final structure being agreed after the Community Plan priorities have been updated with the target for completion being June 2021. These actions have been remitted to the Community Planning Progress Group for implementation.
	Review of governance and accountability arrangements	Community Engagement Manager	31/03/21		At the meeting on 9 September 2020, the Board agreed a number of actions relating to the CPP's governance and accountability arrangements. These actions have been remitted to the Community Planning Progress Group for implementation
	SLC Public Relations team to update the CPP communications plan for 2020-21 with input from the CPP Board and implement throughout the year with support from partner communications teams.	Head of Corporate Communications, South Lanarkshire Council	31/03/21		Work is ongoing to review the feedback from the first community conversations that have taken place and an update will be provided to the Board at the meeting on 21 October 2020. The partnership's Community Development Officer has now started and taking the Communication Plan forward will be a key part of his role.
Ineffective engagement with communities	CPP Participation and Engagement Strategy to be developed	Community Engagement Manager	30/06/20		This action is now complete. The year one actions have been remitted to the Community Planning Progress Group for implementation.
	Review CPP participation and engagement structures and update the Community Engagement Framework	Community Engagement Manager	31/03/21		At the meeting on 9 September 2020, the board agreed the proposals to implement a new participation and engagement structure. The target for the new group to be established is the 31 December 2020. This group will consider the current Community Engagement Framework and how work relating to it should proceed.

Key Risk	Action	Responsible person	Target completion date	Status update	Comments
	Co-produce and publish the first Neighbourhood Planning Annual Reports for the three pilot areas	Community Engagement Manager	30/09/20		The first Neighbourhood Planning Annual reports were considered by the Board on 9 September 2020 and were published by the statutory timescale of 30 September 2020.
	Co-produce and publish Neighbourhood Plans for the priority areas of Fairhill, Hamilton; Burnhill, Rutherglen; and Halfway, Westburn; and the Circuit, Cambuslang	Community Engagement Manager	30/04/20		The Board considered the Burnhill and Cambuslang East plans on 9 September 2020 and these have now been distributed to the community. The Fairhill community are currently finalising the content and design of their plan.
	Establish a structure to deliver local community participation and capacity building	Community Engagement Manager	31/03/21		At the meeting on 9 September 2020, the Board agreed to the establishment of a partnership structure to deliver local community participation and capacity building. This action has been remitted to the Community Planning Progress Group for implementation.
	Establish a structure to align the Board with Neighbourhood Planning activity in priority areas	Community Engagement Manager	31/03/21		At the meeting on 9 September 2020, the Board agreed the proposals for the interim and final structures for the CPP. It was agreed that the interim structures should be in place by December 2020 with the final structure being agreed after the Community Plan priorities have been updated with the target for completion being June 2021. These actions have been remitted to the Community Planning Progress Group for implementation.
	Review Community Planning website	Community Planning and Governance Adviser	31/03/21		Early discussions have taken place with South Lanarkshire Council's digital team and there are plans to move the website from its current external supplier on to the council's platform so that it is easier to maintain. Nominations have been sought from across the partnership through the Progress Group to participate in the review group and a schedule of meetings are in place.
Differing partner priorities	Develop a process to ensure that the Board has clearer oversight of the resourcing of community planning initiatives (resource pooling is a requirement of the Community Empowerment Act – extract from SLC BVAR report April 2019)	Community Engagement Manager	30/9/21		This action is on hold and pending completion of the review of structures. As the review of structures will go on beyond the original target date of 31 March 2021, the target date has been revised and is now 30 September 2021.
			58		

Key Risk	Action	Responsible person	Target completion date	Status update	Comments
Failure to have the appropriate structures in place to deliver the outcomes of the Community Plan and Neighbourhood Plans efficiently and effectively	Review membership of CPP Board to ensure that it is inclusive and representative of all partners	Community Engagement Manager	31/03/20		At the meeting on 9 September 2020, the Board agreed the proposals for a set number of places to be allocated to each partner. It was also agreed that NHS Lanarkshire and South Lanarkshire Council also review their current membership and report back to the Board.
	Establish a structure to align the Board with Neighbourhood Planning activity in priority areas	Community Engagement Manager	31/03/21		At the meeting on 9 September 2020, the Board agreed the proposals for the interim and final structures for the CPP. It was agreed that the interim structures should be in place by December 2020 with the final structure being agreed after the Community Plan priorities have been updated with the target for completion being June 2021. These actions have been remitted to the Community Planning Progress Group for implementation.
	Establish a structure to deliver local community participation and capacity building	Community Engagement Manager	31/03/21		At the meeting on 9 September 2020, the Board agreed to the establishment of a partnership structure to deliver local community participation and capacity building. This action has been remitted to the Community Planning Progress Group for implementation.



# Report

Report to:	<b>Community Planning Partnership Board</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>21 October 2020</b>
Report by:	<b>Director, Health and Social Care South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership Executive Director (Education Resources) South Lanarkshire Council</b>

Subject:	<b>Children in Need of Care and Protection - Inspection Improvement Action Plan</b>
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## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ provide the Partnership Board with the Improvement Action Plan following the Joint Inspection of Services for Children in Need of Care and Protection in South Lanarkshire

## 2. Recommendation(s)

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

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

## 3. Background

- 3.1. The Community Planning Partnership (CPP) was provided with an update report on the outcome of the Joint Inspection of Services for Children in Need of Care and Protection in South Lanarkshire at its meeting on 1 July 2020.
- 3.2. The report provided a context to the Care Inspectorate methodology and the process of inspection undertaken in South Lanarkshire.
- 3.3. The Partnership provided the Care Inspectorate with a position statement in the form of a Joint Self Evaluation.
- 3.4. The Care Inspectorate subsequently looked to validate the Joint Self Evaluation through case file reading, engagement with children, young people, parents and carers, focus groups with front line staff, front line managers, strategic groups and Elected Members.
- 3.5. The Care Inspectorate subsequently published the Inspection Report on 16 June 2020, following a short delay in light of the priorities surrounding the COVID-19 Pandemic. The report can be accessed [here](#).

### Summary of Evaluations:-

How good is our leadership?	Good
How well do we meet the needs of our stakeholders	Good
Impact on children and young people	Adequate
Improvements in the safety, wellbeing and life chances of vulnerable children and young people	Adequate

3.6. Whilst the Care Inspectorate recognised a lot of good work that is being done in South Lanarkshire to address the adequate evaluations, which predominately relate to our Corporate Parenting agenda, it was too early to evidence the impact of this at the time of the inspection.

3.7. Notwithstanding evidencing of impact, the Care Inspectorate is confident of the Children's Services Partnership's capacity for improvement based on:-

- ◆ a strong commitment to collaborative working and improvement;
- ◆ the support and confidence demonstrated in senior leaders by staff across all sectors;
- ◆ the Partnership's own joint self-evaluation which identified many of the strengths and areas for development highlighted in this report; and
- ◆ positive discussions in Partnership meetings held during the course of this inspection which demonstrated a clear commitment to improvement and learning.

### 3.8. Inspection Action Plan

3.8.1. An integral part of any inspection undertaken is the development of an Improvement Action Plan based on the Care Inspectorate's findings.

3.9. The Children's Services Partnership has engaged with our Link Inspector to ensure the development of the Inspection Action Plan addresses the pertinent areas identified within the Inspection Report.

3.10. Appendix 1 provides the Board with the agreed final version of the Improvement Action Plan. There are 5 themes:-

- ◆ Corporate Parenting arrangements;
- ◆ Care leavers transitions;
- ◆ Outcome data;
- ◆ Views of children, young people and their families; and
- ◆ Kinship Care.

3.10.1. Each theme has a number of actions and associated measures to track progress. The actions within the plan will be linked back to existing strategic plans and incorporated into new ones to ensure there is clear governance and reporting.

3.10.2. The Corporate Parenting Group, Children Services Continuous Improvement Group and the Children's Services Strategy Group will take ownership of the themes identified in the Action Plan and report on progress.

### 4. Employee Implications

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

## **5. Financial Implications**

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

## **6. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Agreements**

6.1. There is no requirement to undertake an equality impact assessment regarding the content of this report.

6.2. As identified above, there has been extensive engagement with staff, children and young people their families and carers as part of this inspection process.

## **7. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implication**

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

## **7. Other Implications**

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

7.2. It is important that there is clear governance and accountability by retaining oversight of the Inspection Action Plan. Risks with drift can be quickly addressed through the Children's Services Strategy Group and Getting it Right for South Lanarkshire's Children's Board which will provide period updates to the Board.

**Val de Souza**

**Director, Health and Social Care**

**South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership**

**Tony McDaid**

**Executive Director (Education Resources)**

**South Lanarkshire Council**

24 September 2020

### **Contact for Further Information**

If you would like further information, please contact:-

Arun Singh, Service Manager (Children and Justice), South Lanarkshire Council

Phone: 01698 453764

Email: [arun.singh@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:arun.singh@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)



**Children in Need of Care and Protection Inspection – Priority Areas  
Remitted Areas for Improvement  
(Updated – October 2020)**

<b>SMART Planning</b>	<p><b><u>SPECIFIC;</u></b> What are we trying to achieve?</p> <p>Why is this important?</p> <p>How is this to be accomplished?</p> <p>Who needs to be included?</p>	<p><b><u>MEASURABLE;</u></b> How will we know a change has occurred or when have achieved our goal?</p> <p>How will we measure our progress for example, by how much or how many?</p> <p>Can these measurements be consistently obtained?</p>	<p><b><u>ACHIEVABLE;</u></b> Do we have the resources and agreement to achieve this goal or can we obtain them?</p>	<p><b><u>RELEVANT;</u></b> Is this goal a priority for us?</p> <p>How does it fit with our overall aims?</p>	<p><b><u>TIME BOUND;</u></b> What is the deadline for achieving this goal?</p> <p>Is this timescale achievable?</p> <p>Are there milestones that should also be set?</p>
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<b>1.</b>	<b>Corporate parenting arrangements were not robust enough to support improvements in outcomes for all looked after children and young people and, although developments to drive change were now in place, the pace of change had been slow.</b>						
	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Measurement</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Thematic Governance Group</b>	<b>Links to Strategic Plan(s)</b>	<b>RAG( Red, Amber, Green) Status</b>
1.1	Review and revise arrangements for Corporate Parenting governance structure to take forward the overarching priority areas for improvement contained within existing strategy – locating the Champions Board within the wider governance and strategy to ensure Leaders have greater oversight.	<p>1. 3 key strategic subgroups to take forward improvements established</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation strategic subgroup</li> <li>• Throughcare &amp; Aftercare strategic subgroup</li> <li>• Redesign services for looked after children</li> </ul>	September 2020	Aine McCrea	Corporate Parenting Sub Group	Corporate Parenting Action Plan	All three groups now in place and functioning

		2. Champions Board embedded within the wider Corporate Parenting governance structure.	October 2020				Champions board in place – launched December 2019
		3. Executive Corporate Parenting Board established with Leaders as members	December 2020				In development and on target for December 2020
<b>2.</b>	<b>Care leavers were not always being supported to transition successfully into adulthood. There was a lack of systematic approached to monitoring the health and wider wellbeing needs of looked after young people who had left school and care leavers.</b>						
	<b>Action</b>	<b>Measurement</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Thematic Governance Group</b>	<b>Links to Strategic Plan(s)</b>	<b>RAG( Red, Amber, Green) Status</b>
2.1	Through Care, Continuing Care and Aftercare strategic subgroup to be established as key improvement area under the revised Corporate Parenting governance structures under 4 themes:  1. Assessment Planning and Review	100% of young people eligible and in receipt of Through care have a pathway plan in place	December 2020	Aine McCrea	Corporate Parenting Sub Group	Corporate Parenting Action Plan	Group established and meeting  Audit pathway plans at Q4
2.2	2. Health and Wellbeing  NHS Lanarkshire to scope service options and funding sources to support care leavers transition into adulthood and to monitor health and well-being needs	Options appraisal paper to be presented to the Corporate Management Team	January 2021	Lesley Thomson			Dates set with Health leads to discuss area of work mid-October - On track

	Support young people to access health and voluntary services including mental health	Reduction of SDQ scores related to emotional and behavioural needs by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5%</li> <li>• 10%</li> </ul>	April 2021 December 2021	Aine McCrae /Lynsey Sutherland			Has been discussed as part of community access framework plans and within the greater Lanarkshire Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy.  Baseline being established from existing data.  Discussion to take place with CAMHS re redeveloped Tier 3 service model -Treatment and Support programmes for young people with substance misuse and mental health issues.
2.3	3. Housing and Accommodation Pathways  Develop a Housing and Accommodation Strategy to offer a wide range of accommodation options for care leavers	Publication of the Housing and Accommodation Strategy and baseline data	April 2021	Aine McCrae	Corporate Parenting Sub Group	Corporate Parenting Action Plan	On track – Throughcare/Aftercare subgroup already established and are looking at all the Housing/accommodation measures
		% reduction in young people engaged in aftercare accessing homeless accommodation	April 2021				On track – Throughcare/Aftercare subgroup already established are looking at all the Housing/accommodation measures
		% sustainment of tenancies over 12 months	December 2020				On track – Throughcare/Aftercare subgroup already established are looking at all the Housing/accommodation measures
2.4	4. Education Employment and Training  Continue to ensure that the multi-agency tracking group supports	% of care experienced young people achieving a positive destination 9 months after leaving school (follow up survey).	August 2021	Aine McCrae	Corporate Parenting Subgroup	Corporate Parenting Action Plan	Best ever positive destination results for care experienced young people 2019/20.  More targeted actions and

	care experienced young people with post school destinations.						measures being developed for the throughcare and aftercare improvement plan.
<b>3.</b>	<b>There was a limited amount of outcomes data which restricted partners' ability to demonstrate the impact services were having on the lives of children and young people</b>						
	<b>Action</b>	<b>Measurement</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Thematic Governance Group</b>	<b>Links to Strategic Plan(s)</b>	<b>RAG( Red, Amber, Green) Status</b>
3.1	<p>Improve the collection of qualitative and quantitative outcomes data that is available to the partnership for analysis to better plan and evaluate the difference children's services are making to the lives of children and young people</p> <p>The Data and Planning Group to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. scope the current available outcome data</li> <li>2. identify gaps in outcome data in services</li> <li>3. produce a reliable tool for the gathering of outcome data</li> </ol>	All thematic sub-groups to develop a minimum of 3 outcome measures to evaluate impact of their intervention.	March 2021	Arun Singh	(Partnership) Continuous Improvement Group	Continuous Improvement Group Action Plan 2020 - 2021	<p>Data and Planning Group meet in October re joint strategic needs assessment – using shared data set for corporate parenting</p> <p>Meetings in place for the development of a data suite for Corporate Parenting</p> <p>Meeting being set up with Subgroup chairs and representatives to identify relevant outcome measures to evaluate the work of the respective groups</p>
3.2	Develop a Children Services Plan based on priorities identified by Joint Needs Assessment and shaped by consultation with children, young people, families and carers	Publication of a Children's Services Plan 2021-2024 (and annual reporting on progress of outcomes)	June 2021	Arun Singh/Kevin Mullarkey	Partnership) Continuous Improvement Group / Children Services Strategy Group	Children Services Plan – Annual Report 2019 - 2020	<p>On track – refocused theme CYP in need of care and protection in the new plan. Will be a clear recognition of 'The Promise' in the new plan with its own distinct section.</p> <p>Timescale for publication now end of March 2021</p>

4.	Staff were not consistently involving or seeking the views of children and young people and their families in care planning and review processes as fully as possible.						
	Action	Measurement	Timescale	Lead Officer	Thematic Governance Group	Links to Strategic Plan(s)	RAG( Red, Amber, Green) Status
4.1	Increase staff understanding of children's rights by using different valid and reliable tools and resources.	% of staffs understanding of children's rights	April 2021	Liam Purdie	Children's Services Strategy Group	Continuous Improvement Group Action Plan 2020 - 2021	<p>We are developing a Children's Rights Handbook for staff to ensure a minimum standard of understanding.</p> <p>Section 4 of the Children's Services Plan (CSP) will be specifically for Children's Rights as per two previous annual reports.</p> <p>Multi agency events with children's rights as a central theme is on agenda. Build on last year's event.</p> <p>We plan to complete a follow up staff survey on children's rights (2018 survey) planned for February 2021. Comparisons to baseline established in 2018.</p>
4.2	Improve care planning and reviewing to evidence the involvement and views of children, young people and families	Development of a Single Integrated Assessment that is user friendly and child centred.	August 2021	Arun Singh / Aine McCrae	SW Resources		On track
		100% of care experienced young people's plan have their views recorded	June 2021	Arun Singh	Continuous Improvement Group		On track – on the next Continuous Group agenda for 27 <sup>th</sup> October 2020
		10% of Child Protection Investigation Reports to be independently audited	September 2020	Caren McLean	Child Protection Committee	Continuous Improvement Group Action Plan 2020 - 2021	Completed – report pending
4.3	Increased use of advocacy by LAAC/LAC and Young People	80% of LAAC/LAC and Young People (Continuing Care and	September 2021	Aine McCrae	Corporate Parenting	Corporate Parenting	On track

	(Continuing Care and Throughcare) by working with WC?S to develop a referral mechanism	Throughcare) children are offered advocacy			Sub Group	Action Plan	
4.4	Explore systems to offer advocacy for children subject to Child Protection	Options Appraisal Paper for Chief Officers Group	December 2020	Liam Purdie	Children's Services Strategy Group		On track
<b>5.</b>	<b>Kinship carers did not always experience consistent levels of support, something which is vital, given the increase in the number of kinship placements to support children and young people</b>						
	<b>Action</b>	<b>Measurement</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Thematic Governance Group</b>	<b>Links to Strategic Plan(s)</b>	<b>RAG( Red, Amber, Green) Status</b>
5.1	To provide a range of supports available to kinship carers on par with those available to foster carers	Publication of a quarterly Kinship Care Newsletter	October 2020	Jan Strain	Corporate Parenting Sub Group	Corporate Parenting Action Plan	Done
		Publication of a Kinship Carers Information Support Pack	November 2020				On track
		Publication of a Kinship Carers Training Calendar	October 2020				On track
5.2	Expand Support Groups for Kinship Carers	Establish a Kinship Carer Support Group in East Kilbride	November 2020	Jan Strain	Corporate Parenting Sub Group	Corporate Parenting Action Plan	On track – groups established in all other localities
		Establish an evening group for working Kinship Carers	May 2021				On track

## Summary

	<b>Priority area for improvement</b>	<b>Date all actions complete</b>
1	Corporate parenting arrangements were not robust enough to support improvements in outcomes for all looked after children and young people and, although developments to drive change were now in place, the pace of change had been slow.	
2	Care leavers were not always being supported to transition successfully into adulthood. There was a lack of systematic approach to monitoring the health and wider wellbeing needs of looked after young people who had left school and care leavers.	

3	There was a limited amount of outcomes data which restricted partners' ability to demonstrate the impact services were having on the lives of children and young people.	
4	Staff were not consistently involving or seeking the views of children and young people and their families in care planning and review processes as fully as possible.	



# Report

8

Report to:	<b>Partnership Board</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>21 October 2020</b>
Report by:	<b>Director, Health and Social Care South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership Executive Director (Education Resources) South Lanarkshire Council</b>

Subject:	<b>Update on Developments around Planning and Governance of the Children's Services Plan</b>
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## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ update the Partnership Board on the plans to transition to a new Statutory Children's Services Plan as per Scottish Government guidance
- ◆ update the Partnership Board on the revised guidance from Scottish Government in light of the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic

## 2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the content of the Children's Services Plan Annual Report 2019/2020 be noted; and
- (2) that the revised timescales to have a new Children's Service Plan in place for April 2021, in line with the Scottish Government guidance be noted.

## 3. Background

3.1. The Children and Young People's (Scotland) Act 2014 and the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 have introduced new requirements for each Community Planning Partnership (CPP) to prepare and publish the following:-

- ◆ a Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) By October 2017
- ◆ a Children's Services Plan (CSP) covering the period April 2017 to March 2020
- ◆ a Children's Rights Report by March 2020

3.2. Our Children's Services partnership is well placed to cope with the above challenges, and we are also committed to continue the implementation of the Getting it Right for Every Child approach across the workforce.

3.3. The production of a Children's Services Plan (CSP) on a 3 year cycle began in April 2017 and this is a statutory requirement under the Act.

3.4. The responsibility for our CSP sits with South Lanarkshire Council (SLC) and NHS Lanarkshire (NHSL) in collaboration with other members of the Community Planning Partnership.

- 3.5. Our current CSP was launched in September 2017 and the final report was due to be published and submitted to the Scottish Government as soon as is practicable after 31 March 2020. With the production of a new CSP for the next 3 years, April 2020 to March 2023.
- 3.6. South Lanarkshire CPP Joint Inspection of Children and Young People in need of Care and Protection, was carried out with the Care Inspectorate between December 2019 and February 2020. In light of this we had negotiated a later publication date for our new CSP to allow us to fully incorporate the learning and areas for action following on from the inspection. This meant we had an extension until June 2020.
- 3.7. With the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Scottish Government issued a communication to say that while the statutory responsibility to have a CSP in place remains, they were prepared to relax some of the key timescales, as follows:-
- ◆ local partnerships can submit, a new plan for 2020 to 2023 if they have one; or
  - ◆ local partnerships can 'roll over' their existing plan for another year;
  - ◆ local partnerships should still publish an annual report, however the timescales for completing those reports and sharing them with the Scottish Government, will be for each partnership to consider in light of local circumstances; and
  - ◆ local partnerships will work to have a new CSP in place for April 2021 (this would cover the period April 2021 to March 2023, that is, a 2 year cycle).
- 3.8. Members of the Children's Services Strategy Group met on 1 May 2020 to discuss these options and proposed the following:-
- to roll over the current CSP (2017 to 2020) for an interim year, to allow the desired level of participation and engagement of all partners (including services users) in a meaningful way and inform the final version of our new CSP, which will run from April 2021; and
  - to produce an annual report to the best of our ability covering the period April 2019 to March 2020, based on the reporting returns provided so far by lead officers. The report to contain a final section highlighting challenges/priorities for the 'interim year, including areas for improvement identified in the recent joint inspection.

#### **4. Progress update**

- 4.1. The thematic sub-groups met during May and June 2020 to take stock and to support the reporting progress for 2019/2020. The sub-groups were also asked to agree a slightly revised set of actions and measures for our interim year 2020/2021.
- 4.2. The reporting updates also informed the Partnership Board's Getting It Right for South Lanarkshire's Children Partnership Improvement Plan (PIP) and South Lanarkshire's Community Plan reporting responsibilities. This evidence has also been used to inform the Local Child Poverty Action Report (LCPAR).
- 4.3. The annual report is attached as Appendix 1 for information. The content is based largely on the Quarter 4 updates and is similar in style to last year, with an updated colour scheme. In section one (Foreword) of the annual report we make explicit our intention to roll over the CSP 2017 to 2020 for an additional year and develop a new CSP on a 2 year cycle under the flexibility provided by the Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020. This intention has also been communicated to the Scottish Government and we are well in-line with the national guidance regarding the 'part three duty'.

- 4.4. The outcome of the recent Joint Inspection of Services for Children in Need of Care and Protection was published in June 2020 and has been reflected in the annual report. The annual report also contains a section on children's rights, continuing our recent commitment to make this explicit within our CSP reporting and meeting our duty under Part One of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.
- 4.5. The annual report also contains information about the Independent Care Review, a root and branch review of Scotland's care system. In South Lanarkshire we are working to shape local practice with service providers, professionals and volunteers involved in the lives of children to implement change. Our progress informed by the Care Review, will be reported to our Champions' Board, which was launched in December 2019 and our intended Corporate Parenting Strategy Board.
- 4.6. In addition to the annual report, a revised 'action plan' has been proposed for this interim year. This is largely based on discussions with the thematic sub-groups and key service leads.
- 4.7. Prior to the impact of the current COVID-19 Pandemic, work to scope out a new CSP for the period 2020 to 2023 had realised about 60% of what was required. This included a draft suite of the latest data from partners (which still requires to be analysed on a multi-agency basis), feedback from our wider children's services workforce gathered at the series of locality events held at the end of last year and responses from an online community consultation which realised 129 returns. This work will provide a strong position to restart the building of the new CSP for April 2021, but will still require a degree of additionality, including refreshed data and further engagement with service users and our workforce.
- 4.8. There remains a commitment to work with children and young people to inform the style of the plan and it is central to our commitment of a co-production approach articulated in our Children's Rights 'Section Four' of the second annual report (2018/2019) that we work with service users to help design the finished product.
- 4.9. A draft timeline for developing the plan is attached as Appendix 2 for information.

## **5. Next Steps**

- 5.1. The annual report will be published and submitted to the Scottish Government at the earliest opportunity under the current legislation.
- 5.2. The revised action plan for the interim year will feature in the work of the sub-groups in terms of monitoring and year end performance reporting. Sub-groups will also contribute towards the Partnerships' Joint Strategic Needs Analysis (JSNA) and in turn the new CSP.
- 5.3. The JSNA should be seen as an essential component in any planning process and will be informed by the work highlighted in points 4.7. and 4.8. above. It is expected to have 4 distinct components: an analysis of essential data available to partners; perceptions of the children's services workforce; the voice of children, young people and families; and a summary of our resource investment.
- 5.4. A CSP 'writing group' is in place to progress the new CSP and co-ordinate activity, which will include analysing the JSNA, carrying out a Children's Rights Impact Assessment associated with the new CSP and building the plan.

## **6. Employee Implications**

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

## **7. Financial Implications**

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

## **8. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implication**

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

## **9. Other Implications**

9.1. There are no risk implications associated with this report.

## **10. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**

10.1. In developing a new CSP from 2021 onwards, an Equality Impact Assessment will be completed along with a Children's Rights Wellbeing Impact Assessment and extensive consultation with stakeholders including staff, service users and the wider community.

## **11. Children's Rights Considerations**

11.1. A Children's Rights Wellbeing Impact Assessment will be completed as part of the work to build the Children's Services Plan 2020 to 2023.

11.2. The work to engage children, young people and families in developing the CSP 2020 to 2023 supports our commitment to the UNCRC and in particular the following Articles:-

- ◆ **Article 12 (respect for the views of the child)** Every child has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters affecting them, and to have their views considered and taken seriously. This right applies at all times, for example, during immigration proceedings, housing decisions or the child's day-to-day home life; and
- ◆ **Article 13 (freedom of expression)** Every child must be free to express their thoughts and opinions and to access all kinds of information, so long as it is within the law.

**Val de Souza**

**Director, Health and Social Care**

**South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership**

**Tony McDaid**

**Executive Director (Education Resources)**

**South Lanarkshire Council**

24 September 2020

### **Contact for Further Information**

If you would like further information, please contact:-

Kevin Mullarkey, Partnership Manager, South Lanarkshire Council

Phone: 01698 452238

Email: [kevin.mullarkey@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:kevin.mullarkey@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)



South Lanarkshire  
**Partnership**  
Stronger together

**Safe Healthy Achieving Nurtured Active**  
**Respected Responsible Included**



**getting  
it right**  
*for every child*  
**in South Lanarkshire**



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## Part two

**Final year priorities 2020-2021**

## 1. Foreword

Welcome to the third annual report for our current children's services plan 2017-2020 – Working Together: Making a Difference. This year's report takes the form of an annual report and not the final report we had intended. This is due to the current Covid19 pandemic which has meant that we have in line with Scottish Government guidance extended our current children's services plan for an additional year instead and will work to develop a new plan, which will begin in April 2021.



The new plan from April 2021 onwards will become a two year plan to provide synergy with the national planning cycle. In taking this approach we are appreciative of the flexibility provided by part 3, paragraph 8 of Schedule 6 of the Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020 ("the 2020 Act". This has enabled us to take advantage of the flexibility provided by that Act to postpone compliance with the children's services plan duties to produce a final report at April 2020 and a new three year plan covering the period April 2020- March 2023.

This report highlights the progress our partnership is making towards our shared vision of ensuring that: *South Lanarkshire's children, young people and families will be safeguarded and supported to reach their full potential and thrive within their communities.*

We highlight some key achievements and identify what we still need to do, to further improve the life chances of our children, young people and families.

Throughout the last year we have maintained our focus on the three themes of:

- Prevention and early support
- Health and wellbeing and
- Supporting vulnerable groups and keeping children safe

These have been the key drivers for our work and in working across these themes we have maximised the strength of our partnership and ensured our continued commitment to get it right for every child, young person and family in South Lanarkshire.

The work covered by our plan makes a valuable contribution towards South Lanarkshire's Community Planning Partnership aim of tackling deprivation, poverty and inequality and the continued challenge of reducing child poverty.

During the last year we engaged with the Care Inspectorate to participate in a joint inspection of services for children and young people in need of care and protection. The inspection identified a number of strengths of the partnership and where we can do even better, further strengthening our approach to continuous improvement.

The inspection was marked by a very high level of engagement and participation by our children, young people and families and the wider children's services partners and I would like to extend my gratitude for your contribution to the inspection process.

A feature of our evolving partnership will be to work with the Scottish Government and national partners to build on our strengths and implement agreed areas for development.

We will restructure our Corporate Parenting partnership arrangements to provide the mandate to key service leads and enable them to make the radical changes required to fulfil the aims of the Independent Care Review.

We await a bill to be put in place to establish children's rights legislation based on the United Nation Convention on Rights of the Child (UNCRC) into Scots law. We support the Scottish Government's strong commitment to get this work fully implemented and will continue our children's rights work, highlighted in Section Four of this report. We are informed by the UNCRC and supporting articles and given the impact of Covid 19, we will be striving to ensure the voices of our children and young people are being heard and acted upon.

Our partnership approach to providing Family Support has been to provide a robust and consistent Parenting Support Pathway with evidenced based programmes and supports.

The key feature of which, is that families know what services are available and how to access support. Prevention and early support are at the heart of our model and built into the programmes offered.

Central to all we do, is ensuring our work is informed by participation activity including engagement work with care experienced young people and work embedded in all our activity to ensure that the voices of our children, young people and families are heard as part of our shared planning processes. December 2019 saw the launch of our Champions Board, which we hope will provide a valuable opportunity for our care experienced young people to share their views and experiences with decision makers and drive improvement.

Over the next year we will continue to put improvement at the centre of our work and maintain a clear focus on the aspects of our work, that we need to improve to ensure best possible outcomes for our children, young people and families. In doing so we will ensure that children's rights impact assessments are carried out for our new Children's Services Plan and other strategic documents such as the refreshed Corporate Parenting Strategy due in 2021 and explore ways to involve children and young people at a structural level.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Liam Purdie". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Liam Purdie

Head of Children and Justice Services



## 2. Our targets and priorities

### Children have the best start in life and are supported to realise their potential.

- Children's exposure to second hand smoke in pregnancy and early childhood is reduced
- The number of children living in low income households is reduced
- Speech, language and communication in early years is improved
- School attendance of children and young people in the most deprived communities is improved
- Attainment of children and young people in the most deprived communities is improved
- Employability of young people within the most deprived communities is improved

### The health and wellbeing of children, young people and families is improved.

- Emotional and behavioural concerns in early years are reduced
- More children and young people are a healthy weight
- Health and wellbeing of care experienced children and young people is improved
- Emotional wellbeing of children and young people is improved
- Substance misuse by young people is reduced
- Teenage pregnancies in under 16s is reduced

### The life chances of our most vulnerable children and young people are improved.

- Employability of care experienced young people is improved
- Attainment for care experienced children and young people is improved
- Attendance at school for care experienced children and young people is improved
- The rate of repeat referrals to the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA) is reduced
- Support to children and families affected by domestic abuse is improved
- Support to children and young people affected by parental substance misuse is improved
- Support to children and young people with additional support needs is improved



### 3. Our plan and its progress

Our third annual report details how we have worked together to improve outcomes for children, young people and their families in South Lanarkshire. It builds a picture of the information we have gathered as we report on the progress towards our stated outcomes.

We continue to embrace the additional scrutiny and duties that come with the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 and we have welcomed the opportunity to engage with our Care Inspectorate colleagues to focus on activity around children and young people in need of care and protection. Our Child Protection Committee and Corporate Parenting partners are working to ensure that the Child Protection and Corporate Parenting agendas are more explicit within our children's service plan activity.

The various areas of Children's Services Plan activity are embedded in the work of our strategic subgroups and other supporting groups and regular monitoring and review is led by those who are closest to the work.

The impact of the Covid-19 crisis has impacted on the governance and formal reporting processes. We have however, revised our governance processes to support production of this report and help the partnership carry out a robust challenge and reflection process in relation to successes and areas for improvement.



**The following section details the work undertaken in relation to each of our priority themes:**



# Prevention and early support

## Vision

Children, young people and families will be safeguarded and supported to reach their full potential and thrive within their communities.

## Outcome 1

Children have the best start in life and are supported to realise their potential



## Indicator 1.1

Exposure to second hand smoke evidenced during the **27-30 month Child Health Review** has reduced from **8.8% in 2018 to 6.2% in 2020.**



Health Visitors have been providing tobacco brief intervention support on smoking and exposure to second-hand smoke to new parents/carers until the six-week visit. In providing this support Health Visitors were able to test a referral pathway which led to a 21% reduction of exposure to second hand smoke for children with parents recorded as smokers. This work has now been rolled out to all the remaining teams with learning sessions planned this year to capture all the workforce. In addition, this work gained recognition in the finals of the Scottish Government National Quality Improvement Awards.

## Indicator 1.2

Percentage of children living in low income households has **increased from our baseline figure in 2014 (18.4%) to the latest figure available 19.3% in 2017.**



The percentage of children living in low income households has increased slightly in South Lanarkshire, which is in line with the national picture, however partners continue to work to mitigate the impact of poverty on our most vulnerable families.

A range of activity to address child poverty is helping to increase income into households with children. The following areas of work highlight those explicit in our plan.

While the award rate of Free School Meals has been the best it has ever been, we measured a slight decrease in the uptake and have established a working group and created an action plan to increase this, particularly in secondary schools. We have increased communication with parents, such as changes to entitlement letters and schools advising parents when a child doesn't use their entitlement. We are also considering innovative ways of providing school lunches e.g. pick up points for young people leaving schools over lunchtime, rolling over the balance of the entitlement, alternative venues of providing free school meals and whether secondary schools should keep children in over the lunch period during the first and second year.

Almost all families benefit from a routine financial wellbeing enquiry by Health Visitors and Family Nurses when their child is aged three months and at the 27/30 months Health Needs Assessment, which is now well embedded in practice. Referrals are sent direct to South Lanarkshire Council's Money Matters service, which has recorded an increase in the number of families being supported and as a result, families are more financially stable with households averaging £2569 in increased benefits per annum. A new financial wellbeing app 'My Life, My Money Lanarkshire' has been put in place that replaces the previous 'crisis app'. The new app is providing a comprehensive and improved resource of information, advice and support on welfare and money worries in Lanarkshire.

The third sector provides a range of support to tackle poverty and have developed a number of partnerships and referral pathways to co-ordinate this support. Hamilton Citizen's Advice Bureau delivered targeted community services for low income families, single parents and pregnant women through information and advice to maximise income and improve financial wellbeing, COVEY Befriending have supported parents to access foodbanks and delivered workshops on healthy eating, Liber8 delivered one to one mentoring support and groupwork sessions on financial wellbeing and budgeting and Healthy Valleys provided six weekly community cafés and a food crisis café where over 100 families in food poverty/low incomes were encouraged to attend and get free healthy meals and support to access specialised support.

Community Links provided a number of local SELECT HUBS across South Lanarkshire offering employability support to families including Universal Credit application assistance and various associated online activities/functions. They also co-ordinated and supported the delivery of free family school holiday activities in targeted areas, including a Back to School event in the Hamilton area, where families have access to free school clothing, accessories and children's haircuts.



## Indicator 1.3

Improvement activity in 2017 aimed to reduce inequalities at the 27/30 month child health review indicated the need to focus improvements on SIMD Quintiles 1, 2, 3 and 4. The latest figures evidence that three out of four SIMD areas have achieved and some exceeded the national goal of 85% of children meeting their expected developmental milestones. We have seen upward trend in SIMD 1, **including another improvement in SIMD 1 from 73% in 2017, 79.6% in 2018 to 84.4% this year.**



The Speech and Language Therapy teams have been working with key agencies to improve outcomes for children in relation to speech language and communication needs. Speech and Language staff are now based in 10 Early Years establishments across South Lanarkshire.

There has been close collaboration with health visitors to develop a pathway and early intervention resource to be delivered at the 12-15 month review for children with a speech and language concern. There has been a series of workshops to all Health Visitors to promote understanding around early intervention for children with speech, language and communication concerns, alongside promotion of a national resource to support learning and development requirements. Initial evidence suggests the number of children who require access to specialist services has reduced and this will continue to be evaluated in the coming year.

Speech and Language Therapy staff have also been working with early years staff to deliver early support for children in Early Learning and Childcare. There has been training for 200 early years practitioners in the Hanen programme's 'developing language in early years settings'. Staff have reported increased confidence in supporting children's early language development.

The 'Languageland' programme has been taken forward in 21 establishments which give early years practitioners resources and activities to support children's language development in small group settings. Evidence indicates that children who participate in this group make progress in at least one area of their communication skills over a six week period.

The 'Happy Chatty Places' resource has been developed, which offers ideas and resources to ensure that children have access to communication rich environments in the early years and that speech, language and communication needs are identified and supported early.

Work has been undertaken to develop and publish a Children and Young People's Speech and Language Core Pathway. This offers advice to all families and stakeholders about the services available. Early Language workshops for parents and the use of social media platforms ensure that key messages around early language development are promoted widely.

A range of parenting programmes have been delivered to support children's development. In the last year we have offered online Solihull training to parents and carers. The Solihull Approach Online is a universal resource for parents and carers from the antenatal period to 19 years, offering learning and interactive activities, quizzes and video clips. The resource focuses on developing nurturing and supportive relationships between children and their carers.

Parents accessing the resource have increased understanding of their child's behaviour in the context of their child's development and the parent-child relationship. In total 369 parents and have benefited from information about pregnancy, labour birth and understanding your baby. We also had a Lanarkshire wide Bookbug practice sharing event (now in its fifth year) with 75 staff in January, which helped to support staff delivering the programme across a range of sectors and settings. Healthy Valleys provided support for 120 vulnerable families to attend sessions in their community and incorporate Bookbug and Play@home activities into their Health and Wellbeing courses.

We have regular Healthy Start steering group meetings with health improvement staff who have early years responsibility to review best practice and discuss what more we can do to improve the services we offer, including the new Scottish Government scheme "Best Start Foods". This was launched in August 2019 to replace the Healthy Start scheme. We have prioritised promotion of the scheme and supported parents with the application process throughout the year, including social media campaigns and training for staff. Part of our support included increased development of local vitamin distribution with 44 distribution venues available, including health centres, community venues, family centres, libraries and community groups. These venues are very visible in our communities where families with young children can easily access support. Beneficiaries have included pregnant and postnatal mothers and the Syrian refugee communities.

Our early years staff have been working with NHS and other colleagues to highlight available nursery places for two year old children. This has resulted in 15.5% of eligible places being taken up by families, an increase on the 10% recorded last year. Staff support parents to access places at nurseries, who in turn can advise if parents are eligible for either a funded place, or would be exempt from charges as a family seeking work or through one of South Lanarkshire's low-income exemptions. Families benefit from increased employability, access to new job opportunities and potential increase in household income.

## Indicator 1.4

### School attendance

**22018/19 School Attendance rates improved in all categories - primary 94.4% (up from 92.3% in previous year) secondary 90.2% (up from 86.9%) and ASN 91.7% (up from 88.9%) data demonstrating a total figure of 92.6% (up from 90.1%).**



Education Resources' Operating Procedure on attendance has been revised and published after consultation with school managers and stakeholders. This is now part of a suite of procedures which ensure that South Lanarkshire is compliant with all current guidance and instructions from Scottish Government. We work on the basis that poor attendance is as much an additional support need as dyslexia, or other learning difficulties. School staff apply a staged intervention approach to this issue, engaging with families and other professionals to support vulnerable families and encourage full attendance at school. We expect that the percentage attendance of pupils in the 20% most deprived communities will improve by at least 2% on aggregate in the academic session 2020-2021 because of this support.

COVEY befriending has worked with Education colleagues to provide individual and group work support for over 100 socially isolated young people many of whom reported a more positive school experience helping to improve attendance.



## Indicator 1.5

### Percentage of children successfully achieving relevant levels of literacy

#### Primary 4 – First Level:

The latest figure is 57.5%, a slight decrease from 2017/18 figure of 60% but still an increase on our baseline figure of 54%.

#### Primary 7 – Second Level:

The latest figure is 60.1% an increase on 2017/18 58.6%.

#### S3 - Third Level:

Our latest figure is 88.7% slightly up on 2017/18 88.5%.



Our priority has been to ensure that literacy difficulties are identified as early as possible and appropriate support is provided at the right time.

A robust training programme for staff has promoted active literacy in phonics, spelling and reading and is well established as part of South Lanarkshire's Literacy Strategy. Approximately 1200 staff from across 100 primary schools have benefited from training. To date 34 schools have been part of the Active Literacy Project from 2017-2020, receiving additional training and support. The evidence from the schools involved in the project 2017-2019 demonstrates a positive upward trend in reading attainment.

Staff have benefited from support from the Curriculum and Quality Improvement Service and Psychological Services to provide quality professional learning materials and training, including: Primary One Early Level Literacy Training, Supporting Children with Literacy Difficulties at First Level and beyond, Early Level Reading Interventions Handbook – an interactive resource to support staff in identifying, assessing and supporting literacy difficulties at Early Level.

A 'Catch Up Literacy' training programme has been offered to all primary schools to support pupils experiencing difficulties with aspects of literacy. Approximately 295 staff have been trained across 89 primary schools. We have invested in 'Train the Trainer' training in Catch Up Literacy for one member of staff which makes South Lanarkshire staff the first accredited Catch Up trainers in Scotland.

The Curriculum Quality Improvement Service Literacy Team have worked with the Library Service, the Scottish Library and Scottish Book Trust to encourage and support schools in developing and enhancing their school and community reading cultures. This has included a 'Teachers as Readers' group in association with the UK Literacy Association and the Open University. Twenty-five primary teachers have been supported to develop their pupils' reading interest and enjoyment by engaging with research-informed practice. Each school/community project is unique and has been identified using baseline data and will be measured using appropriate success criteria. The success of the projects will be shared across all establishments via a showcase event.

Using a targeted early language programme in partnership with Educational Psychology and Speech and Language, primary one children at Beckford Primary School were supported with their early literacy skills, showing significant gains for receptive and expressive language scores and substantially closing any gap in literacy attainment. One year after completing the programme, the pupils continued to show improvement and their scores remained in line with their peers. Children and parents reported improved confidence, language, and literacy skills. Following on from this project, work will now spread to four additional Scottish Attainment Challenge (SAC) schools, to continue work to further reduce the poverty related attainment gap across South Lanarkshire.



We have carried out a review of transition arrangements across schools with Social Work managers, practitioners and stakeholders and established clear guidelines for staff on effective enhanced transition processes. In session 2019-20, 630 children across the Council area benefited from a targeted enhanced transition between primary and secondary school. The materials provided to support the process of enhanced transition for individual pupils have been recognised as being of the highest quality at a national level. These materials are accessible for families and encourage their understanding of the most effective transition activities, leading to pupils having less concerns when moving from primary into secondary school.

Burnhill Action Group supported by Healthy n Happy, deliver a weekly Family Hub in where families can get involved in structured activities like sport, homework clubs, themed celebrations and growing activities.

## Indicator 1.6

The gap between the positive destination rate for school leavers in the **most deprived 20%** and **least deprived 20%** was **4.9%** for young people leaving school in academic year 2018/19. This is below the national gap of **5.3%**



## School Leaver Destinations

The Youth Employability Service works closely with all secondary schools and partners including Skills Development Scotland to identify those young people who need extra support to make a positive transition from school and provides individualised one to one support through the Aspire programme. The gap between the positive destination rate for school leavers in the most deprived communities and those in the least deprived communities has reduced to 4.9% for young people leaving school in academic year 2018/19. This is below the national gap of 5.3%.

Young people also receive support from a range of third sector organisations including COVEY, who provided places for 18 young volunteers to develop skills in working with young people with an additional support needs. This resulted in increased confidence and the opportunity to pursue further education in their chosen field and Liber8's StreetBase project, which helps young people apply for college places and employment, assisting with application forms, CV's and references. Clydesdale Community Initiative provided supported workplace training and personal development programmes for young people referred through the Aspire programme, who are unable to access mainstream support due to individual challenges.



# Health and wellbeing

## Vision

Children, young people and families will be safeguarded and supported to reach their full potential and thrive within their communities.

## Outcome 2

The health and wellbeing of children, young people and families is improved



## Indicator 2.1

Percentage of children with no emotional and behavioural developmental concerns at 27-30 months

The latest figure evidences **89.9%** of children with no emotional/behavioural concern at 27-30 months, a slight reduction on the previous year



Over the last year we have delivered a range of parenting courses across all four localities, engaging with 166 parents. Programmes included the attachment based Early Years Framework of Assessment and Intervention for Attachment and Resilience, Solihull and Mellow Parenting. Courses were delivered to parents with an identified need, including children affected by substance misuse, domestic abuse and those at risk of child protection registration.

Parents with children aged between three and six with a behavioural concern, received one to one support and group work through the Incredible Years programme. Six groups were delivered with 46 families benefiting from the programme and 58% had recorded improved emotional and behaviour needs at the end of the programme. Of those that attended, 37% of parents lived within areas of high deprivation

The Education Resources Attachment Strategy document was produced along with accompanying resources including the A to Z of Attachment-Informed Practice leaflets and posters and Attachment Strategy Pledge Cards. An Attachment Strategy short film was also produced.

As part of the strategy a total number of 792 children's services practitioners have received training in attachment theory and practice. Evidence gathered from 477 training participants highlighted that the training has increased professional knowledge about attachment and increased confidence in applying new skills and knowledge. Staff reported building positive relationships with pupils, improved communication; better reflection; increased parental involvement and importantly, providing a safe, secure, and nurturing environment to be able to see the whole child.

Third sector organisations offer a range of local supports that include one to one and group support, early years parent cafés, baby massage and counselling for parents. Parents also benefit from peer support to families with children under the age of 5, who have been identified as needing extra support via Midwives, Health Visitors, Family Nurses and Social Work. This approach to support benefits the whole family, with parents reporting improved mental health and wellbeing and a reduction in substance misuse.

## Indicator 2.2

### Percentage of P1 children with a healthy weight

The current figure is  
**76.4% and remains below the target of 88%.**  
(Last year's figure was 77%)



The Active Schools programme provides a positive and increasing range of sport and leisure opportunities. In 2018/19, 21,200 young people attended the programme (**47% of the school roll**) and maintained the level of participation across the programme.





A number of programmes support breastfeeding as part of South Lanarkshire's Baby Friendly accreditation. Staff have benefited from training around behaviour change skills to manage difficult conversations, particularly around breastfeeding. A Midwife post has been established to support staff, improve practice and encourage skin to skin contact between mother and baby in the Neo Natal Unit. We are supporting the recently launched "Breastfeeding Friendly Scotland" scheme and working to encourage local businesses to sign up and support a breastfeeding friendly culture.

In addition third sector organisations continue to support the breastfeeding agenda in a range of ways, including early years parent cafés, baby massage courses and health inputs for parents and brief interventions which promote the benefits of breastfeeding. The most recently reported breastfeeding rates in South Lanarkshire are: Exclusive breastfeeding 24.7%, any breastfeeding 32.2%.

NHS Health Improvement staff and schools have been delivering the Healthy Schools Framework. Work is underway to extend this to secondary school settings by developing a 3rd and 4th level resource. We currently have 69% of South Lanarkshire primary schools using the Healthy Schools Approach, which has led to increased understanding of health and wellbeing for staff, pupils and their families.

The Active Schools Programme works with school pupils to provide valuable opportunities to engage in sport, physical activity, fitness programmes and leadership opportunities. Last year there were 21,200 participants in the various strands of the programme. The programmes Sports Coach Academy provides support for young people to develop their skills and knowledge in sport and exercise and helps young people develop further education and employability options. In 2018/19 the team also supported 91 local community Sport Clubs to provide opportunities in schools with 1,012 attendances taking place, increase in the number of young people who make the transition into club sport following this experience.

## Active Schools Case Study

Last year the Active Schools team also focused on developing interventions in partnership with Education Resources and other Community Planning partners to engage young people not participating in the programme. This included a partnership with the Fire and Rescue Service to educate senior pupils on road and water safety. Various workshops took place at the local fire station to allow the young people to fully experience the dangers and importance of fire and road safety. The young people then incorporated these messages into their sports coaching sessions to engage and inform their peers whilst back in their school.

The Early Years ACE initiative has continued to develop with 437 Live Tiny ACE memberships across 2019/20. Leisure and Culture delivered approximately 50 different Tiny ACE activities and organised a number of special events throughout the year. On average there were 139 different classes delivered per week throughout a range of venues across South Lanarkshire and to promote the activities to families an annual brochure was produced and promoted via a variety of partners, platforms and mediums. One of the key links has been with health visiting teams to promote opportunities and the provision of free vouchers to encourage vulnerable families' participation. One new programme has been the launch of Tactile Tots themed sessions which aims to develop capacity for sights, sounds, touch and smell. Songs and rhythms guide the child as they play and explore their senses. Trained staff deliver the sessions and participant to support families meet new friends.

Third sector organisations from across the authority offer important local support to families in our communities e.g. cookery workshops aimed at improving nutrition, growing food locally, weaning, fussy eaters, cooking on a tight budget and certificated REHIS courses. They often work with statutory providers such as Leisure and Culture to connect community development opportunities with local youth sporting groups (eg, Aspiring Communities - Halfway and The Circuit, or by directly delivering courses with healthy messages through after school and holiday programmes, outdoor play and exercise.

## Hannah

Hannah began her journey at Uddingston Grammar School as a Young Ambassador in 2016. She was selected by the PE Department at school and attended a National Conference at Hampden. In September that year she began her volunteering.

Hannah was involved in helping to plan the school's Active Girls Day and helping at various clubs within school. She raised awareness of sport and physical activity by leading assemblies for different year groups.

In 2017, Hannah was accepted onto our Active Schools Sports Coach Academy programme. This involved six weeks of training with our team and then leading a six week multi sport extracurricular club for all P4/5 pupils.

Hannah was part of a team of pupils who helped with the running of various clubs at lunchtime and after school. A particular favourite was the lunchtime Dodgeball club which she ran with other pupils and could have up to 40 pupils playing at one time – they loved it !!!

In S6, Hannah continued to help with clubs and activities in schools, helping to organise Active Girls Day in Uddingston Grammar and continuing the dodgeball club and S1 badminton. Her help was invaluable, and the PE department were always grateful for her help.

She participated in the National 5 course in Sport and Recreation which involved learning about all the industry and preparing and leading sessions for younger pupils in school. This led to Hannah pursuing a career in sport and physical activity through an HNC course at New College Lanarkshire.

Hannah continued her learning through the delivery of clubs and sessions in the Uddingston and Holy Cross Learning Communities for various age groups and sports. The pupils all engaged fully in her sessions and she formed great relationships with them. Hannah has become a respected and well liked member of the volunteer team, reflecting that her journey through school and the Active Schools programme has helped her develop as a person and gain the qualifications and qualities needed for a career in sport and physical activity.





## Indicator 2.3

Percentage of all looked after children and young people health needs assessments completed within 4 weeks.

We have achieved **83% health needs assessment completions** within target timescales over the 12 months to March 2020.



We have worked to ensure that more care experienced children receive a Health Needs Assessment when they come into care. We have established an improved process for prompt notification when a child or young person becomes looked after, with wellbeing assessments and wellbeing plans responsive to individual needs being put in place early. A partnership improvement working group was established at the end of last year to address wider challenges around the Health Needs Assessment and ensure care experienced children and young people have the best support for their physical and emotional health needs.

To promote the health and wellbeing of care leavers as part of our commitment to the Care Leavers Covenant, we have established a dedicated Throughcare and Aftercare team. We have committed to establish a multi-agency Throughcare and Aftercare Strategy and subgroup under the Corporate Parenting Strategy, which will drive key changes for care leavers. 100% of eligible care leavers have registered with primary health care (GP and Dentist).

## Indicator 2.4

Percentage of young people accessing school counselling service presenting with anxiety.

**The most recent figure available of 60%** is a slight reduction (2.1%) on the 2017 baseline of 62.1%. Within the reporting period CAMHS delivered a service to approximately 1256 young people and their families within South Lanarkshire.



Families and young people have been supported through a variety of evidenced based therapeutic interventions delivered according to need, including family focussed therapies, Cognitive Behavioural Therapies (CBT) Dialectical Behavioural therapies (DBT), Attachment based therapies, Child Psychotherapy and group work.

CAMHS have recently developed an advice line that is supporting quicker access to families and professionals to gain help, support and direction sooner. In addition the advice line is able to direct families toward online resources and inform them of other helpful and relevant services that can support them to address the concerns that exist for young people.

There were two Parents in Control groups delivered for parents of children diagnosed with ADHD and parents increased their confidence with behavioural management strategies. 32 parents participated and reported reduced frequency, intensity and perception of challenging and problematic behaviour.

The CAYP (CAMHS for Accommodated Young People) service held a Foundations for Attachment group attended by 16 people. In addition an 18 week Nurturing Attachments group was completed, which 8 foster families attended.

The Counselling in Schools provision continues to be a crucial support for young people experiencing stress and anxiety issues. Having direct access to trained counsellors in school provides a reassurance and support tailored to early support and individual need. This is an area of investment and work is ongoing to make the most of additional resources being made available by the Scottish Government.

We have continued to support young people experiencing anxiety by delivering one to one support in schools, as part of the Let's Introduce Anxiety Management (LIAM) programme. School Nurses, Teachers, Pupil Support Staff, and Youth Family and Community Learning staff provide dedicated one to one support in school or in the community for children and young people with anxiety. Training and ongoing coaching is provided by Clinical Psychologists who can offer wider support and signposting. We have supported 244 staff, who are trained to provide the support.

The response from young people who have been supported has been very positive and feedback includes: "It really helped me with my worries and fears.", "Felt like I could talk about any of my worries and would be helped as much as possible.", "One thing that was really good was that I felt like I could open up to someone for the first time" and "Mrs M took time and effort to help me through my journey." Children and Young People reported a significant reduction in anxiety following LIAM support on a self-rated score of Anxiety and Depression and also reported being closer to their own personal goals set at the beginning of the LIAM process.

The nurture approach to support vulnerable pupils has been well established by schools across South Lanarkshire over the previous decade. This nurture ethos has been supported by targeted training for secondary school staff and the development of nurture bases in all our secondary schools. The number of pupils benefiting from support in secondary schools for session 2019-2020 was estimated at 270 children, leading to reduction of social, emotional and behavioural difficulties and establishing a smoother transition from primary. The nurture support helps pupils prepare physically and emotionally for learning, encourage friendships and equips them with the necessary social skills to adapt to secondary environments.

A comprehensive consultation and scoping exercise (managed by a consortium that included Youth Family and Community Learning, Regenfx, Terminal One and HIPY) was carried out to establish the need for a new mental health support service for 14 – 18 year olds. Funding was secured to establish a 12-month pilot project that commenced in November 2019 called GoTo.

In addition our third sector provide an extensive menu of community based support, such as help to manage stresses and anxieties e.g. in relation transition to high school and during times of grief, loss and bereavement, counselling for 16+ and befriending groups for additional support needs young people with nurturing at their heart. This local support helps children and young people develop social confidence and build their self-esteem, strengthening emotional resilience and improving social relationships.



## Indicator 2.5a

Percentage of 15 year olds drinking alcohol at least once a week

## Indicator 2.5b

Percentage of 15 year olds reporting using drugs in the last month

The latest figures (provided via the SALSUS 2018 Survey) indicate **22% of S4 pupils said they had drunk alcohol** in the week prior to the survey. **15% of South Lanarkshire pupils in S4 indicated they had taken drugs** in the last month.



The LANDED project has provided alcohol and drugs education to staff and also young people who work directly with young people. They have also supported University of West of Scotland student teachers tailoring training to compliment Health and Wellbeing Substance use within the Curriculum for Excellence. They have also delivered nine Alcohol Brief Interventions training to 75 staff who work directly with young people. Feedback from staff has shown an increase in knowledge and confidence in relation to drugs and alcohol issues whilst engaging with young people.

LANDED have delivered 63 workshops to a total of 531 young people in a wide variety of community based settings and trained 38 young people as peer educators with a focus on Alcohol. The young peer educations have gone on to deliver workshops to 142 young people who are the most vulnerable young people in South Lanarkshire, or most at risk of being involved in risk taking behaviours

The Link Project has worked to support the re-integration and transition for young people moving back into the community following a period in custody. The staff work with other partners to ensure better outcomes for often vulnerable young people. Help is provided seven days a week including evenings and weekends from when a young person is released. The project has helped clients improve access to services, reduce re-offending, improve psychological health and social integration, restore relationships with family, and friends and improve accommodation, employment and education options.

The members of the third sector Chief Officer's Group, Children and Young People Sub Group provided support for young people who are affected by substance misuse. E.g. Regenfx Youth Trust has two projects that target young people involved in alcohol and drug misuse. The Junior and Senior Street use immersive theatre combined with issue-based workshops, to explore issues affecting young people today. A crucial part of the workshops include ensuring young people know of other services that can help and how to access them. Liber8's Streetbase project provides support to young people affected by alcohol and substances misuse, with a focus on prevention and education.

## Link Project Case Study

The Link Project became involved with a young person aged 19 who was subject to MAPPA. He was discharged from Polmont and had no family support due to the nature of his offences. His alcohol use had been a concern throughout his life and he had suffered significant adverse childhood experiences. He had experienced four bereavements including both parents who were killed and was a survivor of sexual abuse. He had a distrust of services and low self-esteem. The staff met him on five occasions in prison prior to his release to commence the relationship process.

Staff collected the young person from prison and transported him to his identified supported accommodation placement. An appointment was made at the local GP surgery and counselling sessions provided. In addition the young person participated in an adult mindfulness programme with daily support in the form of transport to appointments, which increased trust and sustainability. Staff helped him address issues of alcohol issue in partnership with Addaction colleagues and further developed a relapse and recovery plan.

The young person completed an Outcome Star, where he identified timely goals such as budgeting, personal hygiene, sexual health and help with his ongoing alcohol use. The use of social media also caused concern due to the nature of his offences, so staff delivered protective behaviour support. The programme, Love Rocks helped him address risk taking behaviours in the form of further exploitation. This young person has secured an apprenticeship and a first aid certificate. He has completed three groups over a 16 week period and has plans to be a peer mentor for other young people experiencing alcohol issues and significant trauma.

## Indicator 2.6

Pregnancy rate in under 16 per 1,000. Rates of teenage pregnancy in South Lanarkshire have followed the national trend and have reduced over time.

The teenage pregnancy rate for those **under 16 is currently 3.2 per 1000 (2017)** a reduction of 0.5 per 1000 in the rate from previous figures of 3.7 per 1000 (2015).



The Teenage Pregnancy Pathway has been included in the Education Resources - 'Framework for Inclusion and Equality'. A Teenage Pregnancy and Young People action plan was developed with SLC Education Resources, including Youth Family and Community Learning and a working group was established to implement agreed actions.



# Supporting vulnerable groups and keeping children safe

## Vision

Children, young people and families will be safeguarded and supported to reach their full potential and thrive within their communities.

## Outcome 3

The life chances of our most vulnerable children with additional support needs and our most vulnerable young people are improved



## Indicator 3.1

Percentage of care experienced young people achieving a positive destination after leaving school.

- Positive destinations of care experienced young people in **2016** – **78.1%**
- Positive destinations of care experienced young people in **2017** – **89.2%**
- Positive destinations of care experienced young people in **2018** – **90%**
- Positive destinations of care experienced young people in **2019** – **91.5%**



Care experienced young people leaving school benefit from extra dedicated support from a multi-agency tracking group which tracks the destinations of all care experienced young people. The group includes membership from the Youth Employability Service, Skills Development Scotland, Corporate Services and Social Work.

All care experienced young people are supported through the group and young people requiring bespoke employability support are referred to the Aspire programme. A pilot programme to support care experienced young people into employment with South Lanarkshire Council was delivered in 2019 and supported five young people into jobs. In all 91.5% of care experienced school leavers made a transition to a positive destination in 2018/19 an increase from 90% the previous year and is significantly above the national rate of 82.4%.

## Indicator 3.2

### Percentage of care experienced young people obtaining 5 or more awards at level 5

In **2018** the figure for care experienced young people with **5 or more awards at level 5** was **9.9%**, this is up from **4% in 2018/19**.



The Inclusive Education Service created a comprehensive programme of in-service activity to support all designated senior managers in their duties to supporting looked after children. The materials for this programme have been provided to all relevant staff. New Operating Procedures 'Preventing and Managing Exclusions' was launched after consultation with stakeholders. As a result, we have seen a sustained reduction in exclusion rates for looked after children, the most recent figures for children looked after at home is down from 0.54% in 2014-2015 to 0.30%. For children looked after away from home the exclusion rate has dropped from 0.46% in 2014-2015 to 0.20% in 2019. These figures remain above the average for all pupils and so activity needs to continue to focus on this issue with school managers.

All children and young people subject to a Compulsory Supervision Order have a 'Child's Plan' in place as an integral part of their assessment, planning and support.

Going forward a member of staff within Inclusive Education Service will be given the remit to work with schools to share best practice on how to meet the needs of children who are looked after and particularly those looked after at home.

COVEY worked with 15 Looked after at home young people aged 8-14, with a view to increasing confidence and helping towards their attainment goals. This one-to-one mentoring support was supported through the Scottish Government's 'Intandem' program.





## Indicator 3.3

### Percentage attendance of care experienced children and young people

The overall attendance of care experienced pupils in **2018 was 89.9%** down very slightly from **90% in 2017**. This is the latest available data as the Scottish Government publication: Education Outcomes for Looked After Children isn't expected until September 2020.



We put staged intervention at the core of our support model, working on the basis that poor attendance is as much an additional support need as dyslexia or other learning difficulties, engaging with families and other professionals to support vulnerable families and encourage full attendance at school.

We have also revised our operating procedure on attendance after consultation with school managers and stakeholders, to provide strong guidance for staff. We know that attainment for care experienced children is lower than their peers and as a result we have worked to create the conditions in all schools for care experienced children to learn to meet their potential. Care experienced pupils are supported to attend school, to participate fully when they are there and to achieve to the best of their ability, so that we can work together to close the gap for these children.

To ensure that all schools have the most up to date information on which of their pupils are subject to a compulsory supervision order (looked after), the Inclusive Education Service works directly with the Scottish Children's Reporters Administration. Weekly updated information on wellbeing is provided to managers in schools and establishments, so that they are immediately aware of which children are subject to these orders. Our Framework for Inclusion and Equality and clear guidance provides clarity for school managers to how to support children who are looked after.



## Indicator 3.4a

Percentage of repeat referrals to Reporter on offence grounds (Source SCRA)

**\*Children with >1 offence referral in year**

The percentage of children and young people with **> 1 offence referral is 45.6%**. A reduction of over 13% from 58.7% in 2017/18.



## Indicator 3.4b

Percentage of referrals to Reporter for failure to attend school without reasonable excuse (Source SCRA)

The latest figures (2018) show **11.3%** of children and young people were referred to the reporter on the grounds of failure to attend school without reasonable excuse, an **increase from the previous year 2018 of 8%. (2017 10.3%)**.



Early and Effective Intervention (EEI) is central to our 'Whole System Approach' to youth justice, which addresses the needs of children, young people and their families involved in, or at risk of, offending. During 2019/20 there was an increase in the total number of young people supported by EEI, up by 22% from 2018/19. Those young people being supported by Police and Social Work are more likely to experience a one-off referral with minimum intervention and no repeat offending. We know that this way of working provides a good opportunity to understand behaviours, explore consequences, build confidence and address issues with peer relationships. Young people are supported to make positive friendships, return to school, explore opportunities for employment and a positive future. In addition, families have been supported with other issues for which they may not otherwise have sought help, for example financial advice and making introductions to other services for support.

Through good risk management planning, a range of services are brought together to provide a holistic approach to support young people most at risk of harming themselves or others. All young people subject to Care And Risk Management (CARM) have a robust risk assessment completed. The young person then benefits from an individualised risk management plan tailored to meet their needs and intended to reduce risk through a multi-agency network of support centred around the young person and their family. Staff training has increased capacity to risk assess young people in conflict with the law between the ages of 12-18 years. Across four localities there are 34 workers who have received training in specific risk assessment tools.



This holistic approach promotes understanding of behaviours to manage risk, whilst supporting the young person to achieve their potential in terms of personal wellbeing, healthy lifestyle and staying safe. Positive outcomes for young people include remaining in school, attending further education, participating in hobbies and having healthy relationships with family and friends. Staff have identified psychological benefits for young people as being increased self-esteem and a sense of worth and acceptance.

## CARM Case Study

The following is an example which highlights the benefit of CARM.

A young person 14, who was coming to the attention of police every weekend in relation to their participation in anti-social behaviour in the community. The CARM procedures were then initiated and within two weeks a comprehensive risk management support plan was developed in partnership with the family, Social Work, Education and the Police. Following support, it was recorded that there had been a reduction in offending behaviour and there is an established network of support around the young person. Regular monitoring and review has resulted in better outcomes for the young person, who now reports feeling less angry and better able to use coping strategies. The young person has also completed an outdoor course and gained a recognised qualification.

Inclusion as Prevention is a five year project funded by the National Lottery Community Fund and involves South Lanarkshire Council, Action for Children, Centre for Youth and Criminal Justice (CYCJ) and Dartington Service Design Lab. Inclusion as Prevention moved into Phase 2 of the project at the end of 2019 which involves Cambuslang / Rutherglen locality as a test of change site. Practitioners, young people, families and community are involved in a co-design approach. Our main focus has been to “re-shape the design and delivery of preventative services with children and young people who are at risk of offending and their families instead of relying on a crisis driven approach when a young person becomes involved in offending. We work to identify and intervene at an earlier point in the lives of children who are at risk of becoming involved in future offending, or other negative outcomes, tackling the root cause.

## Indicator 3.5

### Number of incidents of domestic abuse where children were affected that were referred to social work

Over the last few years domestic abuse incidents have increased, however. **This year (2020) 1369 incidents were recorded compared to 1237 in the previous year (2019).**



As part of South Lanarkshire’s Gender Based Violence Strategy it remains a priority to support staff working with families experiencing domestic violence. This takes a range of forms including specific training events and one-off events. Over the last year, 298 staff have completed Gender Based Violence multi agency training. We held three additional events as well as circulating information online to staff and organisations and in particular, sharing information throughout the 16 days of action campaign in September.

South Lanarkshire's Women's Aid continue to work to support women and children affected by domestic abuse, as a priority and over the last 12 months they have provided direct support to 314 children and young people, an increase on the 148 supported in the previous year.

The Violence Against Women Partnership has produced up-to-date and accessible online guidance about the services available to support families affected by domestic abuse and how to access them. Specialist advocacy services are available for all women and girls, including advice on legal, financial and housing rights and options; group-work, safety planning and support finding and contacting support services. Partners also provide awareness raising in primary and secondary schools and youth settings to offer age-appropriate interventions to raise children, teachers and parents' understanding and awareness of gender based violence, and positive, healthy relationships as part of a whole school approach.

Since the introduction of the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018, almost all of South Lanarkshire's police officers have had additional specialist training from Police and partners. As a result, officers better understand the ways in which perpetrators seek to manipulate calls for help and the justice system, and how offences under the Act are aggravated through the use of children in perpetrating domestic abuse.

### Indicator 3.6a

Number of child protection pre-birth registrations for babies affected by substance misuse.

The annual figure has reduced from **44 in 2018/19** to **12 this year as a result of a consistent approach to identifying vulnerable families at a locality level through the Early Years Multi Agency Forum (EYMAF) model.**



### Indicator 3.6b

Percentage of children affected by parental substance misuse on the child protection register.

Over the last reporting period **26%** of the children registered on the child protection register were affected by substance misuse. **This compares to 30% in 2018/19**



The Lanarkshire Additional Midwifery Service (LAMS) provides specialist antenatal care to women across Lanarkshire who have a current or recent history of drug and alcohol misuse and associated complex needs, including poor mental health, domestic abuse and homelessness. LAMS also work with local social work teams and supports midwives by providing substance misuse and child protection training to help ensure early identification and support to families who are in need or at risk. In the past year 2151

Antenatal bookings were completed and 100% of these women received a completed Alcohol Brief Intervention (ABI) by a qualified midwife.



By LAMS continuing to work closely with newly qualified midwives, it increases staff's knowledge and confidence when working with women affected by substance misuse. It allows appropriate referrals to the relevant agencies to be done in a timely manner. By supporting midwives in increasing their knowledge base around substances, stigma and trauma overall reduces inequalities and feelings of judgement from women. This has resulted in building trusting relationships with families and higher engagement rates and care plans for women are more robust and have women at the centre of care provided.

The Community Addiction Recovery Service (CAREs) provides key support for parents suffering from alcohol and drugs misuse, including help with detoxing from alcohol or drugs, substitute prescribing, talking therapies, or harm reduction information. Parents are encouraged to explore other ways of gaining support for recovery, by thinking about important relationships within their lives and local community. CAREs provide support on alcohol or drug problems affecting important areas including housing or employment as part of recovery plans. Staff use the Drug and Alcohol Star to measure outcomes and the impact of substances on an individual's parenting and the improvement after receiving support. CAREs staff benefit from bespoke training on use of Outcome Star for analysis, with the majority of CAREs multi-disciplinary team now trained. The Outcome Star Framework is being embedded in the work of child protection meetings and case conferences as a means of showing progress.

NHS Lanarkshire and other partners have developed a variety of measures to raise the awareness of the "no alcohol no risk" strategy. Leaflets to highlight the risks of drinking in pregnancy are given to women as part of initial consultations. These leaflets are available from the Health Improvement Library and are also being accessed by a wide variety of services within NHS Lanarkshire, Education Resources, the 3rd sector and other partners. Foetal Alcohol Spectrum (FASD) prevention materials are also available on the NHS Lanarkshire public facing website. Disorder (FASD) briefing sessions are provided to a wide variety of staff within Health and Social Care and there is an awareness raising FASD prevention e-learning module available for staff within Health and Social Care and Education. All women with alcohol dependency are offered a referral to LAMS and to the wider Alcohol Support Services.



## Indicator 3.7

Percentage of pupils with ASN recorded within primary and secondary establishments. The rate of pupils identified with ASN in mainstream establishments appears to have increased substantially since the 2013 baseline.

The current figures illustrate **26.2%** in primary school and **25.1%** of pupils in secondary school. This is most likely to be a result of more successful identification of ASN needs and a better understanding of support required.



The expected rate is circa **20%**  
**1:5 across South Lanarkshire.**



Our Framework for Inclusion and Equality has been in South Lanarkshire schools since March 2018 and provides schools with current advice on numerous topics relating to inclusion and equality and how to best support pupils with additional support needs. There have been over 50 in-service briefings for staff on how to use the Framework.

The Framework for the Education of Pupils who have Autistic Spectrum Disorder was published at the same time and staff have benefited from additional briefings and encouragement to take time to explore the information available within this document. In reviewing the information contained within this framework, practitioners and managers were keen for Inclusive Education Service to provide further specific advice and guidance on meeting the needs of children on the Autism spectrum with extreme demand avoidance. A working group was set up involving practitioners, speech and language therapists, educational psychologist and Inclusion officers to develop this advice provide it to schools and establishments.

COVEY provided individual support and group befriending aimed at the transition years, including a group of eight young people with additional support needs helping them move into college. They also worked closely with the Autism Resource Combination Hub (ARCH), Supporting Autism in Lanarkshire (SAIL) and through referral from Education to give support to 25 young people who are affected by Autism.



# 4. Children's rights

## The right to be myself



Recognising, respecting and promoting the rights of children and young people is central to improving outcomes for all children and young people. This section sets out a range of rights-based practice taken by children's services partners in South Lanarkshire.

A strong rights-based approach can make a significant difference to children and young people's lives and improve the quality and impact of services. These examples act as an encouraging reminder of the impact of our commitment to children's rights as we work to further our collective and single agency practice.

Building from a strong baseline we have set out to understand the wide range of practice that reflects the 42 articles in the United Nations Convention Rights of the Child. We recognise that children and young people want the right to be themselves and this is a feature of our approach to children's rights.

In November and December 2019, we held a series of locality events for around 300 staff, that helped reflect on rights-based practice and set the agenda for further improvement. This included a keynote input from Bruce Adamson, Children's Commissioner for Scotland on the importance of working towards best practice in children's rights.

We are listening more to young people than ever before through a wide range of participation and engagement practice, much of which is articulated within this section.

While our commitment to co-produce our intended Children's Services Plan 2020 -23 with children and young people has been interrupted due to the Coronavirus emergency, the foundation has been established to build a strong children's voice in the process. An engagement working group has been established to develop meaningful and creative ways to make sure that the planning process for the new plan is at least in part driven by the views and experiences of our children' young people and families.

## What next for children's rights in South Lanarkshire

A fully developed rights-based approach will be used to help improve practice and to further improve outcomes for children and young people, particularly those who are most disenfranchised.

As a partnership we will continue to embrace a comprehensive rights based approach to our work, however we know that even more requires to be done to increase awareness and understanding of the rights of children across South Lanarkshire in order to effect this change.

In progressing the children's rights agenda, the Partnership will seek to deliver on the following commitments as part of our plan of action to make children's rights-based practice in South Lanarkshire the best it can be.

- Work to co-produce the new Children's Services Plan with children and young people (forthcoming Children's Services Plan April 2021)
- Continue to use the Children's Rights Wellbeing Impact Assessment (CRWIA) model in developing South Lanarkshire's Children's Services Plan 2021-23, the refreshed Corporate Parenting Strategy and Action Plan and other areas of policy and strategy affecting children and young people including single agency plans
- We will work with all partners to make sure that our policies and practices are compatible with the UNCRC rights and the planned duties to be incorporated into Scots law, before the new legislation comes into full effect.
- Further develop awareness of Children's Rights into workforce development opportunities provided to the children's services workforce
- Fully establish our 'Champions Board' to further enhance the voices of our care experienced children and young people
- Analyse Pupil Equity Funding to increase our understanding on what impact it is having on learning
- Introduce child health and wellbeing assessments for children affected by homelessness
- Look to introduce the role of children's rights champion in CAMHs service.
- Establish a new structure for Corporate Parenting with care experienced children and young people
- Promote rights-based practice and ensure all children's views are heard by all partners when deciding about care plans and their future with children's views at the core
- Further develop our Right to be Myself approach and think about the impact of gender issues and how we are open and responsible in supporting children and young people their experiences
- Be imaginative in engaging with children and young people who do not tend to engage in traditional consultation process. E.g. make use of social media to provide platforms for children and young people to share their views and experiences in a safe environment
- Provide opportunities for children and young people to participate in locality based events and explore how we can develop more creative opportunities for participation
- Identify ways to work with parents and carers to raise their awareness of children's rights and ensure children having a better understanding of responsibilities along with rights



## 5. The Independent care review

The Care Review is “an independent, root and branch review of Scotland’s care system”, the underpinning legislation, practices, culture and ethos. The Care Review has been built on five foundations of voice; family; care; people and scaffolding and these must be at the heart of how Scotland thinks, plans and priorities for its children and families.

We recognise that the only way significant improvements can be made is by understanding the full extent of what it means to experience care. The lived experience and wisdom of people has been at the very heart of the Independent Care Review and will be at the very heart of the responses to share care review planning in South Lanarkshire. South Lanarkshire Council Children and Justice Services has already been involved in work of the Independent Care Review, specifically the stop: go and edges of care work.

We refer to ‘The Promise’ as opposed to recommendations, recognising that there must be unwavering commitment to radical change that transforms the culture of care.

At its core, is the commitment to keep children with their families where it is safe to do so and above all else, value the importance of relationships with families.

While work is beginning to cascade responses across Scotland, in South Lanarkshire we are working to shape local practice and involve service providers, professionals and volunteers involved in the lives of children to implement change. Our progress will be reported to our Champions’ Board, which was launched in December 2019 and our Corporate Parenting Strategy Group/Board.



## 6. Self-evaluation and quality assurance

Self-evaluation and quality assurance processes are central to the work of the Children's Services Partnership. This activity is led by the Continuous Improvement Group, which reports to the Children's Services Strategy Group and Getting It Right for South Lanarkshire's Children Partnership Board on the progress and impact of service delivery for children, young people and families.

The Continuous Improvement Group leads on activities to identify where quality needs to be maintained, where improvement is needed and where services should be working towards excellence. The Continuous Improvement Group directs, maintains and manages the delivery of multi-agency self-evaluation activity at strategic and locality level. It reviews and updates the Continuous Improvement Framework and Programme of single and multi-agency self-evaluation activity on an annual basis.

The Child Protection Committee support continuous improvement through planned audit activities that measure child protection in a multi-agency context. It also delivers a range of training opportunities that support services across South Lanarkshire. Steady improvements can be evidenced through routine audit and evaluation activity carried out by child protection services across the partnership.

### Joint inspection of children's services

Between August and December 2019, we participated in a joint inspection of services for children and young people in need of care and protection in South Lanarkshire. The inspection covered a wide range of partners that have a role in providing services for children, young people and families in need of care and protection. The scale of the inspection included:

- Meeting with 111 children and young people and 53 parents and carers to hear about their experiences of the support received
- A children, young people, parents and carers survey about their views of services received 102 responses from children and young people and 56 responses from parents and carers
- Auditing a wide range of documents and joint self-evaluation materials provided by the partnership
- Speaking to staff with leadership and management responsibilities
- A staff survey, which received 1162 responses
- Extensive focus groups with over 400 staff who work directly with children, young people and families
- Observation of a range of different types of partnership meetings and events including a locality multi-agency event for around 100 staff from all children's services partners
- Audit of practice, via a sample of records held by services for 109 of the most vulnerable children and young people

The extensive inspection activity provided a valuable perspective of the support provided for children and young people in need of care and protection and identified the following strengths and areas for improvement enabling the partnership to focus improvement activity around certain areas of practice.





## Strengths

1. Effective child protection arrangements are supporting most children and young people to remain safe.
2. Nurturing, caring and trusting relationships between staff and parents are impacting positively on outcomes for many children and young people.
3. Staff show a high degree of support for senior leaders and benefit from a culture of learning and a comprehensive range of training, development and support opportunities.
4. A structured and comprehensive range of parenting programmes and initiatives, detailed within South Lanarkshire's parenting pathway and delivered flexibly by caring and compassionate staff, is supporting parents and carers to be more confident and resilient.

## Priority areas for improvement

1. Corporate parenting arrangements to support improvements in outcomes for all looked after children and young people.
2. Support for care leavers to transition successfully into adulthood and improved systematic approaches to the health and wellbeing needs of all looked after children and young people who have left school and care leavers.
3. Use of outcomes data to demonstrate the impact services on the lives of children and young people.
4. Involving and seeking the views of children, young people and their families in care planning and review processes as fully as possible.

The Continuous Improvement Group will lead developments on these four areas for improvement, as well as the core remit of gathering evidence of impact, practice reflection and identifying general areas for improvement.

Promoting and extending good practice is a feature of our shared improvement agenda and is embedded across the partnership. We hold regular partnership events such as senior manager's seminars and locality practitioner events which allow us to involve as many staff as possible in important improvement activity.



## 7. Our partnership

The Getting It Right for South Lanarkshire's Children's Services Strategy Group and Partnership Board have set a strong vision for our joint work.

*South Lanarkshire's children, young people and families will be safeguarded and supported to reach their full potential and thrive within their communities.*

We constantly review how we work together in partnership as part of our approach to good governance and work to ensure that structures and systems across the partnership reflect existing and emerging priorities for improvement identified from robust audit activity.

The structure highlighted below illustrates the current governance structure and important linkages across South Lanarkshire's Community Planning Partnership and Child Protection structures.

As part of our ongoing reflection, the partnership has agreed to refocus the third theme of our plan to concentrate on children and young people in need of care and protection. This lens will allow us to be in step with the national inspection model led by the Care Inspectorate and also build on the momentum and goodwill developed with all stakeholders as part of our recent inspection process.

### The Child Protection Committee

As a multi-agency partnership working together to keep children safe, the South Lanarkshire Child Protection Committee (SLCPC) and a number of associated sub groups work across children's services to improve outcomes for children and young people. To monitor activity across all areas of work at local and national level, including the expectations of the national Child Protection Improvement Programme, the SLCPC Quality Assurance and Management Information Sub Group, through its Self-Evaluation Strategy plans audit activities in a number of creative ways throughout the year. This includes direct consultation activity with children, young people, families and communities. Quality assurance activity includes joint audit activity as agreed within the Children's Services Plan.

Findings are shared widely across child protection and children's services and offer quantitative and qualitative data on areas of strength and areas for improvement. The SLCPC supports shared improvement work on delivering outcomes planning across a number of areas, including parental substance misuse, mental health and neglect. Work is driven by both the Child Protection Committee Business Plan and the Children's Services Partnership's Joint Self Evaluation and Continuous Improvement Activity Plan. These partnership activities serve to illustrate the shared vision that all children and young people have a right to be cared for and protected from abuse and harm.





## Engagement with children and families

Article 12 of the UNCRC states that children and young people should have their say when adults are making decisions that affect them and their opinions are taken seriously. The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 ensures that children's rights are realised and that they properly influence the design and delivery of policies and services.

The participation and engagement of our children and young people has been central to the planning process and continues to be a key influence on our joint planning including as we develop our new children's services plan. Some recent examples include:

- Champions Board
- Online survey to inform the next Children's Services Plan
- Inspection questionnaire survey
- Mind of My Own app for care experienced young people
- Youth services survey
- Survey of children and young people's experiences of the Covid 19 impact
- Recruitment of staff to the newly established Throughcare and Aftercare team

In early 2020 we carried out a public facing online consultation with children, young people and communities. Key issues arising from this survey include the following themes:

- The need to be more creative in tackling child poverty and inequalities and strengthen the links between the Children's Services Plan and the Local Child Poverty Action Report
- The importance of parental health and wellbeing and the home environment and the impact on the health and wellbeing of children and young people
- Mental and emotional health and wellbeing of children and young people, including nurture and attachment improved services and community-based support
- The continued importance of early intervention/prevention support to families

## Engagement with staff

The participation and engagement of staff is a highly valued aspect of our work. Regular senior managers events and locality seminars enable staff from all partners to contribute to our planning and evaluation and reflect on progress against key targets.

Over the last year around 600 staff from across all the partners attended at least one of these events and 1162 members of staff responded to the survey carried out as part of the recent inspection. This provided a strong perspective of what is working well for our workforce and what needs to be better. As a partnership we are using this evidence to inform how we work together.

Our Staff Handbook helps staff understand fully how the work that they do contributes towards our goal of improving outcomes for our children, young people and families.

## 8. Workforce development



We are committed to the delivery of high quality workforce development activity and the following activity reflects our investment into ensuring that staff are supported to deliver high quality, well informed services to children, young people and families.

- Locality events take place every six months to provide opportunities for staff on a multi-agency basis to work together to inform children's services strategic developments through self-evaluation activities, the sharing of good practice and thematic staff development elements. The events are well attended by staff from across the children's service workforce and approximately 600 staff have participated over the last 12 months.
- Participation in a range of Improvement Theory led initiatives designed to embed improvement practice into the children's services workforce, including the Mental Health and Wellbeing in Education Programme and the Baby Friendly Improvement groups and a multi-agency action plan to support breastfeeding initiatives
- We have supported delivery of the Low Intensity Anxiety Management (LIAM) training across the multi-agency workforce which aims to enable support to be delivered to children and young people experiencing anxiety
- Training for health visitors on second hand smoke brief interventions
- Robust Active Literacy training programme for 1200 staff to support the development of phonics, spelling and reading
- Training for 800 staff on attachment theory and practice led by Education's Psychological Services
- Support and training for staff delivering the Healthy Schools and Healthy Schools Plus programmes
- Gender Based Violence training for 298 staff
- Training in substance misuse for a range of staff groups supporting, children, young people and families directly
- A train the trainer course for the 'You and Your Child' programme is increasing staff capacity for future delivery
- Incredible Years training focusing on school age children, for staff in Youth, Family and Community Learning and third sector organisations



## Action Plan 2020-21 (Interim year)

In maximising the impact of this interim year of our Children's Services Plan, we continue our aspiration to support our children, young people and families and make the most effective and efficient use of available resources.

Our approach will largely be exceptions driven, where activity will be focused on the areas that over the past three years have still not rated green on our 'traffic light' analysis. These areas of work are still important in fulfilling the aspiration of achieving our three high level outcomes and providing best possible outcomes for our children, young people and families.

We will continue to face existing and new challenges and opportunities in a practical and planned way and ensure that we work to maintain a balance between local and national priorities.

The key areas of challenge for each of our themes are articulated in the table below. While we want to ensure that our priority areas of work are manageable, particularly at this uncertain time, these areas are not exclusive

Our response to the Independent Care Review recommendations will be a feature of our work as a partnership going forward.

### Prevention and early support

#### **Outcome 1. Children have the best start in life and are supported to realise their potential**

- We will support the short life working group to develop innovative ways to increase the uptake of the Free School Meal award, particularly across secondary schools
- We will review the progress of the Parenting Support Pathway and develop the next phase of the model focusing on families with children nine years+
- We will continue to support children, young people and families disadvantaged by the impact of Covid19 e.g. increased access to online parenting programmes

### Health and wellbeing

#### **Outcome 2. The health and wellbeing of children and families is improved**

- We will review the work of the Substance Misuse Subgroup to ensure a strong alliance with the work of the Alcohol and Drugs Partnership
- We will work to develop additional activity to support the implementation of the Lanarkshire wide Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy which will be developed with input from children's services partners from South Lanarkshire and from children and young people
- We will share the work to support the emotional wellbeing of girls and young women as part of the National Health and Wellbeing Improvement Practicum with all key partners and work with the Children and Young People Improvement Collaborative to extend the learning and use of improvement methodology

# Children and young people in need of care and protection

## **Outcome 3. The life chances of our most vulnerable children with additional support needs and our most vulnerable young people are improved**

- We will review our Corporate Parenting arrangements to ensure that the governance of systems to support our care experienced population is as robust as it can be
- We will fully implement the newly established Throughcare and Aftercare Service for care leavers to support transition successfully into adulthood
- We will develop our joint approach to understanding the use of outcomes data which will help us fully understand the impact services have on the lives of children and young people and make appropriate additional planning decisions
- We will improve our systematic approaches to carrying out comprehensive health and wellbeing needs assessments for all looked after children and young people and care leavers to ensure the right supports are put in place
- We will fully implement our 'Champion's Board' involving and seeking the views of children, young people and their families in care planning and review processes
- All partners will work together to agree innovative responses to the recommendations contained in the Independent Care Review

## Additional priorities for our Children's Services Partnership

### **The following areas of activity will be a priority for our local partnership in this interim year of the children's services plan:**

- We will develop our focus of the third theme of our plan to be more explicit of the support offered to children and young people in need of care and protection
- We will continue our work towards producing a Children's Rights Report that reflects our commitment to fully implementing the UNCRC
- We will publish a fully inclusive joint strategic needs analysis with all partners including children, young people and families that will inform all aspects of planning across the partnership
- We will ensure creative and meaningful co-production approaches to developing our new Children's Services Plan (rescheduled for April 2021) which will be led by our Participation and Engagement Working Group
- We will work with our partners across the Community Planning Partnership to further step change around child poverty activity
- We will strive to understand the short, medium and long-term impact of COVID-19 on our children and families and work together to implement the mitigating actions needed





# Appendix 1

## Children's rights in South Lanarkshire



Approximately **350 staff** benefited from **participating in children's rights multi agency workshops** young people contributed to the **Youth Services Survey**



We completed an online survey about the early impact of **Covid 19** and have had over **3000 responses** from children and young people



**Hundreds of young people** from South Lanarkshire took part in events across Scotland in September 2019 to demand **urgent action on climate change**



**314 children and young people** who had experienced domestic abuse, benefited from direct support from Women's Aid, an **increase on the 148** supported in the previous year



**Bespoke support** for care experienced young people moving to a positive post school destination meant **91.55%** made a **positive transition** in 2019 the **highest ever figure**



**244 staff** have been trained to help children and young people with **anxiety management through the LIAM initiative**



**21,200 pupils** were involved in the **Active Schools programme**, **48%** of school roll

There was an **increase** in the total number of young people supported through **Early and Effective Intervention**, up by **22%** from 2018/19





The following examples provide an insight into our commitment to the children's rights agenda:

## **What we have done to support the UNCRC articles**

### **(i) General measures of Implementation**

#### **Article 42 (knowledge of rights)**

We hosted a series of multi-agency locality events for children's services staff around the theme of children's rights and debated and shared existing good practice. We identified areas for further improvement that informed our future commitments and actions. We know staff have a greater understanding of the environment and barriers children may be experiencing due to training and awareness raising and have an increased commitment to putting systems in place to allow children's voices to be heard

In Education establishments, teaching children their rights has helped develop a deep understanding of the concept of rights in general and the UNCRC in particular. Children are very aware of own rights and confident in expressing and articulating them.

All reports and papers presented to relevant groups across the children's services governance structure are required to demonstrate links to those articles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) that are relevant to the matter being discussed.

### **(ii) General principles of the UNCRC**

#### **Article 12 (respect for the views of the child)**

We have completed our biennial Youth Services Survey providing an opportunity for young people to identify priorities for service design across various planning processes.

The Corporate Connections Board continues to ensure that young people are involved in decisions about policy changes and how services are developed and monitored.

We involved 60 families with a lived experience of poverty in shaping work around our Local Child Poverty Action Report (LCPAR) and actions to tackle child poverty. Since the publication of our first report, children, young people and parents have given their views on the actions we are taking and what is missing. This valuable perspective will inform our next LCPAR

Healthy n Happy delivered a youth activist development programme across Cambuslang and Rutherglen, supporting young people to develop aspirations for their community and help them take action to affect the change they want to see happen.

### **(iii) Civil rights and freedoms**

#### **Article 2 (non-discrimination)**

All key staff in Education Resources have received briefings in the use of the Framework for Inclusion and Equality designed to ensure the most vulnerable children and young people get the support they need when they need it.

### **(iv) Violence against children**

#### **Article 19 (protection from violence, abuse and neglect)**

We provide regular child protection training for staff, either on a single agency basis, or directly through the Child Protection Committee.

We have a clear Child Protection Policy and Guidance for staff in all partner agencies, ensuring that child protection processes are working well and giving young people the opportunity to disclose concerns in an appropriate way.

Our partnership commitment to children's rights and to listening to the views of children and young people is explicit in our Child Protection Business Plan.

### **(v) Family environment and alternative care**

#### **Article 9 (separation from parents)**

We have established a new Champions Board, supported by Who Cares Scotland? The Champion's Board was launched in January 2020 and has strengthened the voice of care experienced children and young people in South Lanarkshire.

We provide advocacy support for care experienced children in terms of their rights, those children accommodated have access to advocacy via Who Cares Scotland? e.g. support when going to children's hearing.

We have established the roll out of the Mind of My Own tool for care experienced children and young people have used the tool to share their views and experiences about their lives and the support they receive.

### **(vi) Basic health and welfare**

#### **Article 24 (health and health services)**

We have further implemented the national Low Intensity Anxiety Management (LIAM) Programme with training provided to over 240 school nurses, teachers, pupil support staff, and youth, family and community learning staff on a one to one manualised intervention for children and young people with anxiety. Ongoing coaching is provided by clinical psychologists who offer wider support and signposting for children and young people.



## **(vii) Education, leisure and culture**

### **Article 31 (leisure, play and culture) (vii) Education, leisure and culture Article 31 (leisure, play and culture)**

South Lanarkshire's Active School Programme provides opportunities for all children and young people to participate in sport, play and culture. We have engaged with over 21,200 participants in the Active School Programme in 2018/19. We will further develop opportunities for young people from disadvantaged groups (ASN, care experienced, SIMD 1) to become sports leaders by continuing to work in collaboration with young people, families and colleagues to develop programmes which are fun, engaging and accessible to all. The Active Schools Programme is available across every community across South Lanarkshire and is free and open to all people in our communities to volunteer, participate or officiate. A dedicated team of coordinators and staff are on hand to support children and young people on the journey.

The Tiny ACE initiative encouraged physical activity in the early years and has continued to develop with 437 Live Tiny ACE memberships across 2019/20. Leisure and Culture delivered approximately 50 different Tiny ACE activities and organised a number of special events throughout the year. On average there are 139 different classes delivered per week throughout a range of venues across South Lanarkshire and to promote the activities to families an annual brochure was produced and promoted via a variety of partners, platforms and mediums.

## **(viii) Special protection measures**

### **Article 40 (juvenile justice)**

We have further implemented the Whole Systems Approach to Youth Justice and put children and young people at the centre of this process.

The Early and Effective Intervention model provides an ideal opportunity to understand behaviours, explore consequences, build confidence and address issues with peer associations for young people. Young people are then supported to make positive friendships, return to school, explore opportunities for employment and a more positive future.

The Inclusion as Prevention initiative seeks collaboratively to re-shape the design and delivery of preventative services, with children and young people who are at risk of offending and their families at the centre of the process. The project has been created through co-design and co-production re-designing services, by shifting from an acute and crisis driven approach when a young person becomes involved in offending, to support at an earlier point in the lives of children who are at risk of becoming involved in future offending or other negative outcomes, tackling the root cause.

# Key contacts

## Partnership Planning Manager

Education Resources, South Lanarkshire Council

Floor 13, Almada Street, Hamilton, ML3 0AE

Phone: 01698 452238

Email: [education.inclusion@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:education.inclusion@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)

## Planning and Performance Manager

South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership

Floor 9, Almada Street, Hamilton, ML3 0AA

Phone: 01698 453749

Email: [strategic\\_services@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:strategic_services@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)



Children, young people and families will be safeguarded and supported to reach their full potential and thrive within their communities.



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

Phone: 0303 123 1015 Email: [equalities@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:equalities@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)

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



## Children's Services Plan 2021-23

## Draft Timetable 2020-21

Timeline to inform development of the new Children's Services Plan 2020-23		
Action	Due date	Complete
Joint Strategic Needs Analysis	October 2020	
Senior Managers Event	November/December 2020	
Locality Events (Workforce input)	November/December 2020	
Completed consultation with Children, Young People and Parents	December 2020	
Children's Services Strategy Group (Progress update)	Each meeting	
1 <sup>st</sup> Draft ready for consultation	January 2021	
Getting it Right for South Lanarkshire's Children Partnership Board	January 2021	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sector Chief Officers Group	February 2021	
Corporate Management Team (CMT) South Lanarkshire Council	February 2021	
Draft CSP 2020-23 to Graphics	March 2021	
Final Draft CSP	March 2021	
CPP Board	March 2021	
Children's Services Strategy Group	March 2021	
Getting it Right for South Lanarkshire's Children Partnership Board	April 2021	
Publication - Children's Services Plan by 30 April 2021	April 2021	



# Report

Report to:	<b>Partnership Board</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>21 October 2020</b>
Report by:	<b>Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) South Lanarkshire Council</b>

Subject:	<b>Local Child Poverty Action Report</b>
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## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ outline the draft South Lanarkshire Child Poverty Action Report and further consultation

## 2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the content of the draft Local Child Poverty Action Report for publication by 30 October 2020 be noted.

## 3. Background

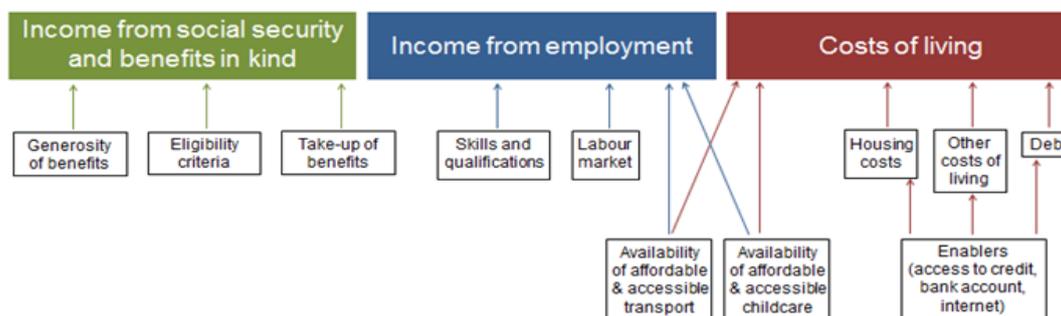
- 3.1. The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 introduced a new requirement for local authorities and each relevant Health Board to prepare **Local Child Poverty Action Reports**, as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of each reporting year.
- 3.2. The report should describe any measures taken in the area of the local authority during the reporting year and planned measures for the year ahead. These should contribute to the 4 national income based child poverty reduction targets to be achieved by 2030. These are:-
  - (1) Less than 10% of children are in relative poverty;
  - (2) Less than 5% of children are in absolute poverty;
  - (3) Less than 5% of children are in combined low income and material deprivation; and
  - (4) Less than 5% of children are in persistent poverty.
- 3.3. These national targets cannot all be made available at a council level. The only one which is available relates to the proportion of children in South Lanarkshire in relative poverty - currently sitting at 23%, slightly below the Scottish level (24%).
- 3.4. The Scottish Government has made it clear that the introduction of the requirement to produce a Local Child Poverty Action Report (LCPAR) signals an imperative to undertake new activity and a new approach to tackling Child Poverty; effectively a step-change in tackling child poverty. Where local partners are continuing with existing activity, they should be clear about the supporting evidence base indicating its effectiveness.

- 3.5. The Poverty and Inequality Commission has been tasked by the Scottish Government to provide feedback on all the local action reports. Feedback on the South Lanarkshire LCPAR 2019/2020 was overwhelmingly positive. In addition, the Improvement Service indicated through feedback sessions that they were directing other councils/health boards towards the report as an example of good practice.
- 3.6. South Lanarkshire Council, NHS Lanarkshire and other South Lanarkshire Partnership members agreed at the CPP Board meeting of 6 June 2018 to produce a single Local Child Poverty Action Report recognising that a collective effort would be more effective. A Local Child Poverty Leads group was established to produce the plan. All Council departments; NHS Lanarkshire; and Skills Development Scotland are represented on the group. The Voluntary Sector is represented by VASlan; South Lanarkshire CABs; and the Machan Trust. This group has continued to work together to produce the current years LCPAR.

#### 4. Scope of the Plan

- 4.1. Child poverty is caused by a complex blend of structural issues relating to macro-economic and political factors governing the labour market, employment and social security. Social factors make particular groups especially vulnerable to poverty, e.g. children, lone parents, disabled people and Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) groups. The following diagram from the Scottish Government provides an overview of what its research indicates are the main drivers of child poverty.

Drivers of child poverty targets



- 4.2. The Local Child Poverty Action Report (LCPAR) is expected to provide background/contextual information; governance and reporting arrangements and a progress and action plan which is organised around the 3 child poverty drivers above. Key data is highlighted throughout the plan and has been used to inform the actions set out for 2020/2021. In addition the information gathered from those with lived experience of poverty has been key in identifying future actions and will continue to be a main focus for the partners in delivering and improving upon these.

#### 5. Impact of COVID-19

- 5.1. In normal circumstances, the expectation would be that the LCPAR would be published by the end of June each year. However the impact of the pandemic has meant that work on the report was delayed and as a result, the report will now be published by the end of October 2020. Guidance was sought from the Scottish Government in April 2020 to ensure that this was acceptable.

5.2. As well as the short term impact upon capacity to produce the report, it is accepted that there will be a longer term negative economic impact as a result of the pandemic. This is likely to not be felt equally across society; the impact will be particularly severe for those who are already on low and fixed incomes, suffering from poorer health and in insecure work. Therefore the challenges which were already being faced in reducing child poverty are likely to have been increased by the pandemic and this requires future consideration as the situation becomes clearer over the rest of the 2020/2021 year.

## **6. The 2020/2021 Plan**

6.1. A draft of the Plan is attached as Appendix 1. Partners have been asked, where possible, to provide a baseline and target for their measures. This will ensure that reporting upon progress is accurate and can identify where there is still a need for further action. Partners have also identified resources to ensure that the measures can be delivered upon in the current year.

6.2. Key improvement areas were identified from reporting upon last year's plan, and actions against these are presented within the current plan. These are:-

### **Chapter 1. Increased income from benefits and entitlements**

- ◆ Continue to embed financial wellbeing assessments in health and other wider health and wellbeing assessments.
- ◆ Ensure the impacts of the combined advice services are maximised, including better digital support and engagement opportunities and face to face opportunities in communities as appropriate.

### **Chapter 2. Reducing the costs of living**

- ◆ Continue developing additional childcare/early learning hours to be accessible and help parents who are working or progressing towards work.
- ◆ Tests of change intended to improve the uptake of free school meals.
- ◆ Supporting local digital hubs to continue providing low cost and critical access to online job search and benefit applications.
- ◆ Making better use of data to understand what is behind Scottish Welfare Fund (SWF) refusals and what is driving families to apply, as well as increasing partner knowledge of SWF criteria.
- ◆ Identifying further actions to support access to affordable transport.

### **Chapter 3. Increasing income from employment**

- ◆ Continue to consider how we impact on child poverty through maximising community benefits from procurement and economic growth.
- ◆ Ensure that parents and young people with disabilities have access to appropriate employability support.

6.3. An ongoing action for the year will also be to continue to monitor the impact of the pandemic and any further needs which may arise to mitigate an increase in child poverty. As part of this, listening to the voices of those with lived experience is key to the development of the LCPAR. During the remainder of 2020/2021, partners have agreed to hold informal discussions with the families they support about the challenges they are facing and the ways in which they can be assisted to overcome these. This information will help to form a basis for developing the actions needed in future years.

## **7. Employee Implications**

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

## **8. Financial Implications**

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

## **9. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implication**

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

## **10. Other Implications**

10.1. The LCPAR continues to be a point of local and national scrutiny. This could have positive and/or negative impacts on perceptions of the partnership and proactive PR approaches will be required.

## **11. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**

11.1. There is a requirement to carry out an equality impact assessment and an initial assessment has been undertaken. Indications are this will have a positive impact on the protected characteristics of age; disability; race and sex.

**Paul Manning**

**Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)**

**South Lanarkshire Council**

24 September 2020

### **Contact for Further Information**

If you would further information, please contact:-

Rhonda Leith, Community Engagement Manager, South Lanarkshire Council

Phone: 01698 455783

Email: [rhonda.leith@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:rhonda.leith@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)

South Lanarkshire's



South Lanarkshire  
**Partnership**  
Stronger together

# Local Child Poverty Action Report



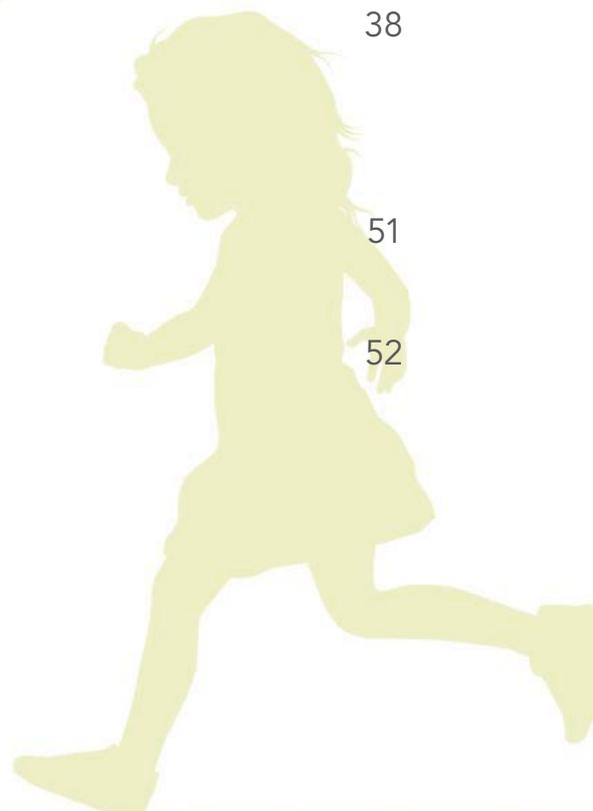
South Lanarkshire Community Planning Partnership's  
progress over 2019/20 and our plans for 2020/21

Giving every child  
in South Lanarkshire  
every chance



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# Foreword

This is our second annual Child Poverty Action Report for South Lanarkshire, and we continue to build on our current actions and good practice while seeking innovative ways to work with communities and deliver services that make the greatest difference to those who are struggling. As a partnership our overarching objective remains Tackling Poverty, Deprivation and Inequality and we are committed at all levels to do everything which is in our power to address this.

We were aware that we already faced significant challenges due to the financial climate and that the current COVID-19 pandemic has helped to escalate these for many of our families. We also recognise that we remain limited in our ability to influence some of these factors at a local level but we continue to work to our best efforts and through our actions, we will make a difference to those who are struggling to make ends meet.

In our positions as Leader of South Lanarkshire Council and Chair of NHS Lanarkshire Board, we have already committed to ensuring that the resources required to deliver the actions within our Local Child Poverty Action Report are in place and that we are making the best use of these resources. We continue to commit to this as we face the challenge of recovery and renewal brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic and our collective response to it. However, we recognise that this is a time of change and uncertainty and will ensure that we will keep this under review as we move forward. During this coming year we will be working to make sure that our focus on poverty and the priorities we are delivering on as a partnership, meet current needs of our communities. At the heart of our approach will be our understanding of the impact of poverty has on South Lanarkshire's children and their life chances and outcomes.

We also recognise that we cannot deliver on these promises without the support of all of our community planning partners and will continue to work as a strong partnership so that we are all playing the part we need to in tackling child poverty in South Lanarkshire. Their contribution to the development and delivery of this plan is invaluable and our thanks go to them for their commitment as well.

Finally, and most importantly, families with a lived experience of poverty know more than any of us what will make a difference and we will ensure their voices are heard and acted on as we go forward. If you would like to become involved in these conversations with us, contact details are at the end of this document and we would be glad to hear from you.



**John Ross**  
Leader of South Lanarkshire Council



**Neena Mahal**  
Chair of NHS Lanarkshire Board

# 1 Introduction

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

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

The legislation also included a duty on the Scottish Government to produce three national Child Poverty Delivery Plans over the period and placed a statutory duty on local authorities and NHS Boards to report annually on step change and improvement activity to reduce child poverty in their local area. This is our second Local Child Poverty Action Report for South Lanarkshire and follows a decision taken by the Community Planning Partnership Board at its 6 June 2018 meeting to produce a joint report reflecting the Community Planning Partnership approach to tackling child poverty. This is in recognition of the critical contribution all local partners are making to reducing child poverty in our communities.

Our report, in addition to providing an understanding of how poverty impacts on children and families, outlines progress made over the last year (2019/20) in relation to the key poverty drivers and how we intend to build on this progress in 2020/21 highlighting key improvement areas.

This report and action plan has been produced by our community planning partners including South Lanarkshire Council; NHS Lanarkshire; South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership; Skills Development Scotland and our third sector organisations. Strong partnership working between the statutory and third sectors is key to our approach and is crucial in driving meaningful community engagement and co-design. This flexible, multifaceted model supports the involvement of all stakeholders, including the most vulnerable and disengaged families who may be reluctant to engage with public services e.g. from fear, embarrassment, or lack of knowledge.



Local and national data and information has been used to understand the needs of families and communities at risk of or affected by poverty, helping us to identify activity that is most likely to have a positive outcome for families. We are also informed by existing good practice already in place in South Lanarkshire as well as looking to see what we can learn from other good practice across Scotland.

The Community Planning Partnership continues to be very clear that this report is the basis of a commitment to deeper engagement with families to ensure that priorities and actions reflect the needs of those with lived experience of poverty. Conversations with those with lived experience have been used to shape the improvement areas within the plan and will continue to do so as we move forward.

During the early part of 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic began to spread worldwide, and Scotland went into 'lockdown' at the end of March. This had a huge initial impact on service delivery and focus, with speedy adaptation required to many delivery models and the focus on supporting the most vulnerable within our communities. The ongoing economic impact of the pandemic and the response has yet to be fully understood but it is clear that there will be an increase in unemployment and a fall in income for many families, and that the impact of this is likely to fall disproportionately upon those who were already finding it difficult financially.

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

Nearly half of households with dependent children in Scotland find themselves in the two most serious categories of financial stress: 'in serious financial difficulty', or 'struggling to make ends meet,' compared to 30 per cent of all households in Scotland reporting the same levels of financial stress, according to the Institute of Public Policy Research Scotland.

In South Lanarkshire, Universal Credit claims in our wards have so far increased by up to 2.5 times their level a year ago. This creates an additional challenge to the work we are planning to address child poverty and requires our partnership to make sure our recovery and renewal work has alleviating the impact of poverty at its heart. During this year we will continue to assess the local impact of the pandemic and ensure that we are planning and taking actions to address this as needed. We recognise that we are not yet aware of the full impact of the pandemic and of the steps which are having to be taken to mitigate the spread of the virus. As a result we will continue to work in an agile manner to respond to the need which arises within our communities.

## 2 The scale of the challenge nationally and locally

The South Lanarkshire report measures progress on the issue of child poverty across a range of actions and measures, most of which are based on locally targeted activities and projects. The original Scottish Government advice (June 2018) on the development of Child Poverty Action Reports stressed the importance of the use of high level indicators based on national datasets and surveys (e.g. from sources such as the DWP, HMRC, the Office for National Statistics and the Scottish Government) to allow local authorities to monitor progress on child poverty within a wider national context. A full list of Child Poverty measures comparing South Lanarkshire progress against the national average is included in the appendix.

One of the problems of using national datasets is the difficulty of gauging short-term progress on measures related to child poverty. As with many of the national datasets that break down to council level results, there is a significant time lag between the periods when the data is collected and published (usually one to two years). Many poverty survey results that are published at a local authority level are subsets of data from nationwide surveys that have to be aggregated and averaged over two to three years to provide accuracy. Most of the high-level measures used in this report are based on statistics that are already a year old at the time of publication (e.g. 2019 usually being the most recent). A true picture of the impact of the actions contained in this report on levels of child poverty locally over the past year will therefore not be reflected in any positive changes in the high level measures used until next year at the earliest.

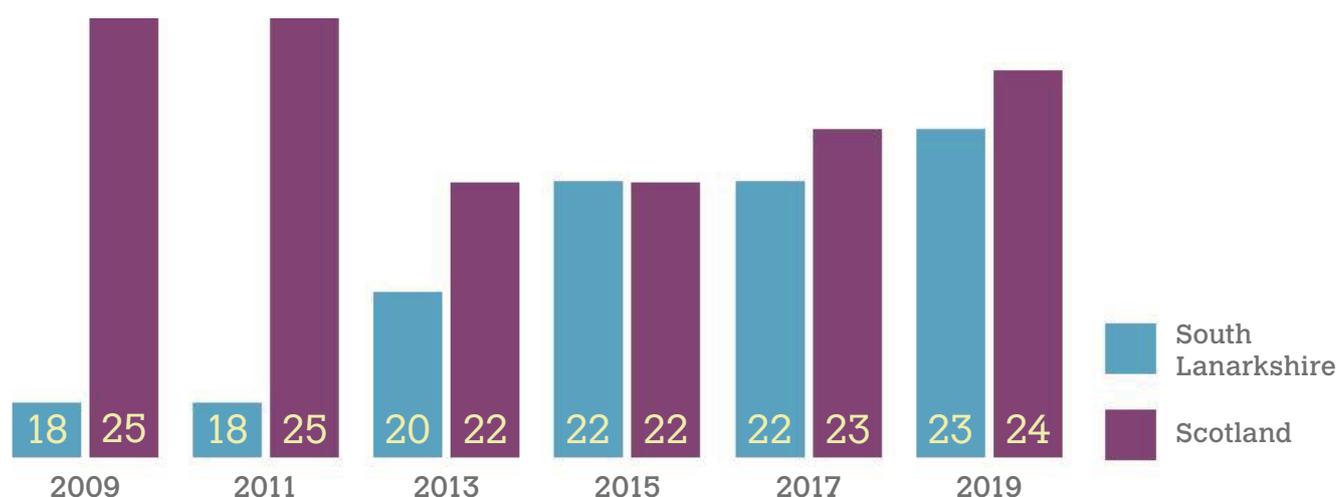
Figure 1 shows the measure used for estimating the number/percentage of children living in relative poverty (a family is judged to be living in relative poverty if their household income is below 60% of the average UK household income) suggests a worrying trend. The most recent median figure prior to the COVID crisis was approximately £29,000 (2019) indicates **that just under 16,000 children in South Lanarkshire (23%) live in relative poverty once housing costs are taken into account. This is a rise of around 2,000 from the 2017 figure recorded in last year's report.**



Figure 1:

% of children (0-19 years) in relative poverty 2009-2019 (after housing costs)

(Source: Child Poverty Action Group)



The graph above shows that relative poverty amongst children (aged 0-19) in families has been progressively increasing in South Lanarkshire over the last decade. Considering the recent COVID-19 epidemic and the economic impact that this is likely to have, this situation can only be expected to get worse over the next few years. Organisations such as the Institute of Public Policy Research have estimated, that across the UK as a whole the number of children in poverty could increase by around 100,000 to 300,000 by the end of 2020. In South Lanarkshire the proportionate increase would be an extra 500 to 1,500 children living below the poverty line by the end of the year.

Figure 2 shows how poverty levels vary across South Lanarkshire between and within our four localities.

Percentage of children in relative poverty (after housing costs) (Child Poverty Action Group)			
Locality area and year	2017	2019	Change 2017-2019
<b>Hamilton</b>	<b>24.3%</b>	<b>24.8%</b>	<b>+0.5%</b>
Most deprived ward (Larkhall)	29.0%	27.9%	-1.1%
Least deprived ward (Bothwell/Uddingston)	14.9%	13.7%	-1.2%
<b>East Kilbride</b>	<b>17.7%</b>	<b>18.3%</b>	<b>+0.6%</b>
Most deprived ward (East Kilbride South)	20.8%	25.5%	+4.7%
Least deprived ward (East Kilbride West)	7.3%	10.3%	+3.0%
<b>Rutherglen/Cambuslang</b>	<b>23.6%</b>	<b>25.3%</b>	<b>+1.7%</b>
Most deprived ward (Rutherglen Central and North)	28.2%	29.2%	+1.0%
Least deprived ward (Cambuslang West)	20.7%	20.7%	0.0%
<b>Clydesdale</b>	<b>21.7%</b>	<b>22.4%</b>	<b>+0.7%</b>
Most deprived ward (Clydesdale South)	25.2%	25.1%	-0.1%
Least deprived ward (Clydesdale West)	19.9%	20.6%	+0.7%

### South Lanarkshire average

2017 21.9%    2019 22.5%    Change +0.6%

Comparing the most recent figures on relative poverty (2019) with the figures used in last year's report (2017) suggests that levels of child poverty have increased to varying degrees across all four locality areas. It is worth noting that despite falls in levels of child poverty in individual wards, there has been little movement in terms of what ranks as the most deprived and least deprived wards in the four locality areas. Comparison between the 2017 and 2019 data confirms that the same wards continue to rank as the best and the worst in all four areas, illustrating the persistent nature of the problem of child poverty at the local level.

Alternative measures of relative poverty for children are also available. Levels of in work poverty for families with children can be measured through indicators such as children in families on working family's tax credit. The latest figures for this suggest that just under two thirds (63%) of children in South Lanarkshire still live in families that are in employment and in receipt of a Tax Credit (DWP/ HMRC, Aug 2017). This is slightly down on the level recorded in last year's report of 65% (based on Aug 2015 figures). These families might not be on incomes less than 60% of the average household median, but their reliance on top up benefits and tax credits still places them more at risk of poverty than other families on higher incomes.

We know that different types of family/ household structure can also have a bearing on how susceptible households with children are to poverty. Family types such as lone parents, families with more than three dependent children, families with disabled children, ethnic minority families, or a family where both parents are in part-time work are more likely to be affected by poverty and will require particular consideration when developing plans and services. Figure 3 below shows how susceptible different family types with children are to poverty across Scotland.

Figure 3 shows how susceptible different family types with children are to poverty across Scotland.

Priority Group (Source: Scottish Government, Income and Inequality Statistics 2016-19)	% children in relative poverty 2015-2018	% children in relative poverty 2016-2019
Lone parents	36%	39%
Children in households with a disabled adult	32%	31%
Children in households with a disabled child	27%	25%
Families with 3+ children	30%	31%
Minority ethnic families	37%	44%
Youngest child aged under 1 year	32%	32%
Mothers aged under 25	44%	n/a
Part-time employment only	40%	40%
Lives in a property rented from a council/housing association	45%	46%
Lives in a property rented privately	42%	41%

**Scottish average – relative poverty (children in all household types)**  
 2015-2018 **24%**    2016-2019 **24%**

More detail on available poverty related data is contained in the South Lanarkshire Child Poverty Data Profile in Appendix 1.

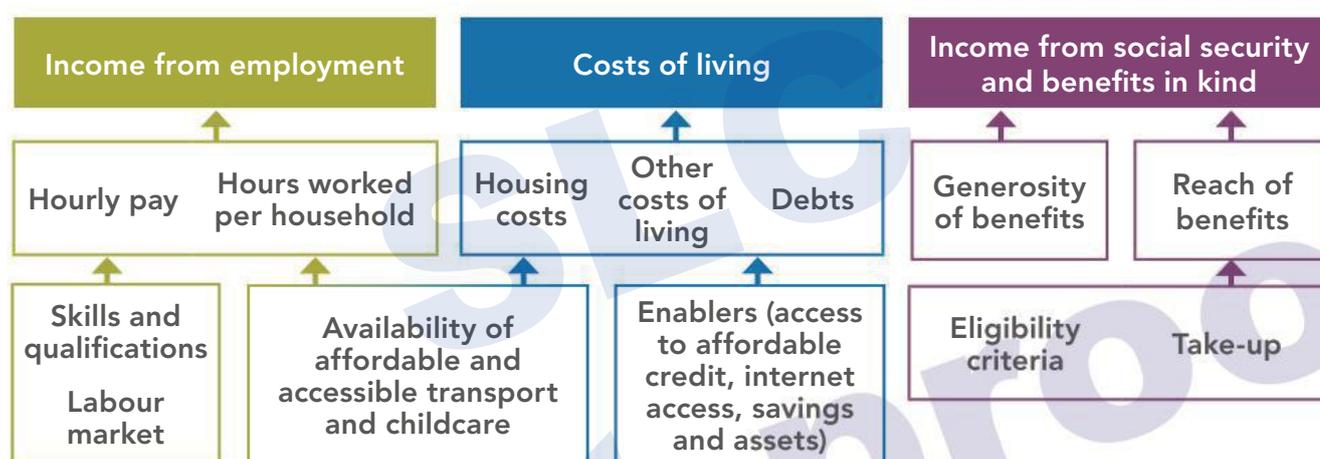


# 3 Scope of the plan and links to others

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

This report therefore continues to focus on what are widely recognised as the three key drivers of child poverty, shown in Figure 4. In simple terms what we need to do to put or keep more money in the pockets of low income families struggling to make ends meet.

Figure 4: Drivers of child poverty



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

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

While this report will focus on the three key drivers above, our Community Plan, Children’s Services Plan, Health and Social Care Commissioning Plan and other partnership plans all contain a wider set of priorities and actions to prevent and mitigate the impacts of poverty on children and families.

*Links to these documents are provided in Appendix 2.*

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

The Fairer Scotland Duty (part 1 of the Equality Act 2010) came into force in April 2018 and places a legal responsibility on public bodies to pay due regard to (or actively consider) how they can reduce inequalities of outcome, caused by socio-economic disadvantage when making strategic decisions.

The work outlined within this report will be an integral part of South Lanarkshire Council and NHS Lanarkshire’s contribution to achieving an equality of outcomes for our residents.

We recognise that the most impact on reducing levels of poverty will come from the driver related to increasing income from employment. While increasing income from benefits and reducing the cost of living will improve the day to lives of low income families, our emphasis will remain upon increasing access to quality, appropriately paid employment opportunities which will lift people out of poverty.

At this time, there is a great deal of national interest focused upon work around poverty. We recognise that there is a larger picture at play and that there is a need for us to ensure we focus our energies on actions which can make a difference, while working together to maximise the use of our resources and avoiding the risks which come with a lack of coordination.

## 4 Governance and reporting arrangements

The governance structure shown in Figure 5 shows how the South Lanarkshire Community Planning Partnership will be accountable for this report, providing strategic leadership and overseeing the delivery of the improvement actions. A Local Child Poverty Lead Officer Group has been established with representation from all key partners who have produced the plan. The group has worked closely with the relevant community planning partnership thematic boards.

All delivery partners will use the IMPROVE performance management system to report progress on a six-monthly basis, however more regular monitoring will take place at the Local Child Poverty Lead Officer Group. We will have a clear focus on identifying and addressing areas that have not progressed as planned.

An annual progress report will be presented to the Getting it Right for South Lanarkshire’s Children Partnership Board and to the Community Planning Partnership Board.

Figure 5: Governance structure around tackling child poverty



## 5 Using local data to shape our plans

Key data linked to progress and actions is highlighted within the action plan section of this report. A more comprehensive data profile for South Lanarkshire has been produced and used by those developing the actions within this report. *(Appendix 1)*

Since the early days of the Scottish Government led Quality Improvement Collaborative (currently the Children and Young People's Improvement Collaborative), South Lanarkshire partners have embraced the use of the three step improvement framework for Scotland's public services and in particular making better use of data to shape effective policies, plans and services. Partnership progress can be evidenced through a range of quality improvement awards received.

However, we recognise that work still needs to be done to make sure that all partners involved in the development and delivery of this report and related actions. We want to make sure our workforce has the skills and understanding and information systems in place to enable them to ensure that data and evidence is informing our thinking, planning and designing of future interventions.

We continue to work to improve our understanding of data at small, neighbourhood levels and to increase the voice of those with lived experience of poverty in the development of the report and actions.

## 6 Workforce development

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

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

Our overarching objective to tackle poverty, deprivation and inequality includes a commitment to ensuring our services meet this recommendation and our intention is to build on very positive workforce development activity already in place.

Over the last five years during Challenge Poverty Week, and aligned to the Poverty Alliances "Stick Your Labels" campaign we have raised staff awareness of poverty through daily emails extending across all Council departments and various partner organisations and will continue this approach each year given the positive feedback.

In addition to raising awareness across the workforce, we have promoted the Poverty Alliance's "Stick Your Labels" campaign to local partners and 32 have since signed the three pledges:

### **Poverty is not inevitable:**

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

*We all have a role to play in addressing poverty:*

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

### **Attitudes matter:**

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

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

### **Actions change attitudes:**

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

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

An online poverty awareness and tackling stigma training course has also been developed by a multi-agency "Stick Your Labels" group to help further build understanding and commitment. Poverty awareness training with locality health and social care teams working with families has taken place over the last year with a focus on building staff confidence to raise the issue of financial wellbeing with families and utilise active referral pathways to appropriate advice and support colleagues and partners.

As part of children's services partnership workforce activity, locality multi-agency events take place every six months to provide opportunities for staff to work together to jointly evaluate progress, share practice, learn from each other and inform strategic developments. Over the last 12 months approximately 600 staff have participated in these events and the Local Child Poverty Action Report and our work to address child poverty has been a key feature of the programme.

We will continue to develop this work further as well as progress other key workforce development activity including building skills and knowledge to support improvement work around data capture and analysis.



# 7 Area based approaches/ Neighbourhood Planning

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

In response to the new requirement through the Community Empowerment Act to develop locality plans for areas where outcomes are poorest, our partnership agreed to establish a new Neighbourhood Planning approach in 2017.

'Our Place Our Plan' has become a consistent feature of our co-design work with communities. Initially it was tested in three 'phase one' areas, Whitlawburn and Springhall in the Cambuslang and Rutherglen Area, Hillhouse, Udston and Burnbank in Hamilton and Strutherhill and Birkenshaw in Larkhall. This work has now been expanded to include neighbourhood plans for Cambuslang East and Burnhill in Rutherglen and Blantyre and Fairhill in Hamilton. There are plans for extending this work into two more areas, Whitehill and Low Waters and Eddlewood, both in Hamilton and these will be developed in the 2020/21 year.

We have worked with communities from the outset to design and implement the 'Our Place Our Plan' process and the communities have recently launched their plans for the year ahead, focussing on key community priorities. More and better facilities and activities for children and young people continue to be a top priority in all neighbourhood planning areas, and this includes the need to consider the cost of access to services and facilities.

We will be testing new approaches to service delivery in these areas, particularly to tackle income and employment deprivation, which will include a specific focus on low income families with children.

The "Our Place Our Plan" approach, driven by local communities, will help us to engage with families who have a lived experience of poverty, which adds great value to our child poverty planning processes.

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

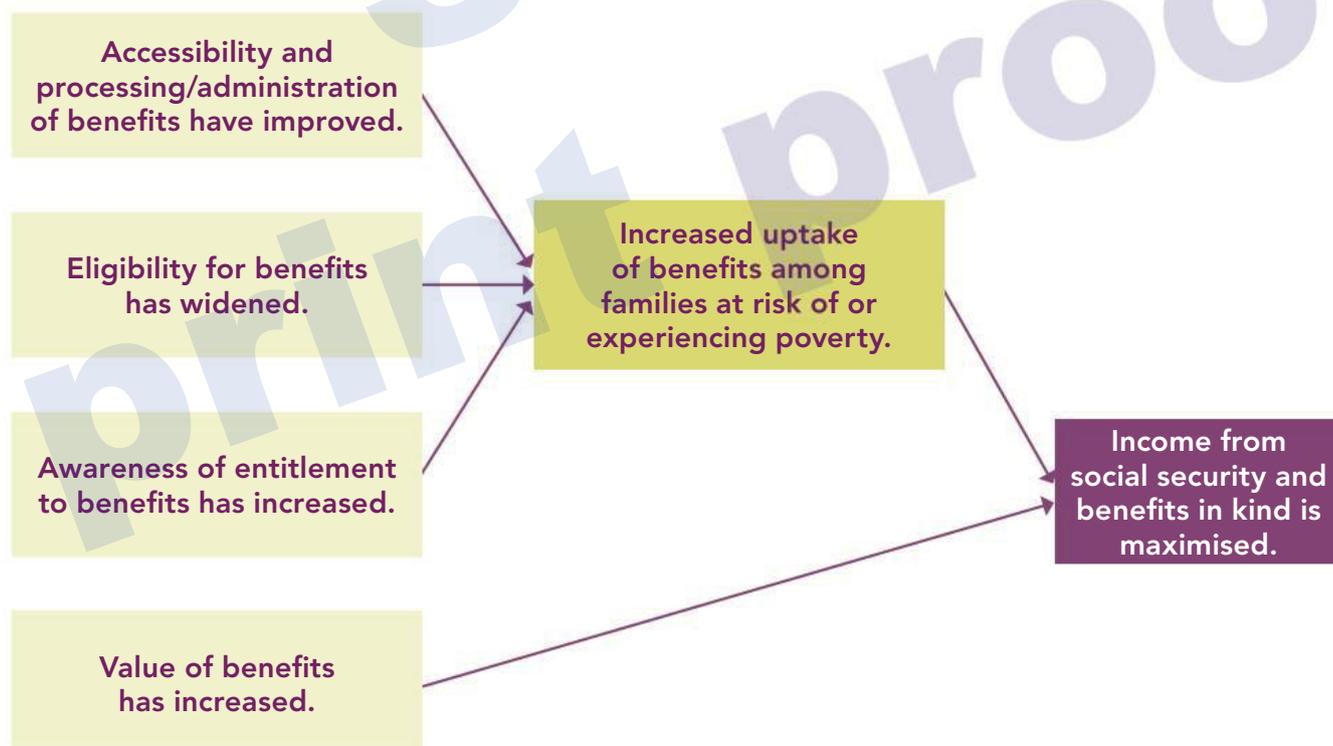
# 8 Our Local Child Poverty Progress Report 2019/20 and Action Plan for 2020/21

## Chapter 1

### Taking action to increase income from benefits and entitlements

Outcome:  
Income from social security and benefits in kind is maximised

Figure 6: XXXXXXXXXX



# Why is this work important?

Financial wellbeing impacts on all aspects of family life, including health and wellbeing. It affects the opportunities available, the choices families make, and the general quality of life families have. While household assets are not purely material, and comprise much more than financial income, increasing incomes for families is important for achieving better outcomes and helping children and young people to thrive.

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

Maximising income coming into households with children is key to tackling child poverty. It includes support with money management, tackling debt, building savings, accessing affordable borrowing options, and reducing household bills. It also includes supporting families to develop the know-how to manage situations and difficult choices. Given the rising levels of in-work poverty, more families in and out of work require welfare benefits to provide an adequate standard of living. As a result, our response requires a focus on reducing the gap between those entitled to welfare support and the level of uptake of available benefits by raising awareness of entitlements and delivering effective support services.

Welfare Reform has had a negative impact for many families in South Lanarkshire with significant numbers seeing a reduction in welfare support through the benefit cap, benefit sanctions and other changes. Social security changes are affecting the wellbeing of children, their families and the communities that support them. In many cases this has been made worse by issues arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.

A recent Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG) report (July 2020), concentrates on the impact of COVID-19 on families living in Scotland. It highlights that many families are struggling financially due to inadequate support from the social security system in a range of situations e.g. as a result of the benefit cap, tax credits awards stopping when a claim was made for universal credit (UC) to which the family were then not entitled, where families no longer are receiving benefits for 16 and 17 year olds who had left education. Additionally, many parents who are unable to work while schools and childcare providers were closed, have in some cases being asked to pay to retain a childcare place.

## Where are we now?

Throughout the first year of our Local Child Poverty Action Report we have demonstrated progress in understanding local need and identifying the impact of poverty through engaging with stakeholders to develop and implement key actions in our action plan. COVID-19 has increased the risk of even greater inequality, highlighting the impact of low pay and insecure work. It is vital therefore, that we continue to target our resources in the as best we can to build on the progress gained so far.

### Examples of the impact of COVID pandemic include:

- A 90.7% increase in unemployment claimants in South Lanarkshire between January and June 2020, largely as an impact of COVID-19 (from 6,830 to 13,025). In addition, 46,400 people have been placed on the government's furlough scheme.
- The potential of increased levels of debt including rent arrears, as families struggle with lower incomes when the protection schemes put in place stop.
- Lower income households (who were more likely to report having no savings than those with higher incomes) increasing borrowing from high cost lenders to purchase essentials, selling assets or borrowing from family.
- Reduced access to welfare advice due to closures of offices, schools and reduced footfall through health centres and hospitals.
- Money Matters Advice Service enquiries becoming more complex requiring more time for each referral to make sure they are getting the correct support.
- Reduced access to support for some families because of digital exclusion, making it more difficult to know how to access advice and support.
- Families who haven't previously claimed benefit are less aware of where to go for advice and available benefits.

Providing support early to families is vital in achieving our outcomes and over the last year the examples below show progress made in maximising income from benefits:

- Automated provision to entitlements for families for free school meals has increased uptake and the promotion of school clothing grants has captured those families whose circumstance have changed due to COVID-19 pandemic
- Free internet access points in libraries and community facilities like Universal Connections have provided families with an access point to make online applications for benefits and provided support to those who don't have the skills or confidence to get online
- A new app has been developed to support access to available benefits and help people address money worries. The 'My Life, My Money Lanarkshire' app provides a comprehensive source of information, advice and support on welfare and money issues and was launched earlier this year through social media outlets and achieved nearly 300 engagements in a short space of time

<https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/my-life-my-money/id1491749974>



- In April 2019, a film telling the story of the lived experiences of people who live and work in South Lanarkshire and the impacts of welfare reform was launched and can be viewed in the link [www.youtube.com/watch?v=FGUxB0ISiqs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FGUxB0ISiqs)
- The Financial Inclusion Service delivered support to families of Lanarkshire children within in the Royal Hospital for Children in Glasgow. A total of 323 Lanarkshire families received support with a total financial gain £270,270, or an average of £836 per family. The link below provides real life stories of outcomes for families [www.youtube.com/watch?v=UfvnGNhVKEs&feature=youtu](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UfvnGNhVKEs&feature=youtu)
- Our wider work includes support by third sector agencies such as clothes banks, food banks and charity shops. E.g. Swaddle in the Hamilton area is a new social enterprise and charity set up by local parents. They accept donations of good quality children's items and sell them in their community shop at affordable prices. The proceeds are used to provide free goods and parenting support to local families. They have worked with partners groups during the COVID-19 pandemic to provide baby clothing bundles to local families.

The Best Start Grant supports low income families with costs during pregnancy, early learning and around the time a child begins primary school. In addition, enhanced support is provided through the baby box initiative, free vitamins in pregnancy and for children under three including best start foods which replaced healthy start vouchers with a payment card in August 2019.

In 2019-20 **8,360 applications were received** with a total financial gain of **£1,605,067.**

In addition Best Start foods provided an additional income of **£442.00 per child** including priority groups such as young parents and larger families of 3 or more children.

**773 children** benefited from the **free vitamins.**

One important improvement over the last year has been through better communication around a range of benefits and entitlements. We have sought to increase families and partners awareness of key messages and support available relating to welfare reform and new Scottish Social Security benefits processes. Over the last year social security staff have hosted 34 events for families and communities relating to their new benefits and application processes and over 60 training and awareness raising events were delivered by the Money Matters Service, DWP and CABs to the wider workforce and the public to improve awareness of benefits and entitlements covering Universal Credit and other welfare related topics.

In addition, there has been a range of ways in which we have further increased the awareness of the benefits landscape:

- Nine benefits webinars/learn-on-line courses made available to staff.
- Information provided to employability teams and agencies to enable them to help clients maximise income and provide the best possible advice on benefits, redundancy etc.
- Closer links with the Cost of the School Day programme including a welfare benefits presentation at a head teachers seminar and provide onsite sessions in schools for advice and support.
- We have used social media more with money advice blogs on benefits and debt issues promoted on Facebook, Twitter and the council's newspaper 'The View'.

Midwives, health visitors and family nurses can support families better by using a new financial inclusion pathway and have supported pregnant women and young families with money worries providing referrals into specialist money advice services when necessary. Staff are trained to sensitively work with families through a routine enquiry approach that helps identify need. Working in partnership with the Telephone Advice Line families can discreetly receive expert money advice services either by phone, face to face contact or joint visits with health staff. As a model of good practice, we have shared our experience nationally with the Scottish Government and the Financial Inclusion Universal Pathway Quality Improvement Collaborative. In the 12 months to March there have been 811 referrals to the Telephone Advice Line resulting in an average household income of £2,569 per household, meaning that families have less financial stress and can better budget throughout the year.

The Money Matters Advice Service and the CABs continue to work on maximising the uptake of benefits and stabilising incomes. Focused support alongside SELECT Digital Inclusion Hubs and in community facilities is working well and plans are in place to deliver advice and support within primary schools and nurseries. CABs and Money Matters supported over 37,000 enquiries around money, debt or benefits resulting in a financial gain of over £38m.



The CABs also provide free financial health checks for low income families and have supported 85 families to manage their finances. In addition, the Hamilton CAB work closely with third sector organisations Covey, The Machan Trust and Community Links to support our most vulnerable families.

Universal Credit awareness raising with front line staff has helped increase understanding of Universal Credit/legacy benefits which has in turn helped improved support to families reducing the risk of sanctions. Additionally, the CABs have been funded to provide two new services to meet specific needs. The 'Help to Claim' service and multi-channel hubs provide advice and support to people in the first five weeks of a new Universal Credit claim with 125 families supported over the last year. Evidence shows there has been a decrease in sanctions recently with CAB's recording fewer enquiries about benefits sanctions.

Hamilton and Rutherglen CABs work with South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership to provide advice, support and representation at benefit appeals to all people who have been referred from GPs, community nurses and allied health professionals. The service is provided in health centres and through home visits and targets our most deprived communities including people who may be vulnerable or isolated due to their health conditions. Advice, support and representation in relation to benefits, housing and debt means that families are supported at a very stressful time. In the last 12 months 493 beneficiaries of the primary care welfare services has led to a total financial gain of £861,220.

NHS Lanarkshire have employed a community link worker coordinator as part of a developing model of social prescription and welfare advice. This will include hubs in targeted health centres with plans to recruit nine community link workers who will be linked with CAB's and Money Matters. This will improve support to patients with initial financial advice in situ and refer those requiring extra assistance to specialist services. The initial plans for recruitment have been put on hold due to COVID-19. There are also plans to recruit five welfare advice officers to compliment the role of the community link workers.

The Money Talk project which commenced in November 2018 is targeted at low income families and older people and delivered by CABs. The project supports the priority groups in particular and aims to help families maximise household income by ensuring they are not paying more than they need for essential goods and services. The initiative will also ensure that the families they support are receiving all the benefits, grants and exemptions they are entitled to. The service is open to everyone and has been adapted due to COVID to include web chat. 122 families have already been provided with valuable support.

**The case studies overleaf provide good practice examples and outline the support given to families and the impact and outcomes achieved.**

### **Royal Hospital for Children in Glasgow: Family support and financial inclusion services**

A Parent was referred to our service as her youngest daughter was in hospital and mum was struggling with her own ill health, which was impacting on her ability to look after herself. The family were living on her husband's low wage, Child Tax Credit and Child Benefit and were also supporting their adult daughter, who looks after the home and assists with the caring tasks of her mum and her sister. The family provide care for the youngest daughter 24 hours a day.

A benefit check was carried out which identified that the youngest daughter may be entitled to Disability Living Allowance and that mum appeared to have an entitlement to Personal Independence Payment. The mum was supported claim for Disability Living Allowance, Carers Allowance and Personal Independence Payment and to contact tax credits. She was also supported to claim Carers Allowance for her older daughter.

As a result of the support provided, the youngest daughter was awarded an enhanced rate for both components of Disability Living Allowance. This led to a reduction in council tax and an award of Disability Living Allowance led to an increase in tax credits. At time of writing the mum has been awarded Standard Daily Living allowance bringing the total increase in income for the parents to £322.98 per week? A Carers Allowance award of £64.60 for the eldest daughter has given her recognition of the work she carries out, the opportunity to have her own income and to have her own bank account for the first time in her life.

### **Money Talks: Hamilton Citizens Advice Bureau**

Miss C contacted Hamilton CAB to ask for support with checking her benefit entitlements. She was 23 years old, pregnant and due to give birth in two months time. She wanted to find out what she might be entitled to when she had her baby. She was also struggling to access the drop-in service as she was working full-time.

A telephone appointment was arranged with the Money Talk adviser for the following week and a benefit check was carried out, which showed she would be entitled to Universal Credit and Child Benefit once the baby was born. She was also advised that she would be entitled to make a claim for the Best Start Grant pregnancy and baby payment once she was receiving her Universal Credit. She was advised how to claim these benefits and to get back in touch if she needed any further assistance. Miss C then contacted the adviser after the baby was born, for further help to make the benefit claim for Universal Credit. She was also provided with further information on how to apply for the Best Start Grant once she was awarded her Universal Credit.

Miss C contacted the Money Talk adviser again to advise that she had been awarded Universal Credit, Best Start Grant and Child Benefit resulting in a financial gain of £8558.76.



## South Lanarkshire case studies

### Telephone advice line for pregnant women and young families

A client who was pregnant and in a tenancy as a single person with no family support, contacted the advice line. She is on Universal Credit and had mental health issues. The client's midwife had referred her to the perinatal mental health team. The client wasn't working, (although she was previously) so wasn't entitled to Statutory Maternity Pay. The client was getting a council tax rebate and single person discount for council tax. While the client has most of the things she needed for her baby, she needed some support with her property e.g. help with papering, painting, laying carpets building her cot and gardening.

The client was provided with a range of support, including help with completing and claiming various benefits such as Child Health Benefit and Universal Credit (including Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit). The client was also supported with her mental health and helped complete a Personal Independence Payment application. She was also given a South Lanarkshire Leisure form, as she is entitled to a concession card to access fitness facilities, as this will help with physical and mental wellbeing. In addition, a referral for help was sent to the Community Payback team and Healthy Valleys.

As a result, the client has increased her income by nearly £80 per week, been awarded a one off Best Start Grant of £600 and received a baby box (worth £160). Her applications for Maternity Allowance and Personal Independence Payment are still pending. The Community Payback team have assisted with painting the house, building the cot and gardening and Healthy Valleys have provided a bed and furniture. Ongoing support is still being provided by the advice line and the midwife, the client's wellbeing has improved and she has reduced anxiety as a result of having someone to talk to about benefit and money issues.

## Key areas of challenge for 2020/21

- Broaden financial wellbeing work, extending pathways for families with school aged children, children with additional health needs and young people requiring advice.
- Strengthen communication links and information for staff and parents will be a priority. Targeting support to families with children returning to school after prolonged closures will ensure that families know about the benefits they are entitled to and new benefits being made available. E.g. child payment and winter heating.
- Improve workforce development and consider of the impact of COVID-19.
- The impact of COVID-19 on the delivery of services and capacity to offer support to vulnerable families.

Table 1: Actions and measures: what will we do in 2020/21?

Change required	Action to achieve change and who is responsible (Partner/Resource)	Measure (2020/21)	Baseline	Q4 target	Resources allocated	Target groups
1.1 Increased uptake of benefits and entitlements.	Deliver the Scottish Government Funded Financial Health check (Money Talk) to families via CAB.	Number of health checks delivered to families with children Number of families (with children) receiving benefit advice	85 1222	n/a	£12,508.94 per CAB	Families at risk of or experiencing poverty
	Midwives and health visitors will deliver a routine enquiry on the financial wellbeing of families at key pregnancy and health visiting assessments visits and refer to Money Matters Telephone Family Advice Line when relevant.	Percentage of routine enquiries by midwives Percentage of routine enquiries by health visitors	76% 13/15 mths – 92% 27/30 mths – 91% 4/5 year old review – 86%	80% 92% across all health reviews	£15k NHS Lanarkshire £90k Money Matters	All priority groups
	Monitor the impacts of COVID-19 and adapt Money Matters service provision and advice as needed. (SLC Money Matters Service; NHS Lanarkshire)	Number/percentage of families engaging with the telephone advice line (TAL database) Total benefits awarded (TAL database)	1005 referral 77% engaging £2,590,075	n/a n/a	£90k Money Matters £15k NHS Lanarkshire	All priority groups
CABs will deliver health and welfare advice services in hospital and community health settings. (Health and Social Care Partnership; South Lanarkshire CABs)	Number of referrals to CAB Health and Wellbeing Hubs Total benefits awarded Number of referrals to the Royal Hospital for Children Total benefits awarded	Total 1522 clients £775,569.77 323 *Pan Lanarkshire figure £270,271 *Pan Lanarkshire figure	n/a n/a n/a	£5k (RHC) from NHS Lanarkshire £15k Cambuslang CAB £100k Hamilton CAB	Low income families	



Change required	Action to achieve change and who is responsible (Partner/Resource)	Measure (2020/21)	Baseline	Q4 target	Resources allocated	Target groups
1.2. Families are more aware of changes in available benefits.	Partners will distribute updated benefit information to staff and families using a range of communication methods and social media platforms.	Number of Best Start Grant applications and percentage approved	6470 applications 67% approved	n/a	From existing resources	Low income families
		Total Best Start Grant benefits awarded	£1,244,950.00	n/a		
1.3 Strengthen workforce development.	Money Matters and social security Scotland will deliver a range of training and awareness raising session to partners.	Total Best Start Foods benefits awarded	£52,339	n/a		
		Total number of eligible children receiving vitamins	773	n/a		
		Number of sessions/ events delivered	103	110		Low income families

# Chapter 2

## Taking action to reduce the cost of living

### Why is this work important?

Rising living costs pose a very significant challenge to many of our families. We know from our front line staff and volunteers that some families are having to make hard choices about how to make very limited household income stretch to cover all the costs of running a home and feeding and clothing their children. Food banks refer to families requiring emergency food aid, but who can't afford the fuel bills to cook the food.

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

Figure 7: Cost of living factors impacting on families with children



Whilst impacting on every family in the country, COVID-19 is likely to have a particular damaging impact on those children and young people already living in poverty across Scotland and South Lanarkshire. It is likely that financial pressures will rise and low-income families already struggling to budget for unexpected expenses will be hardest hit by the increase in cost of living. Families have children at home more often and earnings for some parents are likely to decrease. This means many families are struggling with the cost of food and other household essentials. Increased childcare demands while children are not in school, and without the possibility of help from family networks (such as grandparents), are also likely to put additional financial strain on families.



The continued COVID-19 risks and restrictions may continue to impact on family finances, both in reducing income and increasing costs e.g. parents on zero-hours contracts, little job security, or parents relying on income from work in those industries hit most heavily by the pandemic such as hospitality.

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

The impact of the additional cost of internet access and digital equipment may make learning parity difficult for many children unable to access online resources and school lessons.

Children and young people in particular categories may be hit hardest and may require extra support, e.g.:

- Care experienced children and young people
- Young carers
- Single parent families
- Children and young people experiencing abuse and neglect
- BME communities, economic migrants, refugees

## Where are we now?

We have worked hard to increase the available child care provision and support the uptake of funded and early learning and childcare entitlement for two and three-year olds.

In doing so, we have seen an increase from 10% to 15.5% in the uptake of 2-year-old places for children with entitlement over the 12 months to March 2020. Health Visitors and Family Nurses have provided information about free places to parents at the earliest opportunity and especially across families that need the most support at the 13-15 month and 27-30 month child health review.

Early Years staff have been working with health colleagues to highlight the option of 2-year-old places as part of the 13-15-month child health needs assessment. Health visitors help to signpost parents to nurseries who can advise if parents are eligible for either a funded place or would be exempt from charges as a 'Family Seeking Work' or through one of South Lanarkshire's low-income exemptions. Early Years staff are also working with a wider range of partners providing information to be shared with the wider workforce designed to encourage parents to take up 2-year-old places. Currently we are unable to verify if families have entitlement to funded provision, however Education Resources Early Years has taken steps to ensure that this is not a barrier for our most vulnerable children, or those living in poverty.

**5.5%**  
increase in the uptake of  
two year old places for  
children with entitlement  
over the 12 months  
to March 2020.



While verification of eligibility will take place at a later date, the nursery admissions process continues to ensure that these children are categorised as Priority 1 and receive a place before other priority groups.

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

We have a short-term action plan for Education establishments in relation to implementing a guidance toolkit. By March 2020, 142 out of 148 (or 96%) schools submitted a Cost of the School Day Position Statement. Guidance around Cost of the School Day has been issued in a recovery guidance document. As part of this, schools are identifying their training needs around Cost of the School Day challenges. Schools are also supported with up to date information that helps them signpost families towards the many financial supports available locally, such as Money Matters and the local CABs, who were able to provide valuable support during lock-down, and are continuing to help families in the current financial climate.

An exciting response to the initial lockdown situation resulted in the delivery of 1017 physical resources packs and over 100 sanitary product packs to our most vulnerable primary-aged pupils, to provide much-needed support with at-home learning during the school closure period. Hundreds of secondary resource packs were also distributed at school-level.

Specific good practice examples include Trinity High School who have handed out food packages and electricity cards during the COVID-19 response and Netherburn Primary School, who were used as an example of good practice nationally. One of their many projects involves lending I.T. resources to families to ensure that all children have the same opportunities to learn. Their project has been so successful that the Child Poverty Action Group made a short film for their website [www.youtube.com/watch?v=XUx-wHn\\_rIY&t=6s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XUx-wHn_rIY&t=6s)

All schools have developed local solutions and activity to provide further support for our most vulnerable learners, e.g. putting supplies in local shops/businesses for pupils to access and home-delivering packs and IT equipment. Secondary schools have been supplying hundreds of secondary pupils with similar packs at a local school-by-school level and some secondary schools had a drive-through. These large and small acts of kindness and support make massive a difference to the lives of our learners and their families by increasing connectivity, building confidence and making sure that children and families feel wanted and included in their school learning journey and in their local community.

Our most recent data shows a slight decrease in uptake of Free School Meals in both primary and secondary schools. As a result, a short life working group was established to identify and progress improvement actions to increase uptake of and an action plan is in place. The work is more focussed on secondary school uptake at this stage, where a greater improvement in uptake is desired. The work of the subgroup includes various actions to communicate more effectively with parents (such as changes to entitlement letters and schools advising parents when child doesn't use their entitlement).





**12,362**  
school clothing grant  
awards were made.

an **increase** of  
**3.4%**

The group is also considering how school lunches could be provided from a pickup point for young people leaving secondary schools over lunch and whether secondary schools should keep children in over the lunch period during the 1st and 2nd year. With schools largely being closed from March through to August, actions were put on hold and will resume from August through to April 2021. In South Lanarkshire, our Free School Meals are generally all automated and parents don't need to apply independently. Around 95% of families receive letters from South Lanarkshire Council to tell them they are eligible for the payments and all they need to do is agree to receive the payments.

In the 2019/20 academic year, 12,362 clothing grant awards were been made, which compares positively to the 11,960 awards made in the previous academic year, an increase of 3.4%. Of the awards made, most were automated utilising information already held on council systems on household income and therefore did not require a separate application form. We estimate that the split for Clothing Grants is about 68% automated and 32% manual applications. The 32% of families that require to make an application usually don't qualify for housing benefit and/or council tax reduction but are still eligible for a Clothing Grant because of the more generous qualifying criteria.

We have worked to reduce transport costs to school for some families through offering targeted Privileged School Transport Places for pupils entitled to Free School Meals, a new initiative for 2019. As a result of effective targeting of privileged school transport places, we have provided 55 privilege places for pupils between August and March 2020.



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

South Lanarkshire Council is the third largest local authority landlord in Scotland and we have worked to make it one of the most affordable for tenants with the seventh lowest average weekly rent.

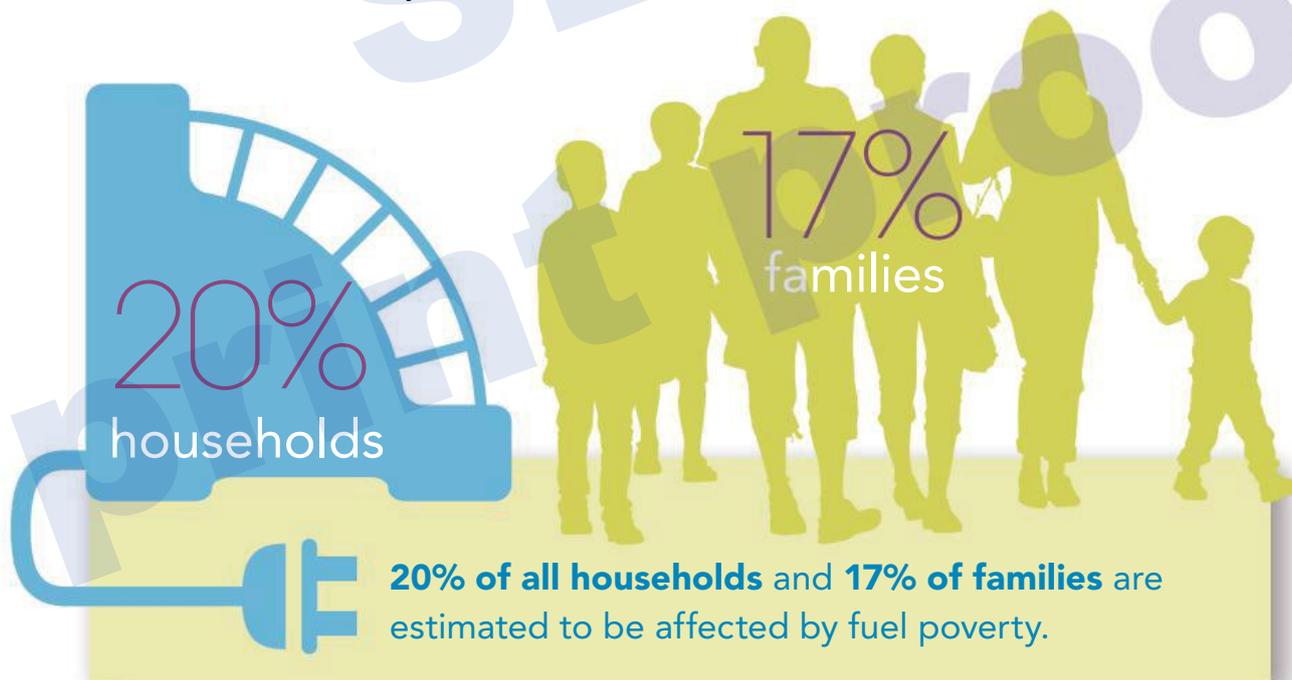
Over the past year 1,882 council homes were made available to let (not including sheltered housing). Of these, 32% were to family households providing good quality, energy efficient and affordable homes. The South Lanarkshire Local Housing Strategy 2017-22 includes actions that are responding to the particular needs of children, young people and families and reducing the costs associated with housing. These include:

- Investing in new affordable housing supply by delivering an additional 284 affordable homes in 2019/20, including 60 open market purchase properties, the council and its Registered Social Landlord partners increased the number of affordable homes available to rent across South Lanarkshire. This included a range of family sized homes, ensuring as many families as possible can access affordable housing.
- Maintaining lower than average rents to ensure rents are kept as low as possible whilst delivering the services and support tenants need. The council ensure rent levels remain affordable by working closely with tenant representatives and extensively consulting with tenants to understand the services they need.

1,882

council homes were made available to let

Of these, 32% were to family households providing good quality, energy efficient and affordable homes.



We know that around 20% of all households and 17% of families in South Lanarkshire are affected by fuel poverty.

Lone parents and low-income families living in rural South Lanarkshire are more likely to be affected, often relying on higher tariff methods for paying for the energy they use. South Lanarkshire continues its good track record in terms of partnership actions to tackle and reduce fuel poverty with a dedicated group progressing a range of actions to assist households in reducing their energy bills and making their homes more efficient.



In 2019/20, local organisations, including the Money Matters Advice Service and third sector partners were able to help households write off over £46,000 of energy related debt. Home Energy Scotland also continued to increase the level of advice and support provided to households with, 5,373 households in contact with the service including 774 households with children under the age of 16. Home Energy Scotland have worked with health care staff to raise the awareness of fuel poverty and to ensure that service users are being directed to available supports within the community.

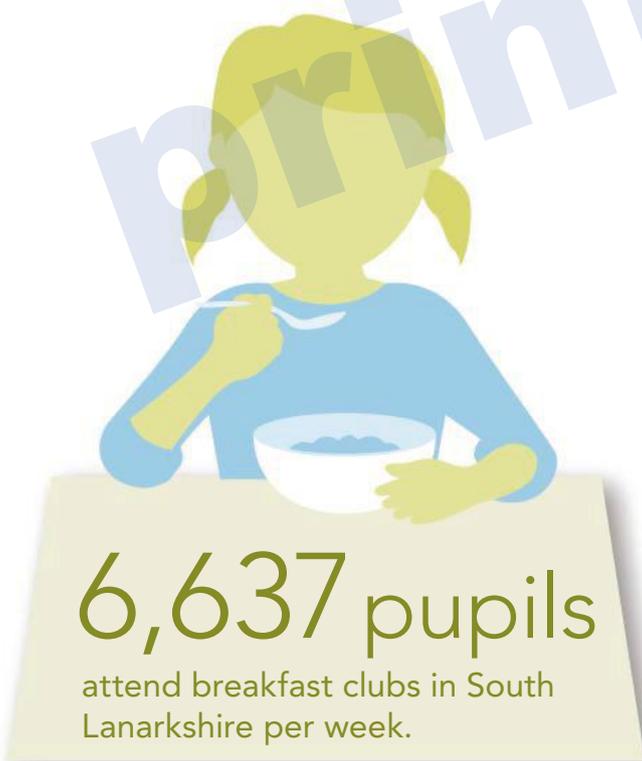


Launched in 2019, South Lanarkshire Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan 2019-24 (RRTP) sets out how the council and its housing, homelessness and health partners aim to prevent and tackle homelessness over the next five years. Key highlights of the progress already made in the first year of the plan include:

- A 34% reduction in the number of households waiting more than a year for permanent accommodation.
- A 7% reduction in the average time households spent in temporary accommodation from 200 days in 2018/19 to 186 days in 2019/20.
- An increase in the provision of permanent tenancies to homeless households across social housing providers.
- The development of a peer support network with service users trained to become peer mentors.
- A further 10 homeless households moved into settled accommodation through the 'Housing First' model with agreed support provided by a range of services.
- An expansion of the advice and support services available to homeless households and those who are at risk of becoming homeless.

**There has been a range of activity designed to address food poverty including extending the availability and participation in breakfast clubs.**

We have seen the number of breakfast clubs increase from 44 primaries in March 2019 to 122 by March 2020. The number of pupils attending breakfast clubs per week in South Lanarkshire has increased by 484 in the six months, from 5,883 in June 2019, to 6,367 in December. By increasing the number of breakfast clubs available we address a wider range of issues than the provision of food. Breakfast clubs provide a calm and safe environment before school to help develop social skills and provide the opportunity for additional learning, encouraging pupils to arrive at school on time, or even encourage them to attend at all and be ready to learn when the formal school day begins. We know they enhance wellbeing, academic performance and behaviour, especially for children whose parents might not otherwise be able to afford to provide them with regular meals.





Over the Summer holiday period 2019, 727 young people accessed holiday lunch clubs that provided high quality activities and support along with a healthy lunch for children in areas of high deprivation. This provision helped many families financially and nutritionally manage the long school holiday period in the absence of Free School Meals support. Those participating also built on their term time achievements with 445 young people achieving nationally recognised awards like Hi5 and the Youth Award. The activities also provided opportunities for volunteering and the programme was supported by seven young volunteers and an adult volunteer, all trained through the Youth Family and Community Learning Volunteer Development Programme and the Burnbank Family Centre.

As part of our response to the COVID-19 pandemic and following the closure of all schools, early learning and childcare (ELC) and other childcare services with the exception of critical provision to protect some key groups or activities, a requirement was put in place for education authorities to provide ongoing critical childcare. This requirement was enshrined in the Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020. This meant that it wasn't possible to deliver a holiday lunch club programme in the Summer of 2020.

In its place there was childcare provision for the children of keyworkers on the basis that key workers help deliver essential services which support vulnerable people and families and aid local community resilience. They played a vital role in the national response to the pandemic and continued to be delivered throughout the 2020 Summer holiday period. Ten Summer Sessions programmes, led by the Youth, Family and Community Learning Service enabled us to support a number of key worker groups such as those employed in the NHS, care sector, emergency services etc. 1,081 children were registered eligible for an emergency childcare place in with 346 children and young people participating, including 42 young people with additional support needs and 73 3-5 year olds. Children attending the Summer sessions benefited from a full range of activities delivered through a youth work model of provision. Activities were agreed with participants at the beginning of the programme and included: arts and crafts, films, physical activities, fitness fun sessions and planting sunflower seeds and growing plants.

Also as part of the COVID-19 response, a range of activities and support was offered to vulnerable learners and families during the Summer period e.g. Themed Family Activity Packs and After School Club Busy Bags. These activities drew on the pre-Summer COVID-19 experience and continued to meet the identified needs of learners and communities and improve life chances. Youth, Family and Community Learning teams including ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages), ALAN (Adult Literacy and Numeracy), KEAR Campus, Universal Connections and After School Clubs created activity packs to support children, families and young people of all ages, including those



with additional support needs to promote engagement of children, young people and families who may have found themselves increasingly isolated and vulnerable during the period of lockdown. The activities were designed to be carried out on their own and/or with their families and were individualised, learner centred, and prioritised for those learners and families with limited access to technology or printing facilities. The packs were made up on a weekly basis and distributed directly by staff to the family. This enabled regular face-to-face contact (maintaining social distancing rules) and the opportunity for staff to offer and arrange support if required. Over 4000 packs were delivered.

### The South Lanarkshire Good Food Strategy and Action Plan 2020-21 was produced in 2019 and approved by the Council's Executive Committee in December 2019.

The strategy covers the period 2020-2025 and provides a framework for new activity to move towards healthier, fairer and more sustainable food systems in the council's area and to make sure that food plays a positive role in everyone's lives. A copy of the strategy can be found here [www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/13656/good\\_food\\_strategy\\_2020-2025](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/13656/good_food_strategy_2020-2025)

### South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture Trust delivered a number of free programmes to children and young people through its Active Schools programme in partnership with Sports Scotland.

They also delivered a number exiting health intervention programmes in partnership with the Health and Social Care Partnership. Overall there were 326,000 visits to Leisure and Culture run activities across the authority, 46% of which are children from our most deprived communities. The trust also provided access to reduced cost memberships via its concession scheme, which is a South Lanarkshire Council priority policy and allows a 50% reduction to the standard membership cost. The scheme is utilised by just under 5,000 card holders, a recent reduction due to a mixture of the recent changes to Universal Credit and the introduction of private sector gyms, which offer reduced membership fees in comparison to the trust. Leisure and Culture has been building capacity in it volunteer workforce for the past 10 years and on last year's figures was able to demonstrate the impact of its 1171 volunteers through the delivery of 25,056 hours of free physical activity to children and young people. Another key impact was the delivery of learning and development to leadership programmes and how its 2700 learners were engaged in eight priority learning outcomes in co-production with the Community Learning and Development Partnership.

**326,000** visits to Leisure and Culture activities across South Lanarkshire.

**46%** are children from our most deprived communities.

**25,056** hours of free physical activity to children and young people.



## South Lanarkshire case studies

### Housing

As part of a range of actions being taken forward through the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan, Housing and Technical Resources have worked with households living in temporary accommodation to identify where it would be appropriate for the property to be offered on a permanent basis. Converting a temporary tenancy that already meets the needs of the household to a permanent home prevents further upheaval such as having to change schools or move away from family and friends.

This approach has proved popular with those offered the choice. In one instance, a customer highlighted that they were extremely pleased to accept the option to remain permanently in what had been a temporary tenancy, as one of his children lives with autism and does not cope well with change, stating that they were 'very pleased to receive the temporary accommodation we had as our new permanent home as this prevents any issues for our son'.

In 2019/20 the council 'flipped' 26 properties previously classed as temporary accommodation to allow families to remain in the community they made their home after being homeless.

### Digital inclusion/cost of the school day

Netherburn Primary School came up with a really smart way to reduce the Cost of the School Day through developing their ICT Lending Scheme, where staff, pupils and parents support the use of key ICT tools in school and at home. Pupils were encouraged to borrow Chromebooks, Kindles and Laptops, which extended the classroom learning into the family home and increased the time spent developing important digital skills.

The increased use of IT tools has helped to increase parental involvement in children's learning and made them feel more involved and a greater part of the school community. Pupils have benefited from increased literacy using Kindles and Ipads to encourage reading and have increased literacy and numeracy skills developed in a fun way through using Chromebooks to support additional learning time.

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=XUx-wHn\\_rIY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XUx-wHn_rIY)



## Key areas of challenge for 2020/21

- We know that those who experienced poverty prior to the epidemic were already pushed into unacceptable hardship and may have been pushed deeper into poverty due to the effects of the coronavirus. There will also be a number of families who are now experiencing poverty for the first time. There will therefore be a greater need to extend Cost of the School Day across all our schools, as many families are now facing quite different financial situations.
- We will continue with efforts to increase the uptake of 2-year-old places. However, the current COVID-19 pandemic may impact on health visitors' ability to share information with families due to the changes and additional demands placed on their working practices. Education Resources has established an online resource for parents to apply for a place and for professionals to submit wellbeing assessments and requests for assistance where appropriate while our establishments are closed during lockdown.
- There is still a need to work to increase the uptake of Free School Meals, especially across secondary schools. The Working Group will continue to develop innovative ways of increasing use of the free school meal award. E.g. a pre-ordering app is being introduced in August to support an increase uptake. Additionally, all families that were entitled to receive free school meals will continue to receive vouchers throughout the Summer period.
- There is an identified issue with the cost of transport impacting on missed health appointments, as families find it difficult to cover the cost of travel to allow them to access relevant support.
- Impact of COVID-19 reduced inclusion amongst vulnerable families. Priority to ensure that families are not digitally excluded and that families with school pupils are supported to enable their child's education at home, particularly if blended learning situations occur. Specific action for partners to identify families who need the extra digital support.

Table 2: Actions and measures: what will we do in 2020/21?

Change required	Action to achieve change and who is responsible (Partner/Resource)	Measure (2020/21)	Baseline	Q4 target	Resources allocated	Target groups
2.1 Increased uptake of funded and early learning and childcare entitlement for 2 and 3 year olds.	Continue to work with a range of professionals and services who will have contact with eligible families and will promote free Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) for 2-year-olds. (South Lanarkshire Council Education Resources)	Percentage uptake of funded 2-year-old places	15.5%	Maintain 15.5%	Existing resources	Low income families
	All schools will establish a Cost of the School Day policy by the end of academic year 2020/21. Continue to raise the profile on Cost of the School Day by encouraging schools to be "poverty-aware" schools. All schools will review their equity policies and procedures as part of their COVID-19 recovery school improvement plan.	Percentage/number of schools with a policy in place	Nil	100%	Pupil Equity Fund Scottish Attainment Challenge funding	Low income families
2.2 Reduction in financial barriers to education for school age children.	Schools will work with Money Matters and signpost parents and families for appropriate financial help.	Number of families referred	Establish baseline	Establish baseline		
	Continue to offer targeted Privileged School Transport Places for pupils entitled to Free School Meals and develop new active travel opportunities for pupils.	Number of Privileged School Transport Places offered Number of pupils recorded as using active school methods	2019/20 55	Maintain 2019/20 levels – 55	Existing resources	Low income families



Change required	Action to achieve change and who is responsible (Partner/Resource)	Measure (2020/21)	Baseline	Q4 target	Resources allocated	Target groups
2.2 Reduction in financial barriers to education for school age children (continued).	Increase the uptake of free school meals through continued automated enrolment and through the work of the FSM working group develop additional activity to promote and encourage uptake with a focus on uptake in secondary schools. (South Lanarkshire Council, Finance and Education Resources)	Percentage of free school meals uptake primary/ secondary schools	70.74%	Maintain	Existing resources	Low income families
	Continue to offer an increased level of school clothing grant, currently £130 per child and increase uptake through automated enrolment and additional promotion to encourage uptake. (South Lanarkshire Council, Education Resources and Finance Resources)	Number/percentage of pupils claiming school clothing grant for pupils claimed	53.43%	Maintain	£1.621m An additional investment of £0.36m per annum from SLC	Low income families
2.3 Reduced housing costs for families.	Maintain affordable rents for council homes, benchmarked against Scottish average.	Average rents for all council homes and for larger-size family homes	SLC average per week £67.50	Maintain rent levels lower than national average	Housing Revenue and Capital Account Budget 2020/21 (£108.016m)	All
	Invest and deliver additional affordable housing, built to Housing for Varying Needs (HfVN) standards (meeting higher energy efficiency standards and minimising fuel costs) and ensure this includes allocations to families with children and young people.	Number of new affordable homes delivered for families	30,545	Increase the number of new homes on existing stock	Resource Planning of Assumption of £30.488m	All

Change required	Action to achieve change and who is responsible (Partner/Resource)	Measure (2020/21)	Baseline	Q4 target	Resources allocated	Target groups
<b>2.4 Reduced energy costs for families.</b>	Target housing investment to improve fuel and thermal efficiency of larger homes and reduce energy costs.	Proportion of housing meeting energy efficiency standards	91.1%	94.0%	Housing Investment Programme £26.537m	All
<b>2.5 Reduced homelessness including families and young people.</b>	Prioritise allocation of available housing for those in need, including homeless households. Provide housing support service provision to improve homelessness prevention and support tenancy sustainment. Continue to implement joint-working through the care protocol to prevent and reduce homelessness for care experienced young people and support them move to independent living in the community.	Number of homeless household with children Range of advice and support offered to households Number of care experienced young people supported	238 (31/3/2020) (449 children) Revised baseline 87 through care applicants supported	Reduce against baseline Revised baseline n/a	Part of wider housing support and homelessness budgets Homelessness Business Plan and Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan funding Within Homelessness Business Plan and Social Work Resources budgets	All All Care experienced young people
<b>2.6 Increased financial wellbeing of families.</b>	Partners will explore ways to support families with travel costs to access support, appointments, and opportunities.	A report based on findings provided for consideration			Existing resources	Low income families
<b>2.7 Improved digital inclusion amongst families in the most deprived areas.</b>	Implement the support to vulnerable families provided through the Connecting Scotland scheme. Identify and provide support to families with school pupils who require extra help with digital inclusion to enable any blended learning model to take place effectively.	Number of families supported Number of families supported	Establish baseline Establish baseline	Establish baseline Establish baseline	Scottish Government Connecting Scotland Fund Scottish Government Connecting Scotland Fund Pupil Equity Fund	Low income families Low income families



Change required	Action to achieve change and who is responsible (Partner/Resource)	Measure (2020/21)	Baseline	Q4 target	Resources allocated	Target groups
<b>2.8 Reduce Food Poverty.</b>	Re-establish delivery of Breakfast Clubs in schools when possible. (SLC Education/Vol sector partners)	Number of breakfast clubs operating in schools Number of children benefiting from breakfast clubs	88 (2019) 5883 (2019)	No target for 2020/21 n/a	£0.175m for further expansion *2019/20 allocation	Low income families
	<b>2.9 Reduced costs of participation in Leisure and Culture experiences.</b>	South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture will work with schools to maintain a targeted delivery approach of the Active Schools programme where possible throughout the COVID-19 recovery phase. (SLLC)	21,200 (48% of all pupils). 2018/19	n/a	18 FTE active schools co-ordinators (funded by Sports Scotland, Education Resources and SLLC) £789,528	Low income families
<b>2.10 Period Poverty.</b>	Continue to offer the SLLC concession scheme through promotion and awareness raising. (SLLC)	Number of concessions	6,005 2018/19	n/a		
	Distribute free emergency sanitary products within toilets across a wide range of public/community buildings and facilities in all localities of South Lanarkshire. (South Lanarkshire Council /Community Planning Partnership)	Number of distribution points for free emergency provision	169 locations	Maintain the baseline of 169		Low income families
	Establish distribution points for free packaged sanitary products in a wide range of community settings. (South Lanarkshire Council/Community Planning Partnership)	Number of distribution points for free emergency provision	55 Locations	Maintain the baseline of 55		Low income families

# Chapter 3

## Taking action to increase income from employment

### Why is this work important?

Having access to sustainable, fair work is a long-term route out of poverty for many families.

Having access to sustainable, fair work is a long-term route out of poverty for many families. Every Child, Every Chance (Scotland's national child poverty delivery plan) identified 'increasing income from employment' as one of the three main drivers that will reduce child poverty. Being in employment does not guarantee a route out of poverty, as over half of families living in poverty have at least one parent working. Parents need to be able to access high quality jobs with a decent rate of pay and with enough hours to meet their family's needs. Many parents are able to progress towards, into and within work with ease and with little support. However, some find that personal circumstances such as caring responsibilities, poor health and a lack of qualifications and work experience are barriers they find difficult to overcome.

For some families the financial impact of working is marginal, often families claiming benefit state that after childcare, work expenses, transport, debt, bills and general living costs that they are often better off on benefits compared to working. There is no one size fits all around tackling child poverty and there is varying degrees of challenge per household.

The latest data (2019) for South Lanarkshire suggest that over 9,000 children (before housing costs) and 16,000 children (after housing costs) are living in poverty. Child poverty rates are very low for children in families where two parents are in work, with at least one in full-time work. Families with a single earner, or with only part-time workers experience much higher poverty rates. Data shows that 23% of the population are in part-time employment, 6.3% of part time workers are looking for additional hours and 8.3% of households with dependent children have no parent in employment. In-work child poverty rates are closely linked to the number of adults in work in the family and their hours of work.

**16,000**  
children are living  
in poverty.

### Impact of COVID Pandemic

The local labour market prior to COVID-19 was relatively buoyant, however families who fall within the priority groupings, in particular lone parents struggle with childcare, debt issues and in general feel lack of support to enable them to move off benefits and take up employment that fits around their individual circumstances. There is increasing evidence that households with children, which were already at greater risk of poverty, have been particularly affected by the



financial impact of COVID-19, and are being pulled deeper into poverty. It is increasingly important to ensure the connections between all three themes are aligned and integrating services to support those adversely impacted by COVID-19. The council's employability team have been working with the Money Matters Service to ensure that those who have lost their jobs are able to access support on benefit advice and entitlement, debt advice and wider financial inclusion services. As the local economy continues to suffer there will be a significant increased demand for employability services and wider services such as money advice for those who have lost their incomes in this unprecedented time.

IPPR Scotland analysis shows that since lockdown, nearly half of households with dependent children in Scotland find themselves in the two most serious categories of financial distress – 'in serious financial difficulty' or 'struggling to make ends meet.'. This is compared to 30 per cent of all households reporting the same levels of financial stress. If these estimates were applied to South Lanarkshire now (August 2020) this would mean, there are potentially around 14,000 households with dependent children currently experiencing serious financial distress due to the economic effects of COVID-19.

We need to ensure we reach out and have a positive impact on families experiencing poverty affecting their daily lives by delivering employability interventions that bring the obvious benefit of getting local people into the right work opportunities. Thereby enhancing access to education, mitigating health inequalities and the life chances of our citizens.

We know that children of working families will do better in terms of long-term education and employment chances, which provide a gateway out of poverty, increase self-esteem, build resilience and make a positive contribution to emotional wellbeing. Young People who experience periods of unemployment at an early age are more likely to experience unemployment in later life and the support provided to young people through effective career management skills, appropriate training and employability skills development can increase reduce youth unemployment, improve young people's life chances and increase incomes for young people and their families.



23%

of population  
in part time  
employment.

8.3%

Households with  
dependent children  
have no parent in  
employment.

6.3%

Part time  
workers  
wanting  
more  
hours.

## Unemployment claimants

In South Lanarkshire, the increase in the number of unemployed claimants is recorded at 13,915 in August 20 (6.9% of the working age population), the highest level recorded for 27 years (since August 1993). The current rate of claimant unemployment amongst women (5%) is at the highest level recorded for almost 33 years and amongst men, the current claimant rate of 8.9% is the highest level recorded for almost 25 years.

The number of unemployed claimants in the most deprived 20% data zones now stands at 4,780 with a rate of 12%, the highest rate recorded since records began in 2013. This is almost twice the South Lanarkshire average (6.9%) and the Scottish average (6.5%).

## COVID-19 – Job Retention Scheme (CJRS)

The most recent data from the HMRC on COVID-19 Job Retention Scheme numbers suggests that there has been a further increase in furloughed employees in South Lanarkshire between July and August from 46,400 to 48,600. The latest CJRS figures suggest that just under a third of the eligible workforce are now furloughed, roughly in line with the Scottish average. South Lanarkshire now has the fourth highest number of furloughed employees in Scotland, with only Glasgow, Edinburgh and North Lanarkshire recording higher figures.

In the case of employment levels in South Lanarkshire, the latest figures from the HMRC for furloughed employees (48,600 at August 2020) would now suggest that the eventual high point will be somewhat above the modelled prediction of 44,000. From this increase it can be predicted that around 8,000 to 10,000 jobs will be lost over the 18 months. Based on the number of furloughed employees and a noted increase in the number of unemployed claimants recorded over the month to July 2020 it is potentially going to be at the higher end of the scale e.g. 10,000 or above.

## Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS)

South Lanarkshire continues to record the fourth highest level of claimants for the UK Government's (HMRC) Self-Employment Income Support Scheme out of the 32 council areas. The latest figures for the scheme (up to 31st July 2020) suggests that South Lanarkshire continues to rank fourth highest in Scotland, both for the financial value, and the number of claims. It should also be noted that the rate uptake of IS claims amongst the self-employed in South Lanarkshire now (August 2020) stands at 79%, the highest level recorded since the scheme was introduced (May 2020) and higher than either of the national averages (Scotland 76%/ UK 77%).



As with the UK government's furlough scheme, the fact that the latest statistics for the uptake of SEISS (31 July) suggest increasing levels of claims indicates that many people who are self-employed and small businesses remain dependent on financial support, and haven't fully recovered from the economic impacts of lockdown, even in cases where these businesses/ individuals have re-started their operations.

The fact that South Lanarkshire ranks fourth in terms of Self-Employed Income Support payments also re-emphasises the greater dependence that the South Lanarkshire economy has both on small business and the self-employed compared to the rest of Scotland, and the fact that many of these small businesses are operating in sectors predicted to be the worst affected by the economic lockdown.

The economic crisis has highlighted that digital access (infrastructure and skills) varies significantly across geographical areas and can be challenging in rural areas. This impacts across a range of areas including access to information and advice services, employment and training opportunities, health and wellbeing information, educational resources and social connectivity.

There are increased levels of debt, including rent arrears as families struggle with lower incomes. Before the pandemic, lower income households were more likely to report having no savings than those with higher incomes. Some of the initial actions taken by families during lockdown may create more longer lasting problems, e.g. borrowing from high cost lenders to purchase essentials, selling assets or borrowing from family.

The impact of COVID-19 on employment, has seen sectors such as hospitality, retail, travel and tourism, aviation, and manufacturing disproportionately affected. Notably all sectors have and will continue to contract in the coming months and years. The biggest challenge will be creating job opportunities in a loose labour market where supply will outstrip demand with increasing competition for jobs. Unemployment rates are expected to increase, and employment opportunities decrease, we also expect an increase in redundancies after the COVID-19 Job Retention Schemes comes to an end.

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation has recently published its analysis, indicating unemployment in South Lanarkshire is likely to rise to 12.6% (25,400). This would make it potentially the eighth worst in Scotland. Further analysis for current numbers of unemployed per local vacancy estimates there are 25.8 people for each local vacancy in South Lanarkshire (fourth worst in Scotland and 42nd worst across the UK).

The first year of local child poverty action reports demonstrated significant progress in understanding local need and development and implementation of focused actions. It is now more important than ever that this is built on and further enhanced. COVID-19 has brought inequality into sharp focus, highlighting the impact of low paid and insecure work.

# Where are we now?

South Lanarkshire has made significant progress in the first year of our local plan to deliver sustainable employment for these families. Our focus has been on offering parents decent rates of pay, access to training, bespoke support, opportunities for progression, a flexible working environment and enough hours in work to provide a wage that meets basic family needs as a minimum. Our local action plan outlines a range of actions and measures to support fair work opportunities for families, delivered through our local employability services and the Parental Employment Support Programme. Our approach is based on the 'No One Left Behind' principles, working with partners to draw extensively on the lived experience of potential service users and identify practice that will deliver best possible outcomes. We have worked to build on existing services, enhancing what we know is already working and increasing the support for those facing poverty.

Partners support a range of activity to support young people in the senior phase of education up to age 19 to develop the skills and experiences and to progress to sustained positive destinations. This activity has a key role to play in increasing income from employment for young people and improve young people's life chances and increase income for young people and their families.

We have worked in partnership to enhance employment support for parents on low income and deliver a 'Working with Families' model that focuses on a personal approach to tackling inequality and poverty and tackles barriers to employment for parents who are in receipt of low income. The model will be fully rolled out in 2020/21 to support a holistic approach to tackling child poverty. Further work with schools will be further developed to ensure priority groups can benefit from the parental employment support programme.

We have put in place new protocols and systems to link in with housing, social work, money advice and health partners. The case management approach puts the family at the centre of support to ensure parents can enter sustainable employment and progress within the workplace. Last year we supported unemployed lone parents and families with children seeking employability to overcome their difficulties, build strengths and increase resilience to be able to fulfil their goals more effectively.

Figure 8: Service and community model



Over the last year we have supported 27 in-work lone parents in receipt of low pay to improve their skills and enhance their career opportunities through the Working with Families model. The parents are working towards qualifications and already five have successfully completed their in-work training programme.

Through the Opportunities For All Partnership, we have supported a range of youth employability activity in all our secondary schools and work together to identify young people most at risk of failing to move to a positive post-school destination. Education Resources' Aspire Service provide bespoke packages of support to the most vulnerable young people and have led on delivering an increase in the number of vocational learning opportunities for young people in the senior phase through the Foundation Apprenticeship and GradU8 programmes. A care experienced employability pilot saw four young people supported to employment with South Lanarkshire Council through a targeted, flexible approach.

The Employability Fund funded by Skills Development Scotland, had a total of 454 young people aged 16-24 starting over the last year, which was 69% of all starts. Also funded by Skills Development Scotland 1,844 young people aged 16-24 participated in a Modern Apprenticeship, which was 11.5% of all those in this age group who were in employment. The equivalent figure for Scotland was 8%. Skills Development Scotland advisors also provided a range of information, advice and guidance support for 11,312 school pupils through a mix of group and one-to-one sessions.

One of our key targets was to increase the number of employees being paid a living wage. To support this, we have produced a new booklet to promote fair work including the real living wage to employers. The council also co-hosted a Living Wage Big Breakfast event during Living Wage Week in November 2019, which was aimed at local employers. The Living Wage Accreditation Discount Scheme was launched in March 2019 and has continued, with 13 employers taking up the offer of the discount by April 2020 leading to 179 staff receiving a pay uplift thanks to the scheme.



The Employability Fund funded by Skills Development Scotland, had a total of **454 young people** aged 16-24 starting over the last year, which was **69%** of all starts.

**1,844** young people aged 16-24 participated in a Modern Apprenticeship.

The council's Business Development Support Enquiries now require applicants to confirm whether they pay a living wage. The Council has also added a requirement within the commissioning process for the Business Gateway to discuss and monitor the living wage with all businesses supported. As a result of this activity the number of accredited living wage employers across South Lanarkshire has grown by over a third compared to last year, from 67 employers in April 2019, up to 90 employers in April 2020. South Lanarkshire continues to rank as the 4th best authority in Scotland for the number of accredited Living Wage employers.

South Lanarkshire Council, NHS Lanarkshire and other partners have prioritised working with supported businesses who are living wage employers and provide employment for people with disabilities, or from disadvantaged circumstances e.g. 106 contracts awarded by the council in 2018-19, 83 suppliers were committed to pay the real Living Wage, and 24 were accredited Living Wage employers.

We have also noted some key improvements in employment targets over the last year, e.g. the income and employment gap between most and least deprived communities has narrowed between SIMD 2016 and SIMD 2020.

- The gap in income deprivation has declined from a 24.1% gap (2016) to 23.9% (2020)
- The gap between the most and least deprived data zones has closed from 20.1% (2016) to 16.8% (2020)

In addition, there has been a reduction in the gender pay gap for full time weekly earnings between men and women in South Lanarkshire Council, which is now £61.50, a 42% reduction on the £105.60 recorded in 2018. (Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, 2019 residents analysis) Women in South Lanarkshire Council currently enjoy the fifth highest level of full time earnings (£556.50 per week) out of the 32 council areas, £29.20 per week above the Scottish weekly average (£527.30).



## South Lanarkshire case study

Bernadette is a 42 year old single parent from Blantyre with two children 14 and 20 and had suffered from anxiety issues finding it difficult to travel on her own outwith her local area. Initially she volunteered at the Haven project in Blantyre once her children started school, which provided her with the confidence to apply for employment. Her first opportunity at Calderglen Care Home in Blantyre was working with laundry and in the Kitchen for eight years. She enjoyed her job, but due to lack of permanent hours she decided to apply for a kitchen assistant post elsewhere. Bernadette began working at Victoria Care Home as a Kitchen Assistant, which she thoroughly enjoyed. The manager had observed Bernadette's excellent caring nature over a period of time and suggested she would be ideal for working as a personal carer. Initially Bernadette refused saying she couldn't do the paperwork side of it, however the care home manager said she could do the care role for three months on a trial basis. After a month in the caring assistant post it was clear that Bernadette was thriving, increasing her confidence and self-esteem. She impressed so much she was given the opportunity to progress to a permanent care assistant within the home.



Given the potential shown by Bernadette, she was referred to the Upskilling programme to further develop her skills and go through her SVQ Level 2 in Health and Social Care, a key requirement in gaining registration through the Scottish Social Services Council and remain working within the care sector. Bernadette was great on the job but had never done any post school qualifications. The thought of doing the SVQ and traveling to South Lanarkshire College raised Bernadette's anxiety levels and she was initially hesitant to complete the qualification.

The council's up-skilling team met with Bernadette putting her at ease with a clear explanation of what the course would entail. A workplace package of mentoring and support was put in place and a structured learning pathway in partnership with the college was planned to help her with her qualification. It was noted that Bernadette may have been suffering from Dyslexia, having demonstrated difficulties with reading, writing and spelling. The upskilling team arranged for a scribe to be put in place and for her to have one-to-one meetings with the college to enable her to achieve her qualification to the best of her ability.

The one-to-one bespoke support provided by the upskilling team and Bernadette's commitment has seen her successfully complete her qualification within a 6-month period. Completing the qualification has significantly made a difference to her health and wellbeing, her confidence is growing further, and her anxiety is better managed.

## South Lanarkshire case study

Her employer commented “Bernadette is so much more confident, she has flourished within the workplace and she is so grateful for all the support from upskilling and the college and is now looking to complete another qualification, (PDA in Dementia Skilled Practice) which will also help her to further enhance her career.” Bernadette commented “If you don’t try these opportunities in life you will never know. I am grateful I had this opportunity and it has now given me the confidence to go on and do more studying. I am now in the process of doing my PDA in Promoting Excellence in Dementia Skilled Practice, which will give me more knowledge of the service users I work with in the care home. I am now able to remain working within the care sector now that I have this qualification”.

Bernadette’s supervisor commented “Initially Bernadette was apprehensive going for the SVQ Level 2 in Health and Social Care because she felt she couldn’t cope with the paperwork and couldn’t do the qualification. This took a lot of persuasion, I told her to go for it and I would support her through the qualification. Bernadette is great on the floor and is a fabulous care assistant. Since gaining this qualification it has built up her confidence and she is a valued team member”.

Bernadette has moved on to a higher hourly rate of pay and has a permanent contract of employment and is now fully registered with SSSC. She is continuing to study and her confidence and progress is remarkable.

## Key areas of challenge for 2020/21

- There are key challenges around access to childcare provision, as many providers have lost income during the COVID-19 crisis. In the medium term a longer lasting fall in demand for childcare and an increase in costs relating to social distancing could seriously impact the financial stability of the sector going forward, resulting in childcare capacity challenges that may affect parents seeking childcare provision.
- There are labour market challenges meaning the creation of new Job opportunities will be difficult given the current economic decline, An increase in redundancies is expected and employers may be less likely to recruit given the uncertainty of how the economy will contract over the coming months/year.
- Delivering employability support will be an increasing challenge with the lack of face to face and interactive group work, proving difficult to help those further removed from the labour market who require more intensive support and interventions to facilitate their journey back into work. Digital connectivity will be essential to support those most in need and help those who are less digitally aware. There are key challenges ahead to ensure that parents have the appropriate access to technology and connectivity to be able to access employability services including IT support and training for those not digitally experienced.
- Necessity for home working where possible may limit the number of workplace placements that are available as part of the employability pipeline.



Table 3: Actions and measures: what will we do in 2020/21?

Change required	Action to achieve change and who is responsible (Partner/Resource)	Measure (2020/21)	Baseline	Q4 target	Resources allocated	Target groups
3.1 Increased employment support for parents on low incomes.	Support unemployed parents access fair work opportunities addressing barriers to employment continuing to adopt a whole system approach to tackling inequality and poverty for parents who are in receipt of low incomes.	Number of parents engaged	108 Unemployed Females with dependent children – (of which 36 are lone parents) 99 Unemployed Males with dependent children – (of which 5 are lone parents)	Maintain baseline	Scottish Government Employment Support Fund  Existing resources	Low income families
	Support parents from deprived and rural areas to become registered childminders. (SLC in partnership with Scottish Childminders Association)	Number of parents gaining access to quality employment opportunities	27	Maintain baseline	Scottish Government Employment Support Fund  Existing resources	Low income families
	Support and up-skill parents in low skilled/income jobs to enhance their career opportunities. (SLC and partners)	Number of childminding business start-ups in lowest 15% SIMD areas and rural areas  Number of parents with increased skills No. of parents reporting improved career opportunities Number of parents with improved income	Establish baseline  27 Establish baseline Establish baseline	Establish baseline  Maintain baseline Establish baseline Establish baseline	Scottish Government Employment Support Fund  Existing resources  Scottish Government Employment Support Fund  Existing resources	Low income families

Change required	Action to achieve change and who is responsible (Partner/Resource)	Measure (2020/21)	Baseline	Q4 target	Resources allocated	Target groups
3.1 Increased employment support for parents on low incomes (continued).	Establish new digital blended learning support for those seeking employability support as a result of COVID-19 moving to new digital platforms of delivery.	Number of parents engaging on-line/digitally	Establish baseline	Establish baseline	Scottish Government Employment Support Fund Existing resources	Low income families
	Raise awareness and work in partnership with schools and early learning providers to market parental employability support to engage with families/parents who may benefit from employability support leading to employment.	Number of awareness sessions to schools and early learning providers Number of referrals and engagements to Parental Employment Support Programme	Establish baseline Establish baseline	Establish baseline Establish baseline	Scottish Government Employment Support Fund Existing resources	Low income families
	Provide an inclusive employability support programme within the Clyde Gateway corridor supporting families in the Rutherglen Project and Glenburgh Nursery into fair work opportunities.	Number of parents supported into employment Number of parents who have received health and wellbeing supports Number of parents who have gained new skills which in turn will support future employment opportunities Number of parents who have been supported to increase their income via benefits/employment Number of parents supported with home life and housing issues	Establish baseline Establish baseline Establish baseline	Establish baseline Establish baseline Establish baseline	50k total investment 35k from Clyde Gateway 7k from SLC HSCP 8k from SLC Education	Parents/young people in low income families in the Clyde Gateway area



Change required	Action to achieve change and who is responsible (Partner/Resource)	Measure (2020/21)	Baseline	Q4 target	Resources allocated	Target groups
<b>3.2 Reduced gap in positive destinations between young people from the most and least deprived areas.</b>	<p>Continue to work to close the gap in outcomes for young people in the most deprived data zones and their peers in the least deprived data zones. Youth Employability</p>	<p>Percentage reduction in the gap of positive destination outcomes for young people in the most deprived data zones and their peers in the least deprived data zones</p>	<p>2017/18 Gap between South Lanarkshire, least and most deprived = 4.6% Gap between Scotland, least and most deprived = 6.8%</p>	<p>Maintain 2018/19 level Gap between South Lanarkshire, least and most deprived = 4.9% Gap between Scotland, least and most deprived = 5.3%</p>	<p>Aspire VDW linked to each school</p>	<p>Young people</p>
	<p>Continue to ensure that the multi-agency tracking group supports care experienced young people with post school destinations.</p>	<p>Percentage of positive destination outcomes for care experienced young people (linked to the national average)</p>	<p>2017/18 South Lanarkshire 90% Scottish Average 80.43%</p>	<p>Maintain 2018/19 level South Lanarkshire 91.55% Scottish Average 82.43%</p>	<p>Existing resources</p>	<p>Care experienced young people</p>
	<p>The Youth Employability Service will deliver a new level four/five Foundation Apprenticeship programme in Construction.</p>	<p>Number of young people completing the Foundation Apprenticeship</p>	<p>Establish baseline</p>	<p>150 completers</p>	<p>SDS funding – £229k per completer</p>	<p>Young people</p>
	<p>Youth Employability will work with Skills Development Scotland and other partners to develop a locality approach to youth employability tracking and planning.</p>	<p>Locality model in pace</p>			<p>Existing resources</p>	<p>Young people</p>

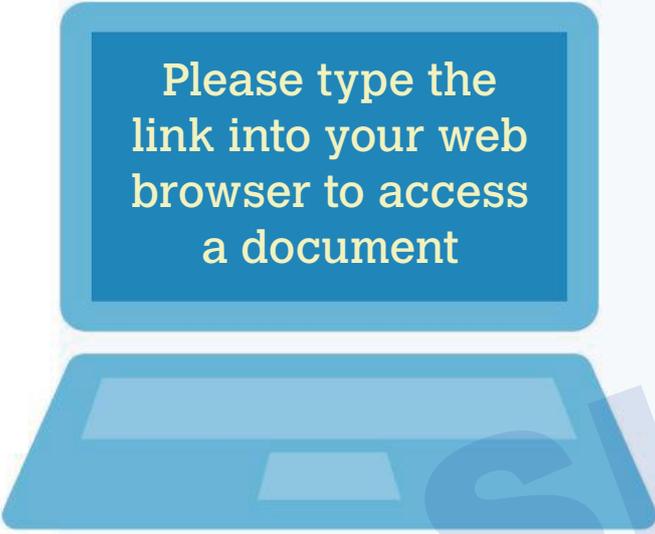
Change required	Action to achieve change and who is responsible (Partner/Resource)	Measure (2020/21)	Baseline	Q4 target	Resources allocated	Target groups
<b>3.3 Increased proportion of South Lanarkshire employees being paid the living wage.</b>	Broaden scope of Living Wage promotion activity to a Lanarkshire wide campaign. Target medium/large employers within low paying sectors. (Lanarkshire Living Wage Campaign group) –	Proportion of South Lanarkshire employees earning below the Living Wage Number of South Lanarkshire Accredited employers at financial year end 2019	2018 – 20.3% 2019 – 68	Maintain 2020 level – 17.8% Maintain 2020 level – 90	Existing resources	Low income families
<b>3.4 Increased proportion of South Lanarkshire employees being paid the living wage.</b>	NHS Lanarkshire and South Lanarkshire Council procurement policies will continue to incorporate, monitor and improve community benefits and fair work principles in procurement contracts and decisions.	Proportion of trade spend to Living Wage accredited suppliers  Proportion of trade spend to Lanarkshire based suppliers  Proportion of trade spend to Supported Businesses	NHS Lanarkshire 0.11% (£251,109) SLC 78% Living Wage  SLC 23% accredited Living Wage employers  NHS Lanarkshire 23% SLC 18%  NHS Lanarkshire 0.002% SLC 0%	Maintain 2019/20 level NHS Lanarkshire 2.7% SLC 90% Living Wage SLC 2% Living Wage employers 2019/20 Maintain 2019/20 level NHS Lanarkshire 24.8% SLC 18% Maintain 2019/20 level NHS Lanarkshire 0.0035% SLC 0%	From existing resources	Low income families



# 9 Appendices

## Appendix 1:

### Links to associated plans and policies



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

#### **Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017**

[www.healthscotland.scot/media/2184/child-poverty-act-overview-oct2018.pdf](http://www.healthscotland.scot/media/2184/child-poverty-act-overview-oct2018.pdf)

#### **Scottish Government Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2018-22**

[www.gov.scot/Publications/2018/03/4093/0](http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2018/03/4093/0)

#### **Scottish Government Child Poverty Delivery Plan Guidance**

<http://bit.ly/XXXXXX>

#### **Fairer Scotland Action Plan**

<https://www2.gov.scot/fairerscotland>

#### **South Lanarkshire's Community Plan 2017-27**

<http://bit.ly/XXXXXX>

#### **South Lanarkshire Children's Services Plan**

[www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/11688/childrens\\_services\\_plan\\_2017-2020](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/11688/childrens_services_plan_2017-2020)

#### **South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Commissioning Plan**

<http://bit.ly/XXXXXX>

#### **South Lanarkshire's Economic Strategy**

<http://bit.ly/2H6De59>

#### **South Lanarkshire Local Housing Strategy**

[www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/11758/local\\_housing\\_strategy\\_2017-2022](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/11758/local_housing_strategy_2017-2022)

## Appendix 2:

### Useful links

#### **Advice Line for Pregnant Women and Young Families**

Phone: 01698 453154 or 01698 453180

Email: [telephoneadvice@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:telephoneadvice@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)

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

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

#### **Managing Your Money**

[www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200150/managing\\_your\\_money](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200150/managing_your_money)

#### **Financial Inclusion within Maternity and Health Visiting Services**

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=bM7V9S3vKzs#action=share](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bM7V9S3vKzs#action=share)

#### **Best Start Grant and Best Start Foods**

[www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200153/welfare\\_benefits\\_and\\_universal\\_credit/1775/best\\_start\\_grant\\_and\\_best\\_start\\_foods](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200153/welfare_benefits_and_universal_credit/1775/best_start_grant_and_best_start_foods)

#### **When Money is Tight Booklet**

[www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/downloads/download/718/](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/downloads/download/718/)

#### **Citizen's Advice Scotland**

[www.cas.org.uk/](http://www.cas.org.uk/)

#### **Money Matters Advice Service**

Phone: 0303 123 1008

Email: <http://orlo.uk/KYp5r>

#### **Housing support and homelessness**

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

Local Housing Office – phone: 0303 123 1012

Out of hours – phone: 0800 24 20 24

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

Phone: **0303 123 XXXX**

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







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

# Report

Report to:	<b>Partnership Board</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>21 October 2020</b>
Report by:	<b>Executive Director (Housing and Technical Resources) South Lanarkshire Council</b>

Subject:	<b>Annual Review of the South Lanarkshire Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan 2019/2020</b>
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## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ update the Board on the completion of the first annual review of the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan (RRTP) 2019 to 2024

## 2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the progress made in delivering the RRTP objectives, as set out in the RRTP Annual Review 2019/2020, attached as Appendix 1, be noted;
- (2) that the revisions to the RRTP, detailed in Section 5, be noted; and
- (3) that the key priorities to be progressed in 2020/2021, detailed in Section 7, be noted.

## 3. Background

- 3.1. In October 2017, the Scottish Government established the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Group (HARSAG) to develop short-term and long-term solutions to end homelessness and rough sleeping across Scotland.
- 3.2. In June 2018, HARSAG produced a final report with recommendations that included a requirement for local authorities to each develop a 5 year RRTP. 'Rapid rehousing' is defined as a housing-led approach for people that experience homelessness with a focus on ensuring they reach a settled home as quickly as possible, whilst limiting the amount of time spent in temporary accommodation.
- 3.3. In June 2018, the Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning wrote to all Scottish local authorities advising of the requirement to prepare a RRTP and submit it to the Scottish Government by 31 December 2018.
- 3.4. South Lanarkshire's RRTP 2019 to 2024 was developed in collaboration with a wide range of partners and stakeholders and was submitted to the Scottish Government by the required timescale. The final plan was approved by Housing and Technical Resources Committee on 23 January 2019 and reported to the Community Planning Partnership Board on 19 June 2019.

- 3.5. In May 2019, the Scottish Government provided positive feedback on the plan, highlighting the strength of the partnership approach which is in place locally.
- 3.6. Initial analysis carried out to identify the financial resources which would be required to significantly reduce homelessness and achieve rapid rehousing in South Lanarkshire, resulted in a sum of £7.18 million being identified.
- 3.7. To support the initial development and implementation of the RRTP, the Scottish Government provided funding of £105,000 to the Council. This was primarily used to fund the appointment of an Officer, for a fixed period of 18 months, with responsibility for working with partners to co-ordinate the implementation of the plan. In July 2019, a further award of £461,000 was received from the Scottish Government Ending Homelessness Together Fund, to support the implementation of actions during the first year of the RRTP.
- 3.8. Following confirmation that the actual level of funding to be provided would be significantly below that detailed in the RRTP proposals, a number of key strategic areas were revised to focus on key priorities, with other actions set aside for future consideration.
- 3.9. The co-ordination and implementation of the RRTP is directed and monitored by the Homelessness Strategy Group, a sub group of the Local Housing Strategy Steering Group, and has representation from a wide range of partners including; Health and Social Care, Registered Social Landlords (RSLs), Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and Third Sector organisations.

The Homelessness Strategy Group was responsible for overseeing the annual review, including; evaluating progress against actions and measures, considering the appropriateness of the actions and identifying priorities to be progressed during 2020/2021.

- 3.10. The review of the RRTP was carried out in advance of the on-set of COVID-19. Following conclusion of the review, further consideration has been given to the impact of the pandemic on the objectives and actions to be pursued during 2020/2021 and this has been reflected within the review document. The review document also notes that it will be necessary to closely monitor progress and further revise the strategic priorities and actions during the year, as a fuller understanding of the impact of the pandemic on homelessness and service requirements becomes known.

#### **4. Annual Review 2019/2020**

- 4.1. The RRTP is structured around 5 high level priority objectives. There are 52 indicators against which the Council and its partners monitor progress, comprising 32 actions and 20 measures. In accordance with wider reporting arrangements across the council, these indicators are categorised into 'green', 'amber', and 'red' depending on the progress made against them.
- 4.2. During 2019/2020, positive progress was made, with 83% of the 52 indicators on target to achieve the projected outcomes within the identified timescales. Table 1 below, details the categorisation of the 52 indicators.

Year	Green	Amber	Red	To be reported later	Total
2019-20	37	6	0	9	52

Table 1: Categorisation of RRTP indicators 2019-20

- 4.3. No indicators were categorised as red with nine indicators to be reported later. In general these indicators relate to actions that were intended to be progressed during future years of the plan or measures where the data is not yet available.
- 4.4. 6 indicators, comprising 4 measures and 2 actions, have been categorised as amber, representing minor slippage against the target:-

Reference number	Measure
M1.1	Number of homelessness presentations
M1.2	Number of homeless households
M2.7	Percentage of all homeless presentations which are repeated (within 12 months)
M3.2	Percentage of homeless households provided with Housing Support Officer assistance

During year 2, partners will continue to work together to make progress and positively impact on the achievement of the targets. It will, however, be necessary to monitor the impact of Covid-19 in respect of these measures.

Reference number	Action
A3.8	Complete a Wellbeing Assessment for all children and young people who are homeless
A5.1	Work with Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to further develop use of discretionary support funding for homeless households to undertake appropriate training to develop skills and resilience to improve access to employment

In relation to action A3.8, during year one of the RRTP, Shelter Scotland's South Lanarkshire Families Project were unable to commit resources to facilitate the completion of wellbeing assessments for children and young people affected by homelessness. This action has been carried forward for consideration in 2020/2021, however due to the impact of Covid-19, all funding not already committed will be subject to review to align with revised priorities.

While further development of partnership working in relation to A5.1 will be a priority focus in year 2 of the plan, this will be progressed taking account of the focus which the DWP has had to place on providing income to vulnerable customers during the pandemic.

- 4.5. The annual review has confirmed that the council and its partners have made good progress towards delivering on the agreed RRTP year one priorities. A summary of key highlights and achievements in relation to each of the 5 priority objectives for 2019/2020 (year 1) is provided below:-

RRTP Priority Objective	Achievement
Prevent homelessness occurring and significantly reduce homelessness	284 additional homes for social rent were delivered across South Lanarkshire. This included 60 homes secured through the Council's framework for Open Market Purchase.
	An increase in the number of homeless households whose housing needs were met in the private rented sector, through the expansion of the South Lanarkshire Rent Deposit Scheme.
	New approaches were established to assist in homelessness prevention by providing financial assistance to Council tenants and tenants in the private rented sector.
Significantly reduce time spent by households in temporary accommodation and minimise moves before moving to a settled home	A 6% reduction was achieved in the number of families with children in temporary accommodation from 252 in 2019 to 238 in 2020.
	A 7% reduction was achieved in the average time households spent in temporary accommodation from 200 days in 2018/2019 to 186 days in 2019/2020.
	A 34% reduction in long term homelessness from the baseline position of 145 households waiting more than 1 year to be housed to 95 households in 2019/2020.
	26 homeless households had their temporary tenancies converted (or flipped) to a Scottish Secure Tenancy, providing the household with a permanent home and avoiding the need for further moves. This exceeded the target of 20 per year.
	Permanent lets to homeless households increased across social housing in South Lanarkshire from 51.4% of Council and 36.9% of RSL lets during 2019-20 compared to 49.2% of Council and 29.4% of RSL lets in 2018/2019.
	Engagement took place with individuals and service user groups to develop a better understanding of rough sleeping. This work resulted in the development of a dedicated Ending Rough Sleeping Action Plan. The plan, which was co-produced with service user groups, will be fully implemented in 2020/2021.
Improve and increase the provision of housing support for households to live independently within communities	The HomeStart team was established to provide support and assistance to all new tenants, including those who may be at most risk of homelessness. Since full roll out in September 2019, the HomeStart team have assisted 649 new tenants and provided 247 starter packs.
	In January 2019, specialist support provision, led by Blue Triangle, was introduced to improve access to health and social care services. This intensive support service has already achieved positive outcomes for households facing extremely complex challenges.
	An improved partnership working approach to supporting households with complex needs was established. A complex case panel was introduced in April 2019, to review the most complex need homelessness cases. The panel involves a range of partners and ensures a multi-agency approach to identifying appropriate options and working towards positive outcomes for those involved.

<b>RRTP Priority Objective</b>	<b>Achievement</b>
Expand the scope of Housing First and capacity of our Housing First approach to be the first response for households with multiple complex needs	A further 10 homeless households moved into settled accommodation through a Housing First approach involving wrap around support, from a combination of services. The sustainment rate for the Housing First cases has been 100%.
	Improved joint working to prevent homelessness for people leaving prison. Working with the Scottish Prison Service and HMP Barlinnie, a pilot took place to implement Sustainable Housing On Release For Everyone (SHORE) standards for people entering and exiting prison, with a priority focus on short-sentence prisoners on remand. The pilot evaluated well and a specialist Housing Officer has now been appointed to further develop partnership working in this area.
Enhance integration of partnership working to embed RRTP through a whole systems approach	The Homelessness Strategy Group has collective responsibility for developing and delivering RRTP outcomes, taking account of the voice of lived experience. The group meet quarterly to ensure the actions identified within the RRTP are being progressed in partnership.
	Partner Contribution Statements (PCS) are a key feature of the RRTP and are prepared by each partner to support the RRTP by setting out the specific contributions they intend to make towards delivering the five priority objectives. PCS's are 'live' documents and as such are subject to continuous monitoring and review, to ensure that the work being undertaken is appropriate and continues to contribute towards the delivery of shared priorities.

## 5. Proposed Revisions to the RRTP

- 5.1. In addition to reviewing the progress made against the actions and measures set out within the RRTP action plan, the annual review also provided the opportunity to re-examine the RRTP in general to ensure that priority objectives, actions and measures remain appropriate, relevant and measurable. As part of this process a small number of amendments to the RRTP have been made.
- 5.2. It is proposed that the following minor revisions be made to the RRTP:-

<b>RRTP Reference</b>	<b>Summary of revision</b>	<b>Context</b>
Priority Objective 1	Amend the description of the priority objective to include prevention of homeless, as follows: "Prevent homelessness occurring and significantly reduce homelessness"	Feedback from the Scottish Government on the RRTP highlighted that there was a need to draw out more clearly the emphasis placed on prevention of homelessness within the plan. The amendment to the description of priority objective 1 clarifies that prevention is a focus of the RRTP.
Measure 2.7	Remove measure "Percentage of former homeless households sustaining tenancy"	It has been identified that this is a duplicate of measure 2.4 and consequently there is no need to report on both.

RRTP Reference	Summary of revision	Context
	for 12 months” under Priority Objective 2 of the action plan.	
Action 1.7	Add new action to develop Housing Options Framework for young people	Building upon development of housing pathway plan for care experienced young people and taking account of broader youth homelessness and most prominent reason for homelessness (parents/relatives can no longer accommodate) with a view to increasing homeless prevention opportunities for young people.

## 6. Covid-19 and homelessness

- 6.1. During the initial months of the pandemic, the Council and its’ partners focused resources on providing an emergency response and ensuring the delivery of critical services to vulnerable customers.
- 6.2. While the review of the RRTP was carried out prior to the on-set of Covid-19, discussions have continued with partners to consider the impact of the pandemic on homelessness services and on the delivery of the RRTP.
- 6.3. To date, Covid-19 has had little impact on the level of homeless presentations, 656 as at 24 July 2020 compared to 652 in the same period in 2019/2020. The most common reason for homelessness remains that parents/friends can no longer accommodate at 24%, and the most common household type remains single males between 25 to 59 years of age at 37%. This compares to 20% and 33% respectively in 2019/2020.
- 6.4. While the letting of suitable accommodation to homeless households has continued to be prioritised during lockdown, the restrictions have however significantly limited the availability of both permanent and temporary accommodation and resulted in the use of Bed and Breakfast accommodation, particularly during the early stages of lockdown.
- 6.5. To date, the most significant impact of the pandemic on homelessness services has been the pressure on temporary accommodation with restricted movement from temporary onto settled accommodation. There were 241 placements into temporary accommodation during the four week period commencing 1 May 2020, this represented an increase of 61% from the same period in 2019/2020.
- 6.6. Subsequently since the commencement of the Covid-19 restrictions, South Lanarkshire has significantly increased the supply of temporary accommodation, with an additional 83 temporary furnished flats delivered by the council, RSL partners and private sector landlords. This is an increase of 11.3% in the total number of units available for households in crisis.

An additional 54 1<sup>st</sup> Stop accommodation have been secured by a 6 month agreement with the University of West of Scotland to use vacant student accommodation in Hamilton which has allowed emergency placements in response to the pandemic.

- 6.7. It is anticipated that throughput from temporary to permanent accommodation will continue to be constrained during 2020/2021 and optimising the supply of temporary accommodation will be a particular priority during the year.
- 6.8. Partners recognise that during the year ahead, the plan will require to be sufficiently flexible to ensure resilience against the uncertainty presented by the pandemic. To date, this has been most clearly demonstrated by the requirement to increase the supply of suitable temporary and emergency accommodation to meet the increased demand from homeless households. While this is contrary to the long term objective of the RRTP to move away from significant use of temporary accommodation, the provision continues to be essential to meet the specific needs arising from the pandemic and the council's statutory obligations. The need to ensure the optimum supply of suitable temporary accommodation due to the pandemic has been highlighted in the annual review document.
- 6.9. The annual review document incorporates a section within it, which highlights the impact of Covid-19 on homelessness and homelessness services and also considers recent changes in the national homelessness policy agenda, arising from Covid-19, specifically the recent recommendations of Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Group (HARSAG) and the amendment to the Homeless Persons (Unsuitable Accommodation) (Scotland) Order 2014.

#### **Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Group (HARSAG)**

- 6.10. HARSAG was reconvened in June 2020 to make recommendations to Scottish Ministers on actions required to end homelessness during the pandemic and beyond. The recommendations from HARSAG published on 14 July 2020, have been accepted in principle by the Scottish Government.
- 6.11. In continuing to progress actions set out in the national Ending Homelessness Together action plan, it has been important to consider the HARSAG recommendations within the annual review document. With increased demand on homelessness services, maintaining focus on prevention of homelessness as far as possible, provision of good quality temporary accommodation when required and minimising timescales involved in homelessness, is key.
- 6.12. Work will continue to end the low level of rough sleeping reported annually in South Lanarkshire, through implementation of the Ending Rough Sleeping Action Plan, co-produced by those with lived experience.

#### **Homeless Persons (Unsuitable Accommodation) (Scotland) Order Amendment 2020**

- 6.13. A report to the Council's Housing and Technical Resources Committee on 17 June 2020 confirmed that on 5 May 2020 the Scottish Government extended the Homeless Persons (Unsuitable Accommodation) (Scotland) Order 2014 to cover all households. Previously the order required that families with children and pregnant women were not placed in unsuitable accommodation such as Bed and Breakfast for more than seven days. The Order, with some exemptions, is expected to commence from October 2020.
- 6.14. To ensure the Council remains well placed to meet demand during this uncertain time, the review document also considers the expansion of the Unsuitable Accommodation Order and the impact this may have on the provision of temporary accommodation. Exemption from the order now includes the use of Rapid Access cluster accommodation models, Community Hosting and Shared Tenancies which may over time maximise the options for suitable temporary accommodation for particular groups.

6.15. In planning to meet the range of accommodation and support needs, in particular for young people, young care experienced and those fleeing domestic abuse, the council will continue to work with key partners including Health and Social Care and Women's Aid South Lanarkshire and East Renfrewshire. This will ensure appropriate provision of suitable accommodation and support to meet needs and respond to any increase in demand.

## **7. RRTP Priorities for 2020/2021**

7.1. A key aspect of the annual review was to consider the appropriateness of the actions identified in the RRTP, with a particular focus on those to be progressed during the future years of the plan.

7.2. The Homelessness Strategy Group co-ordinated the review of progress in year one of the RRTP and noted significant positive indicators of success, and confirmed that no significant changes were required to the plan for year 2. Indeed, the group expressed support for the year two focus to broadly mirror year one, to allow actions which had commenced to embed and be further developed, monitored and reviewed.

7.3. As a result of Covid-19, the current focus is on delivering critical and essential services and meeting need. There remains, however, a commitment to delivering RRTP priorities both in the short term, in response to the impact of the pandemic, and to ensure the longer term objectives of the plan.

7.4. Detailed below is a summary of the key priorities to be progressed during 2020/2021:-

- ◆ Ensure the supply of temporary accommodation is optimised to meet need and statutory responsibilities and continue the council's long standing compliance with the extended Unsuitable Accommodation Order (see section 6);
- ◆ Continue to deliver affordable homes for social rent in South Lanarkshire;
- ◆ Continue to reduce the number of children affected by homelessness and minimise the impact for those affected;
- ◆ Ensure links between the RRTP and Local Child Poverty Action Report 2020 are in place to support and improve outcomes for homeless households with children;
- ◆ Continue to reduce long-term homelessness;
- ◆ Prioritise the reduction in the use of Bed and Breakfast as emergency accommodation;
- ◆ Continue to update and enhance Partner Contribution Statements and work closely with RSL partners to ensure priorities are delivered;
- ◆ Ensure 'Directions' relating to homelessness are incorporated into the Strategic Commissioning Plan 2019 to 2022 and implemented;
- ◆ Continue to support victims of domestic abuse and provide refuge through dedicated services provided by Women's Aid and other partners;
- ◆ Develop housing options approach for young people;
- ◆ Progress actions within the Ending Rough Sleeping Action Plan;
- ◆ Continue to implement approaches to assist homelessness prevention by providing financial assistance to Council tenants and tenants in the private rented sector experiencing hardship;
- ◆ Continue to expand the Council's HomeStart service, with additional resources provided to increase support and assistance to new tenants;
- ◆ Continue to develop the council's Housing First approach; and

- ◆ Progress plans to convert temporary units to permanent accommodation. While the original estimate was 20 units per year over the five years of the RRTP, it is expected that this number will increase in 2020/2021, in light of the increase in the provision of temporary accommodation.

## **8. Next Steps**

- 8.1. The RRTP Annual Review 2019/2020, attached as Appendix 1, was submitted to the Scottish Government by the required timescale of 31 August 2020 and will be published on the Council's website.
- 8.2. The Homelessness Strategy Group will continue to meet regularly throughout the year to ensure that the RRTP priority actions are being delivered and to monitor and report on progress made. The group will also coordinate the partnership's response to the new recommendations from HARSAG, as they are more fully developed.
- 8.3. The RRTP was developed to align with key partnership plans and strategies and monitoring of common objectives in key partnership areas will continue to be a focus in the year ahead, in particular:-
  - ◆ The South Lanarkshire Community Plan;
  - ◆ The Children's Services Plan;
  - ◆ Engagement with local Registered Social Landlords;
  - ◆ The Local Housing Strategy Annual Review;
  - ◆ The Health and Social Care Partnership Directions; and
  - ◆ The Child Poverty Action Report.
- 8.4. The impact of Covid-19 will be closely monitored, and strategic approaches and priorities will be adjusted to reflect emerging issues and requirements. This will be reported as part of the next annual review process.

## **9. Employee Implications**

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

## **10. Financial Implications**

- 10.1. The RRTP confirmed the significant level of resources required to be directed towards the prevention and alleviation of homelessness. To date, the Scottish Government has provided £1,019,077 in funding to assist in the development and implementation of the RRTP, this includes £453,000 to support implementation of the RRTP in 2020/2021.
- 10.2. It is recognised that additional funding will be required in order to deliver the strategic objectives of the RRTP. Consideration will also be required in relation to how mainstream services and budgets can contribute towards helping to deliver RRTP priorities.

## **11. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implication**

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

## **12. Other Implications**

- 12.1. There are no additional risks associated with this report.

### **13. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**

- 13.1. An equality impact assessment was carried out on the RRTP. The assessment confirmed that the plan will make a positive contribution to the promotion of equalities.
- 13.2. A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) pre-screening determination was completed as part of the development of the RRTP 2019 to 2024. This confirmed there is no requirement for a separate SEA to be carried out for the RRTP.
- 13.3. The RRTP was developed and co-produced with a range of key partners and stakeholder groups. These groups have confirmed their commitment to work together to ensure the delivery of the priority outcomes. Through the Homelessness Strategy Group, these partners have been involved in monitoring and reviewing the plan.

**Daniel Lowe**  
**Executive Director (Housing and Technical Resources)**  
**South Lanarkshire Council**

24 September 2020

#### **Contact for Further Information:**

If you would like further information, please contact:-

Jacqueline Fernie, Homelessness and Housing Support Manager, South Lanarkshire Council

Phone: 0141 584 2711

Email: [jacqueline.ferniesouthlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:jacqueline.ferniesouthlanarkshire.gov.uk)

**Appendix 1**

# **South Lanarkshire Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan**

## **Annual Review 2019/20**



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1. RRTP Action Plan (2019/20 progress update)

### **Covid-19 Outbreak**

*This first annual review of the Rapid Re-housing Transition Plan was carried out in advance of the on-set of Covid-19. It has been necessary to revise the review further and recognise that flexibility, adaptability and resilience will be required in the year ahead, as a fuller understanding of the impact of Covid-19 on the level and nature of homelessness and its implications for service requirements is achieved.*



## **Foreword**

I am pleased to report that the first year of South Lanarkshire's Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan has been a successful one, with a wide range of services and partner organisations coming together and working towards our shared aim of addressing homelessness across South Lanarkshire.

This review shows the breadth of work that has been undertaken over the first year of the RRTP. In particular I am pleased to see that good progress has been made on the council's commitment to delivering 1,000 additional council homes, alongside significant increases in the numbers of additional affordable housing provided by our housing association partners. This investment in housing availability will help to further support the vital work of the council and its partners in tackling homelessness and enabling homeless households to find a suitable home that meets their family's needs.

While Covid-19 has had a significant impact on the programme of construction, as we move forward into year two of the plan I am confident that we will build on the good work and outcomes already achieved. Ensuring we maximise opportunities to increase the supply of affordable housing will provide the essential foundation for delivering the impact on homelessness which we seek to achieve over the remaining years of the plan.

### **Councillor Josh Wilson**

Chair of Housing and Technical Resources Committee



Over the past 12 months, a broad range of work to tackle homelessness and meet the needs of homeless households has been delivered by partners from across the Community Planning Partnership.

This review highlights just some of the excellent work that is being delivered every day by partners, to improve the lives of people in South Lanarkshire, in particular those who are disadvantaged and vulnerable and who need help and support.

Whilst it is encouraging to see that progress is being made in relation to our priority objectives, we have seen some real significant challenges for our partners in implementing the plan, however I am confident that the strong partnership approach we have adopted provides us with resilience to respond to the impact of Covid-19.

We must ensure that we continue to maintain focus to ensure that we achieve a step change in addressing homelessness across South Lanarkshire.

### **Councillor Maureen Chalmers**

Deputy Council Leader

Chair of South Lanarkshire's Community Planning Partnership Board

## **1. Summary of year one progress**

1.1 We are pleased to report that effective partnership working and a shared commitment to addressing homelessness has enabled good progress to be made during the first year of South Lanarkshire's Rapid Re-housing Transition Plan (RRTP).

This review which was co-ordinated by the Homelessness Strategy Group confirms South Lanarkshire's commitment to partnership working in the delivery of services and support.

A summary of the key highlights from the first year of the RRTP include:

- Growth of the Housing First model, with 10 individuals supported.
- 26 temporary accommodation properties were 'flipped' from temporary to permanent accommodation.
- 34% reduction in the number of homeless households waiting for housing for more than a year.
- 6% reduction in the number of homeless households containing children under 16 years of age
- 36% reduction in the use of Bed and Breakfast as emergency accommodation.
- Development of a homelessness peer support network with service users trained to become peer mentors.
- Engagement with people who have experience of rough sleeping which informed the development of an Ending Rough Sleeping Action Plan, to be implemented in 2020/21.
- Introduction of a pro-active approach to resolving longer term homelessness, resulting in a reduction in cases of one year or more.
- Expansion of the South Lanarkshire Rent Deposit Scheme to include a focus on prevention for those in the private sector.
- Increased housing support, including specialist/wrap around support to meet a range of complex needs.
- Establishment of a HomeStart team to support and assist all new Council tenants set up and sustain their tenancy.
- Introduction of a review panel and revised case closure process to ensure homelessness housing support is not withdrawn due to lost contact or non-engagement
- The Council's framework for Open Market Purchase (OMP) enabled the procurement of 60 properties. This method of increasing the supply of affordable housing is in alignment with supply targets set within the Strategic Housing Investment Programme (SHIP).
- A pilot digital inclusion project commissioned for 25 homeless households (mainly with children) who have no access to the internet which will deliver IT equipment, one year's online access and support to develop skills.

- Continued joint working with Education Resources to further expand a Housing Options and Homelessness awareness programme. During 2019/20 the programme was delivered to over 200 young people across South Lanarkshire’s secondary schools with very positive feedback received.
- The further development of a Personal Housing Planning approach for vulnerable groups including women experiencing domestic abuse and young people leaving care.
- Increase in the positive outcomes for young care leavers.
- Continued focus by the Council on minimising evictions through the delivery of a range of alternative actions and interventions.
- Introduction of a Tenancy Sustainment Fund, to support tenants in financial hardship across tenures to improve tenancy sustainment including new initiatives to support the Private Rented Sector.

## **2. Background**

### **2.1 National Vision**

The Scottish Government set a national vision for rapid rehousing transition plans to be developed and implemented across Scotland as a way of reducing homelessness, structured around five broad principles.

Further information on the Scottish Government’s national vision and Ending Homeless Together programme is available at [www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot).

### **2.2 South Lanarkshire’s Vision**

South Lanarkshire’s Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan 2019-24 (RRTP) was developed in conjunction with a wide range of partners and submitted to the Scottish Government in December 2018.

The final plan was approved by Housing and Technical Resources Committee on 23 January 2019 and reported to the Community Planning Partnership Board on 19 June 2019.

The RRTP builds upon a well-established partnership framework and aims to seize a unique opportunity to achieve a step change in preventing and reducing homelessness in South Lanarkshire over the period of the plan and beyond. The vision set out within the South Lanarkshire RRTP is that:

*“Homelessness in South Lanarkshire is significantly reduced, with homeless households moving to a settled home as quickly as possible.”*

### **2.3 Co-production**

South Lanarkshire’s RRTP was developed and co-produced through intensive engagement with key partners and stakeholder groups. A collaborative approach is at the heart of the plan and the momentum that was achieved by partners in co-producing the plan has been further developed over the past year to secure progress.

## 2.4 Links to other plans and strategies

The RRTP was developed to link closely with a broad range of partner strategies and plans being progressed in South Lanarkshire. Figure 1 below demonstrates the relationship between these and the National Housing and Regeneration Performance Framework.



Figure 1: RRTP Links to other plans and strategies

2.5 During 2019/20, further work was undertaken to strengthen the above links, ensuring homelessness and its wider impact is appropriately reflected in each strategy/plan. Key developments included:

- the inclusion of specific actions relating to homelessness within the Local Child Poverty Action Report 2019
- inclusion of specific 'Homelessness Directions' related to prevention activity and response to resolve homelessness in the Strategic Commissioning Plan 2019-22
- as part of the review the Community Planning Partnership Board have agreed improvement in appropriate alignment with the RRTP in the South Lanarkshire Community Plan.

Progress made through actions that link with the RRTP and these other plans and strategies is provided in Section 4.

## 2.6 Feedback

In May 2019 the Scottish Government provided positive feedback on the South Lanarkshire RRTP, highlighting a number of key strengths, in particular the strong partnership approach which is in place. The feedback highlighted the need to draw out more clearly the focus which is contained within the plan on the prevention of homelessness. This is reflected in the re-wording of Priority Objective 1 to include specific reference to prevention.

## 2.7 Governance

The South Lanarkshire Homelessness Strategy Group is the partnership group responsible for the prioritisation and delivery of actions set out within the RRTP.

The Group meet quarterly and have the following remit:

- Monitoring and reporting on progress in relation to the RRTP
- Reviewing and updating key actions and measures/indicators, taking into account new and emerging policy priorities and resources, as required.
- Considering homelessness issues in South Lanarkshire, including maintaining and updating the assessment of the extent and nature of homelessness in South Lanarkshire on an annual basis.

The RRTP was developed to ensure that its' priority objectives aligned with the Local Housing Strategy (LHS) 2017-22 priority outcomes for addressing homelessness. The chairperson of the Homelessness Strategy Group is responsible for attending and providing regular progress updates in relation to the RRTP and homelessness to the South Lanarkshire Local Housing Strategy Steering Group.

## 2.8 Funding

Following publication of Scottish Government guidance, an in depth analysis was carried out of the extent and nature of homelessness in South Lanarkshire to support the development of the RRTP. This analysis considered data, trends and patterns identified over the last 15 years and provided partners with the key analytical base for the actions which were set to secure the vision and outcomes of the RRTP.

It was calculated that the level of funding required to significantly reduce homelessness and achieve rapid re-housing in South Lanarkshire was around £16.8million. Following feedback from the Scottish Government on how available funding could be used, the costings relating to capital expenditure to deliver additional housing supply were removed from the plan. Consequently, the revised level which had been identified as required to fund the five year plan was reduced to £7.18million.

### **Ending Homelessness Together Fund**

In December 2018, the Scottish Government provided the Council with an allocation of £105,000 to help fund the initial development and implementation of the plan. This funding has primarily been used for the appointment of an RRTP Co-ordinator, with responsibility for working across the partnership to co-ordinate, support and drive forward the implementation of the plan.

In July 2019, South Lanarkshire was awarded a further £461,000 from the fund, to support the implementation of RRTP actions during the first year (2019/20). Details of funding available in 2020/21 is provided at section 6.4.

### **Other funding sources**

The Homelessness Strategy Group was clear on the need to actively consider other potential funding routes to take forward priority activities, and also on the need to consider how mainstream services and budgets can be revised or re-focused to help deliver RRTP priorities.

In the first year of the plan the following partnership funding was identified:

- In January 2019, South Lanarkshire Alcohol and Drug Partnership (ADP) provided funding of £20,000 for the introduction of an intensive support worker post operating a care manager approach and working to improve access to health and social care services, particularly drug, alcohol and mental health. Partner commissioned service, Blue Triangle led on this piece of work, initially as a 6 month pilot. The model proved successful and following review, the ADP Board funded continuation with an additional £20,000 for a further 6 months.
- South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) committed to a contribution of £10,000 towards the expansion of an existing partnership between the Council and Shelter Scotland's South Lanarkshire Families Project to facilitate completion of wellbeing assessments for children affected by homelessness. Shelter to date have been unable to commit resources to this project, next steps will be confirmed in the 2020/21 RRTP action plan.
- A tenancy sustainment fund of £25,000 was established by South Lanarkshire Council which compliments RRTP actions in relation to homeless prevention and tenancy sustainment by delivering financial support as well as more general housing support to targeted tenants to help them sustain their tenancy.

The level of funding allocated and secured for year one of the plan was significantly less than the original calculations made to adequately resource the delivery of the plan. While partners have continued to progress actions utilising all resources available, some actions within the plan have been limited as a result. This is reflected in Section 4, Year One Progress and in Appendix 1.

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

- Expansion of existing commissioned service delivering intensive/wrap around support based on a care management approach to meet more complex needs, in particular improving links across housing, health and addiction services
- Introduction of specialist support services to meet a range of complex need including repeat homelessness, multiple needs in particular addiction and mental health
- Introduction of dedicated Housing First support model
- Delivered Housing First training to housing staff and partner commissioned services

- Establishment of HomeStart team focused on supporting new tenants, identifying risk factors such as previous eviction or homelessness and providing assistance with furniture removal.
- Expansion of existing Rent Deposit Scheme to increase access to the private rented sector and deliver prevention activity supporting tenancy sustainment
- Development of 'Bringing IT Home' project which will deliver IT equipment and online access to homeless households
- Recruitment of a specialist officer to progress the further development of housing pathway plans to inform future delivery of services. In particular for young care leavers, those affected by domestic abuse and prison discharge in line with SHORE standards.

### **3. Monitoring homelessness trends in South Lanarkshire**

- 3.1 Following national guidance issued to local authorities, the RRTP was statistically informed by analysing homelessness trends over the previous five, ten and 15 year period. This allowed for a longer term average to be used to gauge the services and resources that would be required over the next five years to prevent and significantly reduce homelessness.
- 3.2 Since the publication of the RRTP, the Homelessness Strategy Group has continually monitored these statistics to ensure services and resources that have been put in place will have a positive impact. Monitoring also allows services to react should homelessness levels increase or support needs for vulnerable households change.
- 3.3 The annual review provides an opportunity to illustrate significant changes between the baseline statistics and projections contained within the RRTP and actual figures from the end of the first year. Improvements or changes to these can often be attributed to actions taken by services as a result of the RRTP.
- 3.4 Homelessness Trends 2002/03 to 2019/20**  
 In 2018/19 South Lanarkshire reported a decrease in the number of homelessness presentations recorded despite a 3% increase in the national trend from the same period. However in 2019/20 South Lanarkshire has experienced a 7% increase in presentations as detailed in Figure 2. Comparative national figures are not yet available to draw conclusions.

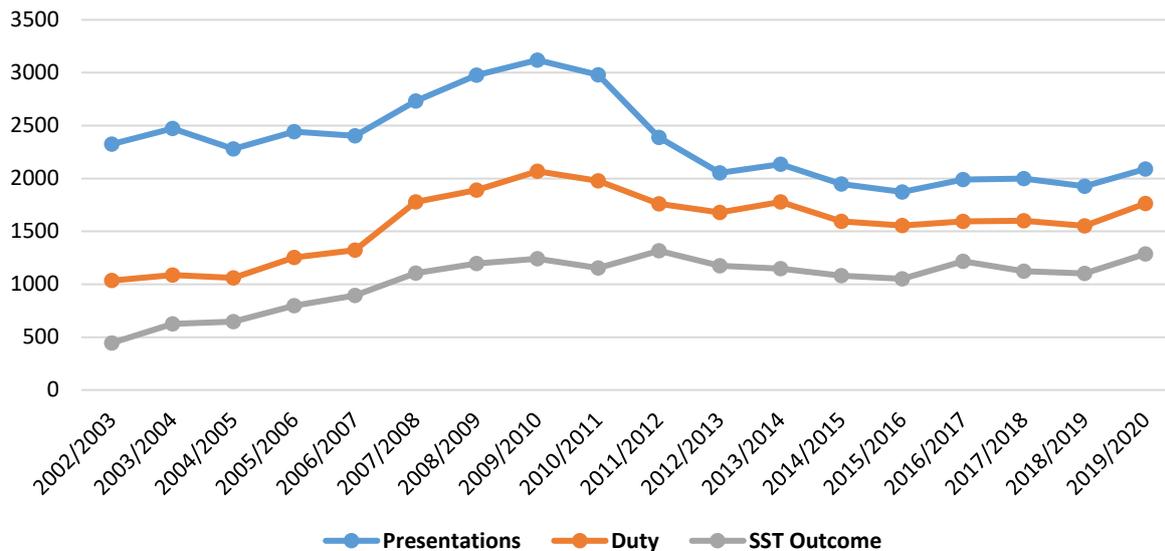


Figure 2: Homelessness trends 2002-2019/20

Despite this increase, Figure 2 also illustrates that positive outcomes for homeless households has remained proportionally high, with 73.3% of statutory homeless households provided with a Scottish Secure Tenancy (SST), compared with 71.4% in the previous year.

Tenancy sustainment is also improving, with 88% of homeless households sustaining their tenancy for over 12 months in 2019/20, compared with 86% in 2018/19.

### 3.5 Composition of homeless household

Monitoring the composition of homeless households allows services to ensure they have the right accommodation and support to meet their needs. In 2019/20, in line with previous years, single people and single parents accounted for around 90% of all homeless applicants, as detailed in Figure 3 below.

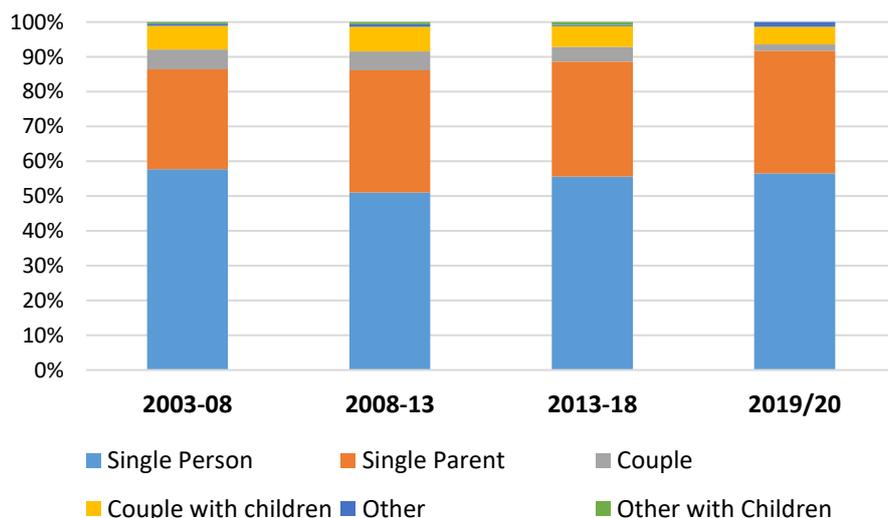


Figure 3: Composition of homeless households (Five year baselines vs 2019/20)

In 2019/20, approximately 34% of all homeless households included children and young people which is a reduction of 6% from the RRTP baseline figure.

### 3.6 Housing Supply

Over the first year of the RRTP the council and its Registered Social Landlord partners have continued to increase the number of affordable homes for social rent across South Lanarkshire, in line with the Strategic Housing Investment Plan. Figure 4 provides details of the increase across each housing division with a total of **284** additional affordable homes delivered since the RRTP was published.

	Clydesdale	East Kilbride	Hamilton	Rutherglen/ Cambuslang	South Lanarkshire
<b>RRTP Baseline</b>	6,077	6,261	10,970	6,674	29,982
<b>2019/20 additions</b>	32	107	93	52	284

Figure 4: Total social housing supply (non sheltered)

### 3.7 Temporary Accommodation

The time spent in temporary accommodation has reduced by 7% from an average of 200 days in 2018/19 to 187 days in 2019/20, the lowest level over the past three years.

The RRTP baseline illustrated that the average time spent in temporary accommodation varied significantly by area, ranging from 127 days in Clydesdale to 265 days in East Kilbride. Although the total duration has reduced across all areas as a result of actions from the RRTP, this variation across areas continued in 2019/20 as illustrated in Figure 5 below.

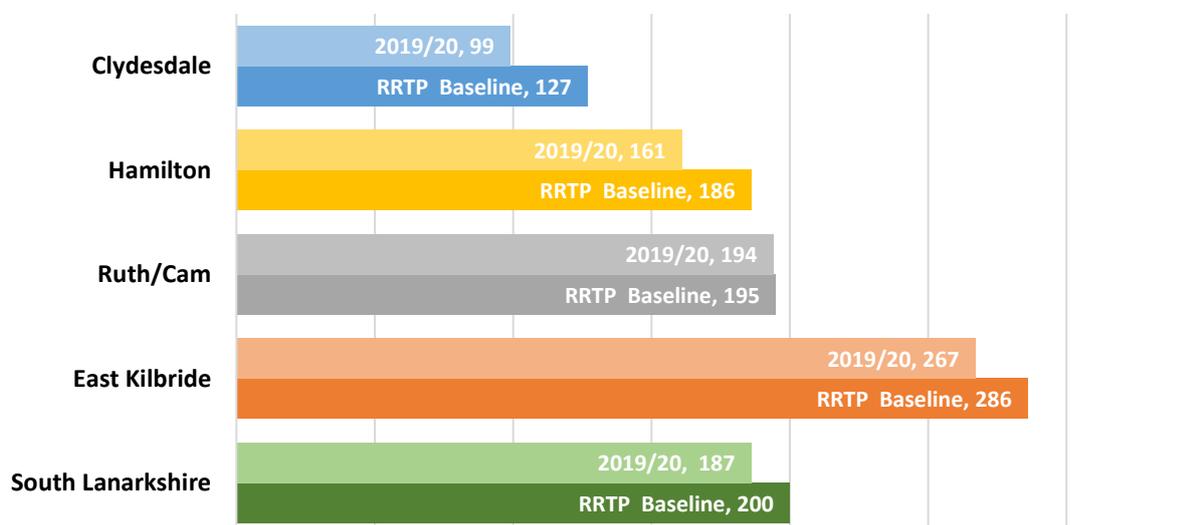


Figure 5: Average number of days in temporary accommodation (RRTP Baseline vs 2019/20)

The use of Bed and Breakfast accommodation has also further reduced by 36% over the past year. This is consistent with a longer term reduction of 45% over the past three years (from 382 nights during 2017/18, to 332 in 2018/19 and to 211 nights in 2019/20).

Average time spent in Bed and Breakfast accommodation also shows a reducing trend, with an average of 2.59 days reported in 2019/20 compared with 2.71 days in 2018/19 and 4.15 days in 2017/18.

### 3.8 Reasons for homelessness

There are a wide and often complex range of reasons why a household may become homeless. Ensuring services monitor and understand these allows the right help, advice and support to be provided to resolve homelessness as quickly as possible.

'Asked to leave' previous accommodation continues to remain the most common reason for a household becoming homeless, with 'household disputes', 'fleeing non-domestic violence' and 'financial reasons' also with high proportions. A breakdown of numbers for each category and a comparison of the Scottish national figures are provided at Figure 5.

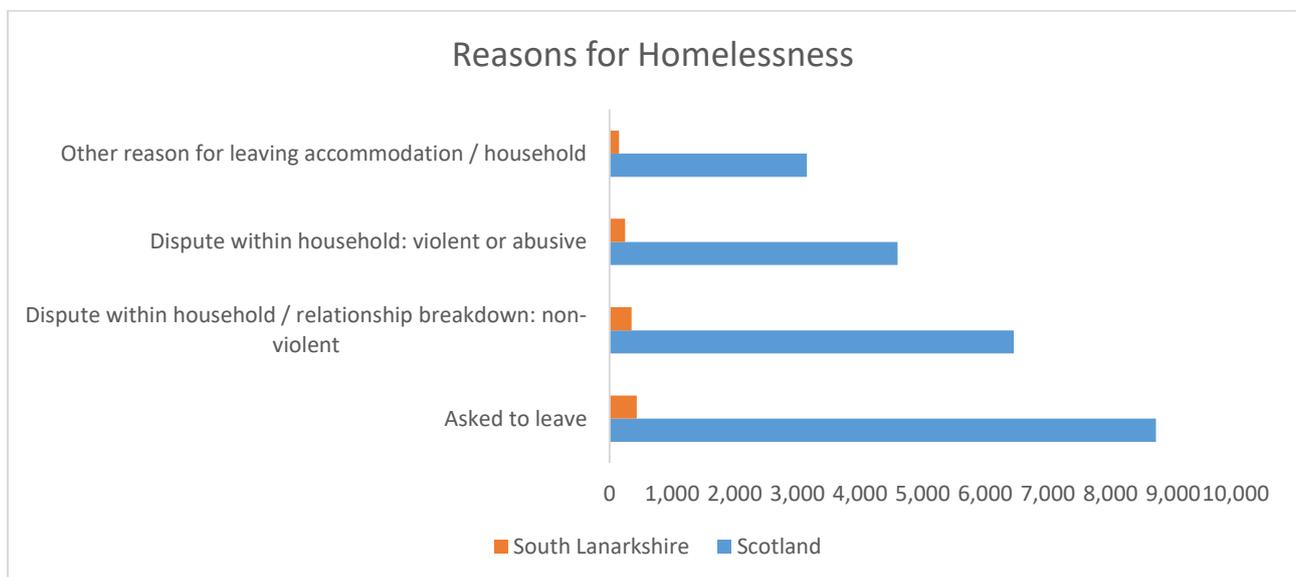


Figure 5: Reasons for Homelessness

Over the past year, there has also been a slight increase in the proportion of repeat homelessness cases compared with the previous year. In 2018/19, 4.5% of all cases repeated within 12 months, compared with 5.4% in 2019/20. Analysis of each repeat homeless case is undertaken to inform service development. This highlights that increased focus on support particularly for cases with complex needs is required to achieve improvements in tenancy sustainment and prevent repeat homelessness.

### 3.9 Rough Sleeping

There are continued low levels of reported rough sleeping in South Lanarkshire with a slight reduction in homeless presentations reporting that they slept rough the previous night or within three months of making the presentation. In 2019/20, there were 56 homelessness presentations that reported rough sleeping the previous night, and 116 within the last three months. This compares with 68 and 128 respectively in 2018/19.

It is clear from this detailed analysis that rough sleeping in South Lanarkshire is not characterised by sleeping outdoors but by homeless persons in crisis and in between accommodation who are engaging with the council to reach a positive solution.

### 3.10 Long Term Homeless cases

A significant improvement from the RRTP baseline has been made in the reduction of homeless households waiting for housing for more than 1 year. By March 2020 the following was noted:-

- the number of households waiting more than a year to be housed had reduced by 34% to 95 cases.
- the proportion of all homeless households waiting more than a year to be housed had reduced by 3.1%, from 12% in March 2019 to 8.9% in March 2020
- a 31% reduction in the number of long-term homeless households with children, from 68 in 2019 to 47 in March 2020.

### 3.11 Homelessness prevention

Overall there has been a 19% increase in the number of approaches for housing assistance to the Council’s Housing Options service from 753 cases during 2017/18 to 933 during 2019/20. Figure 6 illustrates the number of Housing Options cases over the past three years, alongside the number that resulted in a homelessness presentation. This has remained low despite the increase in approaches for housing assistance.

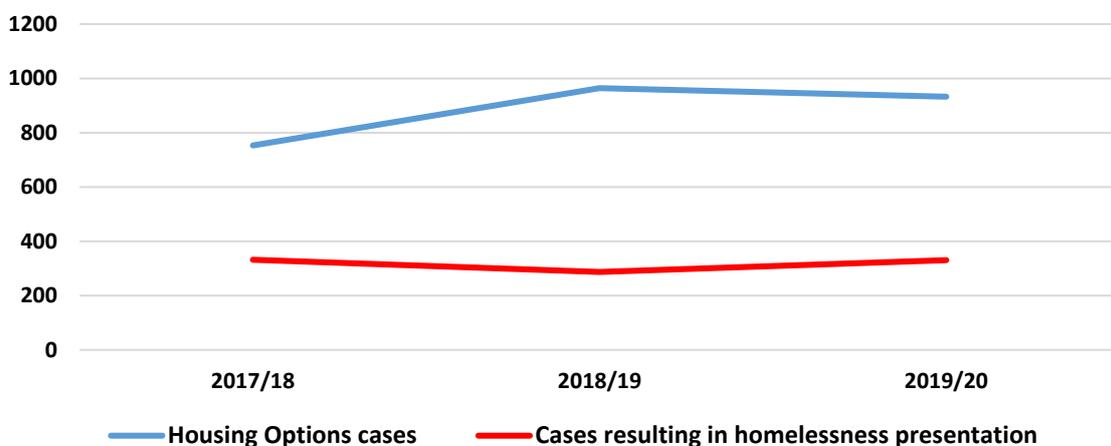


Figure 6: Housing Options cases 2017-2020

## 4. Year One Progress

4.1 The RRTP recognises that effectively tackling homelessness requires a shared commitment from a range of agencies and partners. As previously noted, the RRTP was co-produced, with partners involved in identifying and agreeing the priority actions contained within the action plan.

### 4.2 Reviewing the plan

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

In reviewing the first year of the RRTP, the group recognise that progress has been built upon existing foundations of strong partnerships and this will ensure the continuation and further development of key areas of work throughout the duration of the plan. Consequently it was noted that while the expected progress in year one may be limited, a structure is now in place which will allow positive outcomes to be achieved in future years of the plan.

The group also took into account of the timing of clarification of the funding to be provided by the Scottish Government to support the implementation of the plan and subsequent procurement processes to bring services on board.

The group agreed that the actions identified in year one were correct and appropriate and positive indicators of success could be demonstrated against most of the actions and measures.

4.3 Detailed below are key highlights of the progress that has been made towards delivering against the actions and measures outlined against year one for each of the five RRTP priority objectives. A summary of progress made in year one, in relation to all actions and measures detailed in the RRTP Action Plan, is also attached as Appendix 1.

	<p><b>Priority Objective 1: Prevent homelessness occurring and significantly reduce homelessness*</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To improve the availability of affordable housing in South Lanarkshire, a total of 284 additional affordable homes for social rent were delivered in 2019/20. This included 206 new build homes by Housing Associations, 18 council new build homes and 60 additional council homes purchased through the Council’s framework for Open Market Purchase (OMP).</li> <li>• With RRTP funding, the South Lanarkshire’s Rent Deposit Scheme (RDS) was expanded to facilitate increase in the number of homeless households whose housing needs are met in the private rented sector and deliver support to sustain private sector tenancies. As part of this expansion, an innovation fund was developed to provide financial assistance to private sector tenants to support prevention and tenancy sustainment beginning in 2020/21. A priority for year 2 of the plan will be to focus on the outcomes of this expansion.</li> <li>• The Council has continued to develop its Integrated Housing Options model, increasing resources over recent years dedicated to early detection of housing risk factors and interventions to prevent homelessness where possible. This has led to an increase in the Housing Options caseload from 753 cases during 2017/18 to 933 in 2019/20. The Housing Options approach also promotes the private rented sector as a viable option for the prevention of homelessness, with 80 cases resolved through this route in the last year.</li> <li>• A Tenancy Sustainment Fund was established, complementing RRTP objectives around prevention of homelessness. The fund facilitated financial assistance for Council tenants who may be at risk of homelessness as a result of financial difficulties.</li> <li>• The Council has reduced the number of evictions carried out due to rent arrears and has established other alternatives to assist and support vulnerable tenants in financial difficulties. Since 2016/17, the number of evictions due to non-payment of rent has decreased by 73.4% from 76 to 20 in 2019/20.</li> </ul>	



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

- Over the course of the year, 26 households had their temporary tenancies converted or 'flipped' to a Scottish Secure Tenancy, providing the homeless household with a permanent home and avoiding the need for the disruption of further moves. This has exceeded targets and the approach has enabled a number of longer term homeless households to secure permanent accommodation.
- The Council and its Registered Social Landlord partners, who together operate HomeFinder, the South Lanarkshire Common Housing Register, agreed an increase to the percentage of lets that would be directed to those on the Homeless List. This agreement has been formed as part of their Partner Contribution Statements. In 2019/20, the Council let 55.3% of its total lets to applicants assessed as being in Urgent Housing Need, of that 51.4% were homeless applicants, an increase from 49.2% of lets during 2018/19. Registered Social Landlords collectively let 36.9% of vacant properties to homeless households.
- South Lanarkshire has a limited incidence of rough sleeping, however on an annual basis a small but consistent level of rough sleeping is reported. Over the last year the Council has engaged with individual applicants and service user groups to develop a better understanding of this issue and developed a dedicated Ending Rough Sleeping Action Plan that will be implemented in 2020/21.



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

- In 2019/20 the HomeStart team was established to provide support and assistance to all new council tenants within South Lanarkshire, including those who may be at most risk of homelessness. This includes assistance to set up and sustain tenancies, focusing on identifying risk and providing starter packs where required. Since full roll out in September 2019, the HomeStart team have assisted 649 new tenants and provided 247 starter packs.
- In January 2019, a specialist support provision was introduced on a pilot basis to improve access to health and social care services, in particular, drug, alcohol and mental health. Blue Triangle led on this work funded by the Alcohol and Drug Partnership, initially with £20,000 for a six month test. Although limited in scale, this intensive support service has seen positive outcomes for the most complex need cases. In conjunction with clients, housing and support plans have been successfully developed where this had previously proved difficult. The project has since continued and expanded.
- A Specialist Housing Officer post was created in 2019/20 to further develop a personal housing planning approach for vulnerable groups, including women experiencing

domestic abuse and young people leaving care. Work has progressed on revising the Housing/Social Work Resources joint through-care protocol in conjunction with service users and third sector partners. This work will continue in 2020/21 through existing partnership groups and will be overseen by the user led Champions Board and Make a Stand Working Group.

- Housing Options and Homelessness awareness training continues to be provided to secondary schools across South Lanarkshire. Over the last year awareness sessions were delivered to 200 young people. Work is also underway with Education Resources to produce a film focusing on homelessness and tackling poverty which will be included in the future school curriculum. The film will continue the theme of co-production and involve those with lived experience of homelessness.
- Following the report on the adverse effects of children in homelessness and promoting digital inclusion for households who are homeless, a pilot has been established 'Bringing IT Home' to provide tablets and a year's mobile broadband to 25 homeless families. The progress and impact of this pilot will be monitored in 2020/21.
- In April 2019, a complex case panel was introduced to review the most complex need homelessness cases. The panel involves partners including NHS Health and Homelessness Team, Shelter Scotland, Blue Triangle, YPeople, local housing office leads and the Central Homelessness Team. The panel reviews individual circumstances and agree next steps in ensuring development of a housing and support plan. This approach ensures housing support is not withdrawn for any negative reason, such as lack of engagement to ensure every option is explored across the partnership to meet support needs and secure permanent and sustainable accommodation.



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

- Prior to the introduction of the RRTP, Housing and Technical Resources tested a Housing First approach on a small scale with three cases. This pilot evaluated well and informed further roll out of the process. During 2019/20, a further 10 homeless households moved onto settled accommodation with a Housing First approach and wrap around support, drawn from a combination of existing resources. The sustainment rate for the 10 households is 100%. It is anticipated that with the benefit of additional intensive wrap around support, for which preparatory work to commission was undertaken during 2019/20, the council's Housing First approach will increase further during 2020/21.
- A pilot project was established in 2019/20 working with the Scottish Prison Service and HMP Barlinnie to implement Sustainable Housing On Release For Everyone (SHORE) standards for people entering and exiting prison, including a priority focus for short-sentence prisoners on remand. This evaluated well with the benefit of good information sharing, increasing prevention opportunities. Preparatory work has progressed over the past year, with the creation of a Specialist Housing Officer post with a specific remit for robust housing planning linked to SHORE.



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

- South Lanarkshire's RRTP was developed through a partnership approach involving Housing and Technical Resources, Health and Social Care, Registered Social Landlords and Third Sector partners, including commissioned homelessness services with an expert knowledge in both delivering local services but also leading in developing and delivering accommodation and support services.
- A key feature of the RRTP was the development of Partner Contribution Statements (PCS). These documents were prepared by each partner and support the RRTP by setting out details of the specific contributions they will make, individually or in conjunction with other partners, towards delivering the five priority objectives. The actions detailed within PCS's are wide and varied reflecting the different roles of partners and the services they delivered.

The PCS's are very much 'live' documents and as such are subject to continuous monitoring and review, to ensure that the work being undertaken is appropriate and continues to contribute towards the delivery of shared priorities. During the first year of the plan, partners have reported on the outcomes of their PCS and revised their specific contributions and intentions for year two.

- The Homelessness Strategy Group, with collective responsibility for developing and delivering RRTP outcomes, taking account of the voice of lived experience, meet quarterly to ensure the actions identified within the RRTP are taken forward in partnership.
- Housing and Technical Resources continue to work closely with partners in health and social care to understand trends, patterns and opportunities to prevent homelessness and respond at the earliest opportunity. This includes development of pathway plans for health workers to increase housing circumstances enquiry and referral routes.
- Housing and Technical Resources and the Health and Social Care Partnership have also worked together to develop and introduce specific 'Directions' within the Strategic Commissioning Plan 2019-22. These aim to promote homelessness routine enquiry across frontline health services and prioritise access to services for homeless households. This will be progressed as a priority in 2020/21.
- The council is also engaging with the National Health Service on national data trend analysis again to understand links between health and homelessness data with a view to aiding preventative activity.

4.4 In addition to the achievements and actions progressed in relation to each of the priority objectives, the council and its partners continue to assess support needs for all homeless households. Tailored packages of support are developed and delivered by the council through locality or specialist teams and commissioned services, based on trauma informed practice principals.

4.5 In December 2019, the Care Inspectorate carried out an inspection of the Homelessness Housing Support Service. The council was awarded grade 5 - 'very good' for the two areas assessed; quality of care and support and quality of management and leadership. The report from the Care Inspectorate also highlighted key strengths and areas of good practice, as follows:

- Staff were skilled in addressing complex behaviour and supporting people through change and are highly skilled at building trust.
- Service users spoke highly of the support they received and clearly trusted staff.
- Leadership strengths were identified in the approach to auditing performance, noting this was robust with clear plans in place to address any performance issues identified.

#### 4.6 Review Scorecard

To monitor progress against each of the five priority objectives in the RRTP, a traffic light scoring system is used. Attached to the priorities are 52 indicators, comprising 32 actions and measures, against which progress is monitored and reported.

Colour	Progress
Green	Achieved/on target
Amber	Minor slippage
Red	Significantly off target

Figure 7 below provides a summary of the position in relation to the progress made towards the achievement of the five priority objectives at RRTP during 2019/20. Over 82% of the indicators were either achieved or were close to target.

RRTP Scorecard 2019/20	Green	Amber	Red	Report later/contextual	Total
Prevent homelessness occurring and significantly reduce homelessness	9	2	0	1	12
Significantly reduce time spent by households in temporary accommodation and minimise moves before moving to settled homes	11	1	0	1	13
Improve and increase the provision of housing support for households to live independently within communities	7	2	0	3	12
Expand the scope and capacity of our Housing First approach to be the first response for households with multiple complex needs	7	0	0	3	10
Enhance integration and partnership working to embed RRTP through a whole systems approach	3	1	0	1	5
All	37	6	0	9	52

Figure 7: RRTP 2019/20 Scorecard

Those identified as amber measures and actions will be monitored throughout 2020/21 and those that are currently listed as ‘to be reported later’ will be progressed or reviewed by the Homelessness Strategy Group during 2020/21.

#### 4.7 Changes and amendments to the RRTP

The annual review provided the opportunity to assess and report on the progress made against each of the actions and measures contained within the plan. It also allowed for a general re-examination of the RRTP, to ensure that the initial objectives, actions and measures identified, remain appropriate and relevant.

As part of the review process, two minor amendments have been made to the RRTP. These are detailed in the table below and will be reported to Housing and Technical Resources Committee as part of the update on the first annual review of the RRTP.

<b>RRTP Reference</b>	<b>Summary of amendment</b>	<b>Context</b>
Priority Objective 1	Amend the description of the priority objective to include prevention of homeless, as follows: “Prevent homelessness occurring and significantly reduce homelessness”	Feedback from the Scottish Government on the RRTP highlighted that there was a need to draw out more clearly the emphasis placed on prevention of homelessness within the plan. The amendment to the description of priority objective 1 clarifies that prevention of homelessness is a focus of the RRTP.
Measure 2.7	Remove measure and re-number remaining measures under Priority Objective 2 of the action plan.	It has been identified that this is a duplicate of measure 2.4 and consequently there is no need to report on both.
Action 1.7	Add new action to develop Housing Options Framework for young people	Building upon development of housing pathway plan for care experienced young people and taking account of broader youth homelessness and most prominent reason for homelessness (parents/relatives can no longer accommodate) with a view to increasing homeless prevention opportunities for young people.

Figure 8: Amendments to RRTP 2019/20

## **5. Covid-19 and Homelessness**

### **5.1 Impact on RRTP Annual Review 2019/20**

In March 2020 the UK responded to the global Covid-19 pandemic by introducing lockdown restrictions which included the withdrawal of all but critical services and introducing measures to ensure local authorities provided emergency shelter for homeless households and rough sleepers.

The pandemic has had significant impact on homelessness services due to limited throughput to settled accommodation and therefore an increase in the use of temporary accommodation.

Preparation for the RRTP Annual Review 2019/20 was well underway prior to lockdown restrictions being imposed with a meeting of the Homelessness Strategy Group in January 2020 to consider the progress of the first year of the Plan and approve the priorities for year 2.

With the submission date being extended by the Scottish Government further consideration has been given to the anticipated impact of the emergency measures on the RRTP priorities and on the provision of homelessness services and the services of contributing partners.

Taking these measures into consideration the review document has been revised to reflect priorities which have become apparent in recovery planning and in how resilient the Council and the RRTP partners have been in responding to the crisis and adapting the services we provide.

The impact of recovery planning on homelessness services will put pressure on services to find suitable settled and permanent accommodation for those households whom Covid-19 has had a disproportionate effect on. The Scottish Government are clear that no-one should return to rough sleeping or congregate facilities and therefore the council must ensure there is adequate supply of affordable housing to meet increased demand throughout the pandemic.

### **5.2 Recovery Planning**

As an immediate response to the global pandemic and following the work undertaken by the Scottish Government in anticipating recommendations by the reconvened Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Group (HARSAG), local authorities and their partners have had to move quickly to increase provision of temporary accommodation to meet increased demand.

As lockdown restrictions move through recovery phases it is important to ensure people facing homelessness during the crisis are supported to move from emergency accommodation to settled housing.

The impact of recovery planning on homelessness services will put pressure on services to find suitable settled and permanent accommodation for those households whom Covid-19 has had a disproportionate effect on. The Scottish Government are clear that no-one should return to rough sleeping or congregate facilities and therefore the council must ensure there is adequate supply of affordable housing to meet increased demand throughout the pandemic.

Our partnership group will consider how best to progress the actions and priorities detailed in the plan whilst ensuring public health protection principles are maintained and the spread of Covid-19 is contained.

Each phase allows for a wider range of activity to be undertaken as long as physical distancing and hygiene requirements are followed.

A swift and co-ordinated response has been delivered taking into consideration emergency legislation to ensure no-one is evicted into homelessness throughout each phase of recovery.

To date, Covid-19 has had little impact on the level of homeless presentations, 656 year to date compared to 652 in the same reporting period in 2019/20. The most common reason for homelessness remains that parents/friends can no longer accommodate, 24% and the most common household type remains single male between 25 to 59 years of age, 37% compared to 20% and 33% respectively in 2019/20.

Prevention work has been constrained given the very limited options to access all parts of the housing market.

It is appropriate therefore to remain flexible in addressing targeted objectives, it is clear that the pandemic has caused an increase in demand for temporary accommodation and therefore has required an increase in supply which is contrary to the long-term objective to reduce temporary accommodation however has been necessary to meet immediate need.

The Council therefore responded by increasing the level of temporary accommodation, housing support and directing available housing support to meet the needs of those living in temporary accommodation during this uncertain time. Increase in supply to date is as follows:

- The supply of temporary accommodation has been increased by 83 temporary furnished flats/properties up to the end of July 2020, delivered by the council, RSL partners and private sector landlords. This is an increase of 11.3% since 2019/20
- 54 units of emergency 1<sup>st</sup> Stop accommodation have been secured for an initial six month period, with option to extend, at former University of West of Scotland student accommodation at Barrack Street in Hamilton, with 24 hour support commissioned by The Salvation Army.

Supply of temporary accommodation continues, in the short term, to increase alongside the increase in demand.

Although homeless presentations remain consistent with previous year levels the number of placements into temporary accommodation has increased significantly through the reporting periods of 2020/21, a total of 241 placements in reporting period two which is a 61% increase from the same period in 2019/20.

Close working with partners continues ensuring appropriate provision of suitable temporary accommodation and support to meet need, in particular for the most vulnerable such as young care experienced homeless people and those fleeing domestic abuse.

It is also important to highlight that the council has in place sufficient refuge accommodation though is flexible to any potential increase in specialist provision to meet the needs of any groups disproportionately impacted by Covid-19 such as victims of domestic abuse. Whilst an increase in incidents has been reported nationally this has not to date been the

experience of South Lanarkshire Council however the position remains under constant review, with partners such as Women's Aid South Lanarkshire, and availability of emergency and temporary accommodation remains agile and flexible in the event of any increase in need.

The restrictions of lockdown did not halt letting of suitable accommodation to homeless households which was deemed locally as a critical service. However both permanent and temporary accommodation available to let has been impacted upon as a consequence of the interruption to housing supply.

The restrictions on throughput to settled accommodation has resulted in an increase in use of B&B's as temporary accommodation which although now returning to previous short term use by exception will remain under review as a priority in recovery planning management.

While the Scottish Government considers a recovery strategy all five Housing Options Hubs are meeting regularly to gather local intelligence and share knowledge on how to provide a broad approach to prevention which will require RRTP's to include prevention pathways for overall recovery planning. Senior managers from South Lanarkshire routinely input to this approach

The crisis has given partnerships the opportunity to re-shape their initial RRTP iteration to become a crucial part of recovery planning.

### **5.3 Local Resilience**

Throughout lockdown South Lanarkshire Council and its partners have remained heavily focussed on increasing levels of support for vulnerable households and despite reduction in lets during lockdown and an increase in the number of households in temporary accommodation the long-term homelessness case load volume has reduced.

The main reasons for homelessness remain constant and partners remain flexible in responding to housing market issues such as maintaining focus on increasing supply of affordable housing, quickly addressing recent increase in the number of households in temporary accommodation and adapting approaches to reflect emergency legislation requirements.

The expanded HomeStart service with dedicated officers providing support and practical assistance to all new tenants to facilitate tenancy sustainment has played a particularly important role during the period of the restrictions. The service has been invaluable in helping to achieve a continued high level of lets to homeless households, which accounted for 70% of all lets at July 2020. Supporting homeless households with the organisation of furniture removal has also played a vital role in facilitating access to permanent accommodation during the Covid-19 restrictions.

Nevertheless, in absolute terms there has been a significant reduction in the availability of permanent lets for homeless households since the on-set of the pandemic and consequently the rate and speed at which people are moving from temporary to permanent housing has significantly reduced. As a result the increase in specialist housing support has been utilised to support a wider homeless population, not necessarily with complex needs, during this uncertain and challenging time.

The importance of engagement and inclusion of the community has been highlighted in our response to Covid-19 and encouraging progression and flexibility in our continued response with our partners remains a priority moving into year 2 of the plan.

It is clear that the HomeStart Service and other housing support services will continue to play a vital role in assisting homeless households meet the particular challenges presented by COVID 19 over 2020/21

#### 5.4 Unsuitable Accommodation Order (UAO)

In May 2020 the Scottish Government introduced legislation which amends the 2014 Homeless Persons (Unsuitable Accommodation) (Scotland) Order in response to the Coronavirus outbreak. The summary of changes includes an extension of UAO to all homeless households and no longer applies solely to families with children, pregnant women or those households which include a pregnant woman.

The definition of unsuitable includes accommodation which is not meeting minimum safety standards, is not wind and watertight and is not suitable for occupation by children and there is particular emphasis for households who may not live permanently with their children but who have parental and visitation rights.

The 2020 order amends UAO to include new types of temporary accommodation models to consider as exempt from the order including shared tenancies, community hosting and rapid access accommodation. This is linked to work developing mandatory temporary accommodation standards progressing from existing advisory standards. Guidance on the detail of the UAO is in development and representatives from South Lanarkshire are working with the Scottish Government on this piece of work, the outcome of which may have implications for South Lanarkshire.

Whilst the portfolio of temporary accommodation is currently under review to consider medium to long term need and demand and again significant and rapid increase in provision has been achieved over recent months, satisfaction with temporary accommodation is consistently high reinforcing confidence current supply is of good quality and meeting housing need.

Whilst as a partnership South Lanarkshire has had a strong track record in relation to the previous unsuitable accommodation order and pre Covid-19 had been confident of meeting this expanded duty, the lack of throughput and increased demand for temporary accommodation presents a particularly challenging environment in ensuring the optimum supply of good quality temporary accommodation during 2020-21. This therefore requires a revision of priorities moving forward into year two of the plan, unexpectedly now requiring continued increase in temporary accommodation. The longer term ambition remains reducing demand for and supply of temporary accommodation through increased prevention activity and speedy resolution of homelessness.

#### 5.5 HARSAG was reconvened in June 2020 to make recommendations to ministers on what actions are needed in to end homelessness during the pandemic and beyond. Proposals for how to end homelessness in response to the coronavirus pandemic have now been agreed in principle by the Minister for Local Government Housing and Planning.

Amongst a top line summary of recommendations is a call to ensure there is an immediate flexible supply of affordable housing for all households who are rough sleeping or in emergency accommodation.

Local authorities are expected to continue to respond to the ongoing coronavirus crisis ensuring nobody returns to rough sleeping or unsuitable temporary accommodation. Urgent activity and approaches should be undertaken to prevent homelessness occurring

in the first place and local authorities should build on the progress made by the Scottish Government's and COSLA's "Ending Homelessness Together" plan.

HARSAG hope that they have built a set of recommendations that will form the basis of the next phase of the Scottish Government's plan to support people facing homelessness as the coronavirus situation continues.

As previously mentioned whilst South Lanarkshire does not have a visible rough sleeping concern each year a small number of applicants report having slept rough. Analysis reflects reasons for this being the applicant's choice for example to sleep in their car the night before, lack of awareness on availability of accommodation or how to access out of hours services. In response an Ending Rough Sleeping action plan has been developed, with a number of actions complete (for example additional online information) or in progress.

#### 5.6 South Lanarkshire Council's Homelessness Strategy Group met in July 2020 to review how Covid-19 had impacted on

- public and commissioned services such as the provision of the rent deposit guarantee scheme,
- the percentage of lets being allocated to homeless households during the pandemic
- the demand for temporary accommodation and
- the urgent requirement to increase funding for the provision of a robust Housing First model to meet demand from households with complex support needs

The group agreed the priorities set for year 2 and that the plan needs to be flexible and adaptable as we move through the recovery phases and needs to be ongoing as we learn more about what priorities arise in finding permanent and settled accommodation for those currently in emergency settings.

## 6. Priorities for 2020/21

6.1 A key aspect of the annual review was to consider the appropriateness of the actions identified in the RRTP, with a particular focus on those to be progressed during the future years of the plan.

6.2 A sustained focus has been placed on priorities despite the continuing impact of Covid-19. Alongside this, the practicalities of commissioning services and ensuring that due diligence has been applied in respect of legal and contractual arrangements, resulted in a delay in certain projects/actions being progressed during year one. Year two priorities will largely mirror year one to provide sufficient time to embed and fully implement the projects and actions.

6.3 A summary of the key priorities to be progressed during 2020/21 are detailed below:

- Responding to the continuing impact of Covid-19 by recovery plan action management, resilient service provision including ensuring the supply of temporary accommodation is optimised.
- Continue to deliver affordable homes for social rent in South Lanarkshire. The Strategic Housing Investment Programme 2020-25 was approved in November 2019

and outlines potential plans for a further 3,141 homes to be delivered by the Council and RSL's by 2025.

- Ensuring the number of families with children presenting as homeless is further reduced by continued focus on prevention and support which removes the threat of homelessness or provides practical or financial assistance for tenancy sustainment.
- Continuing progress reducing long-term homelessness i.e. households waiting for a house for more than 1 year. This will be achieved through ongoing programme of delivering affordable housing either through construction or by open market purchase and also by working in partnership with local landlords in the private rented sector.
- Prioritising the reduction in the use of Bed and Breakfast as emergency accommodation in line with the Unsuited Accommodation Order (2020).
- Further enhance Partner Contribution Statements.
- The 'Directions' relating to homelessness will be added to the Strategic Commissioning Plan 2019-22 and be implemented. These aim to promote homelessness routine enquiry across frontline health services and prioritise access to health services for homeless households.
- Ensuring that the right links between the RRTP and Local Child Poverty Action Report 2020 are in place to support and improve outcomes for homeless households with children.
- Victims of domestic abuse will continue to be supported and provided with refuge through dedicated services provided by Women's Aid South Lanarkshire and East Renfrewshire (WASLER) and other partners. Despite a lack of throughput to settled accommodation this continues to be aided following the recruitment of a dedicated officer to develop personal housing plans for victims of domestic abuse.
- Develop Housing Options approach for Young People.
- Progress actions within the Ending Rough Sleeping Action Plan. This includes working with those with lived experience and further developing online resources to improve the accessibility of information available on what to do and who to contact if you have nowhere to stay.
- Now developed, the South Lanarkshire Rent Deposit Scheme (RDS) innovation fund will be implemented, to provide additional financial support to private rented sector tenants who are identified as at risk of becoming homeless.
- The positive work commenced by the Council's HomeStart service will continue to be expanded, with additional resources being provided to increase the level of support and assistance available to new tenants.
- Continue to develop the Council's Housing First Approach by providing suitable secure accommodation and wraparound support to homeless households with complex needs requiring this enhanced approach to resolve homelessness.
- Progress plans to convert temporary units to permanent accommodation. While the original estimate was 30 units per year over the five years of the RRTP, it is expected that this number will increase in 2020/21 to approximately 40 units, in light of the increase in the provision of temporary accommodation.



## 6.4 Funding the RRTP during 2020/21

### Scottish Government Funding

As noted previously, in July 2019, the Scottish Government provided funding of £461,000 to support the implementation of the RRTP in year one. Due to the timing of this funding, there has been an underspend of just under £58,000 in year one. The Homelessness Strategy Group agreed that the underspend from year one should contribute to increasing capacity of the support provision for year two, taking into account the backlog in caseload, the long term objective to reduce levels of need and the requirement for intensive support in the later years of the plan (expected from year three onwards).

During 2020/21, the Scottish Government's Ending Homelessness Together Fund confirmed a funding allocation of £453,000 for South Lanarkshire. Partners agreed that this would be used to further embed and progress the following RRTP actions:

- The expansion of the Council's HomeStart service, to increase the number of households that can be supported.
- The expansion of specialist support services currently provided by The Salvation Army for homeless households with drug, alcohol or mental health issues.

Continuation of funding dedicated officer post to support and work directly with victims of domestic abuse, including developing personal housing plans and reviewing the current provision of temporary accommodation available.

- The recruitment of a dedicated prison link officer to continue and expand the 2019/20 pilot of implementing SHORE standards for individuals entering and leaving prison.
- The continuation of the Housing First programme.
- The costs related to 'flipping' temporary accommodation to Scottish Secure Tenancies.
- The continuation of the innovation fund, administered by the Rent Deposit Scheme, to provide financial support to privately renting tenants at risk of becoming homeless.

### Other funding sources

The Homelessness Strategy Group is aware of the need to consider other potential funding routes in order to meet future resourcing requirements of the RRTP. On an ongoing basis, partners will continue to work collaboratively to identify funding opportunities. Indeed, the following funding routes have been identified and will be progressed during 2020/21:

- The Tackling Poverty Fund committed to match funding tenancy start/sustainment support. The aim being to help those in hardship sustain accommodation through the provision of goods, assistance and services to meet identified needs and ensure tenants homes are safe and comfortable spaces.
- The council's Homeless Prevention Tenancy Sustainment Fund will be continued in 2020/21. This complements RRTP actions in relation to homeless prevention and tenancy sustainment by delivering financial support as well as more general housing support to council tenants to help them sustain their tenancy.
- A private housing developer provisionally offered to match fund the 'Bringing IT Home' project which would enable delivery of IT equipment, online access and support to

develop skills to a further 25 families. This was a pre-Covid-19 offer that we hope can be progressed as part of RRTP 2020/21. Opportunities will be explored with all of our new build partners.

- Wider opportunities to support households access online services, including delivery of housing support will be explored with internal and external partners over the coming year
- The South Lanarkshire Alcohol and Drug Partnership have committed a further contribution of £20,000 to extend the successful Blue Triangle intensive support project, delivering wraparound support to those with complex needs.
- Partner RSL's have collectively submitted an expression of interest for the national Homelessness Prevention Fund for funding to enable the delivery of housing support services to households at the highest risk of homelessness. It is proposed that these services will be delivered through the establishment of contractual relationships with Third Sector housing support providers, already working in South Lanarkshire.

## Appendix 1: RRTP Action Plan

The table below provides progress against each of the measures and actions during the first year.

Priority Objective 1: Prevent homelessness occurring and significantly reduce homelessness					
Measures		Target	RRTP Baseline	Progress at 31 March 2020	Lead
M1.1	Number of homeless presentations	Reduce 10 – 20%	1928	<b>2090</b>	HTR
M1.2	Level of homeless households	Reduce 10 – 20%	892	<b>956</b>	HTR
M1.3	Number of affordable homes added to the housing supply (new and OMP)	Annual target will be set and detailed in the Strategic Local Programme Agreement, developed between SLC and the Scottish Government.	RSL 283	<b>489 (206 added 2019/20)</b>	HTR RSL
			SLC 193	<b>288 (78 added 2019/20)</b>	
M1.4	New supply affordable housing suitable to meet particular needs (amenity)	Increase	170	<b>44 additional properties</b>	HTR RSL
M1.5	Increase the number of accredited landlord properties	+9% from LHS Baseline (1068)	1068	<b>To be reported later</b>	HTR
M1.6	Number of homeless households whose housing needs are met in private rented housing	Maintain in 2019/20	50 (at March 2019)	<b>60  80 (including resolved pre-decision)</b>	HTR

Actions		Target/Milestone	Progress in 2019/20	Lead
A1.1	Set housing supply targets for new build properties and ensure contribution to meeting homelessness needs are considered in the planning process	Aligned with Strategic Housing Investment Plan	<b>New build programme progressing in accordance with South Lanarkshire Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2020-25 approved by Housing and Technical Resources Committee in November 2019</b>	HTR RSL
A1.2	Increase number of properties acquired through Open Market Purchase to support conversion of temporary accommodation to SST and rehousing in pressure areas	Annual target to be agreed.	<b>60 additional council homes purchased through the council's framework for Open Market Purchase (OMP).</b>	HTR
A1.3	Continue to develop and promote the landlord accreditation scheme	Deliver two private landlord forums per annum in partnership with Landlord Accreditation Scheme	<b>Commitment to hold two Private Landlord Forums per year. The first Forum of 2019/20 took place 19<sup>th</sup> September 2019 and was attended by around 70 landlords. The Forum scheduled for 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020 was cancelled due to the COVID-19 public health emergency</b>	HTR
A1.4	Provide funding to incentivise landlords to access accreditation and training from Landlord Accreditation Scotland		<b>Housing and Technical Resources continue to fund and work in partnership with Landlord Accreditation Scotland who provide training to private landlords.</b>	HTR
A1.5	Re-commission and expand Rent Deposit Scheme to support implementation of RRTP	Incorporate expansion into service re-commissioning in September 2019.	<b>South Lanarkshire's Rent Deposit Scheme (RDS), administered by YPeople, was allocated an additional £2,894 to increase the number of homeless households whose housing needs are met in the private rented sector. Progress on this will be monitored throughout 2020/21.</b>	HTR
A1.6	Explore option to provide financial support to private rented tenants to achieve affordability and prevent homelessness	Complete option appraisal by September 2019. Implementation of preferred option by March 2020.	<b>Through the RDS, and additional £2,500 was allocated to YPeople to provide financial assistance to tenants within the private rented sector to prevent homelessness and assist with tenancy sustainment.</b>	HTR

Priority Objective 2: Significantly reduce time spent by households in temporary accommodation and minimise moves before moving to settled homes					
Measures		Target	RRTP Baseline	2019/20	Lead
M2.1	Temporary Accommodation (TA) supply	Maintain levels and reconfigure subject to review during 2019/20. Review options for rationalisation during 2020/21.	530	<b>517</b>	HTR
M2.2	Percentage of social housing allocated to homeless households by all social housing providers in South Lanarkshire	50-60%.  Set target subject to annual performance review.	49.2% SLC 29.4% RSL average	<b>51.4% SLC 36.9% RSL average</b>	HTR RSL
M2.3	Percentage of homeless households provided with a Scottish Secure Tenancy (SST)	Maintain/improve on LHS Baseline	61.2%	<b>73.1%</b>	HTR
M2.4	Percentage of former homeless households provided with a SST that maintain their home for more than 12 months	Maintain/improve on LHS baseline of 88%	88%	<b>88.1%</b>	HTR
M2.5	Average time spent in temporary accommodation (homeless households)	Reduce from 192 days	192 days	<b>186 days</b>	HTR
M2.6	Number of temporary accommodation units converted to SST	Up to 100 units converted over 5 year period	0	<b>26 units</b>	HTR
M2.7	Percentage of all homeless presentations which are repeated (within 12 months)	Reduce to <3%	4.5%	<b>5.2%</b>	HTR

M 2.8	Number of households who spend more than 12 months in temporary accommodation	Reduce by 50%	120	95	HTR
Actions		Target/Milestone	Progress in 2019/20		Lead
A2.1	Develop procedure for converting temporary accommodation units to SST.	Review best practice Identify suitable households and units	The approach of converting temporary accommodation to permanent accommodation for homeless applicants to minimise moves was established in 2019/20. Over the course of the last year, 26 were converted to a Scottish Secure Tenancy, these included a number of our longest homeless cases.		HTR
A2.2	Increase percentage of allocations to homeless households as required for each housing division in accordance with annual Local Letting Plans.	Aligned with Local Letting Plans. Tailor for HomeFinder and non-HomeFinder RSL partners	Each year, local letting targets are identified for the four housing divisions and approved by Housing and Technical Resources Committee. In addition, discussions take place with HomeFinder RSL's to agree a letting target for homeless households, that they work towards during the year (see M2.2 above for 2019/20 targets and performance).		HTR RSL
A2.3	Review number of properties currently used as Temporary Accommodation in line with demand	Implement annual targets for reduction in TA based on analysis of demand and supply	To be reported later		HTR
A2.4	Regularly review rent charges for temporary accommodation to ensure it remains a financially viable option for all homeless households.	Aligned with Homelessness Business Plan	Ongoing review of charges in line with Business Plan		
A2.5	Review current procedures in relation to suitable offers for homeless households, with the aim of reducing time taken to move into settled accommodation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review complete</li> <li>Revised process implemented</li> </ul>	The review of the Council's Housing Allocation Policy was completed in 2019/20, taking account of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2014, and approved by Housing and Technical Resources Committee on 20 March 2019.		HTR

<b>Priority Objective 3: Improve and increase provision of housing support for households to live independently within communities</b>					
<b>Measures</b>		<b>Target</b>	<b>RRTP Baseline</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>Lead</b>
M3.1	Number of people accessing Housing Options (prevention) services	1,000	964 interviews	933	HTR
M3.2	Percentage of homeless households provided with Housing Support Officer assistance	Maintain above 45%	38.3%	36.5%	HTR
M3.3	Percentage of looked after young people accessing and sustaining accommodation that meets their needs		To be determined.	To be reported later	HTR HSCP
<b>Actions</b>		<b>Target/Milestone</b>	<b>Progress in 2019/20</b>		<b>Lead</b>
A3.1	Increase housing support service provision to improve homelessness prevention and support tenancy sustainment	Review current service among all tenures.	In 2019/20 the HomeStart team was established to provide support and assistance to all new tenants within South Lanarkshire to set up and sustain their tenancy, focusing on identifying risk and meeting need. This supports new tenants who may be at risk of homelessness to set up and sustain their home. This includes providing starter packs where required.		HTR
A3.2	Increase provision of support from all services to support new tenancies, including improvements to housing starter/furnishing packs and incentives to encourage uptake of offers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review and develop</li> <li>Implement and monitor effectiveness</li> </ul>	<p>£19,750 was used to contribute to set up costs relating to HomeStart. Since September 2019, 649 new tenants have been assisted through this service</p> <p>An allocation of £25,000 was also used to provide additional and enhanced starter packs to new tenancies across South Lanarkshire. Since full roll out in September 2019, 247 enhanced starter packs have been provided.</p>		HTR SWF
A3.3	Monitor current Housing Options approach, and ensure adequate resourcing to meet any future increase in demand.	Annually monitor resourcing requirements and report through Annual Review	Service regularly monitored to ensure relevant resources are in place to meet demand.		HTR

A3.4	Deliver Housing Options and homelessness awareness training to young people, targeting high schools in areas identified with high homelessness rates amongst young people.	Monitor and report (annual)	<b>Housing Options and Homelessness awareness training continues to be delivered to young people, targeting secondary schools in areas identified with high homelessness rates amongst young people. Work is also being carried out with Education Resources to include this in the school curriculum through the production of a film which will be produced along with service users with lived experience of homelessness.</b>	HTR ER
A3.5	Review access to Scottish Welfare Fund with a view to ensuring effective and appropriate access for homeless households	To review Implement any actions from review.	To be reported later	HTR SWF
A3.6	Review current provision and need for outreach housing support and agree future service arrangements	Complete review. Current services/contracts due to end: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shelter July 2021</li> <li>• Women's Aid September 2019</li> <li>• YPeople July 2021</li> </ul> Implement revised arrangements as a result of the review.	To be reported later	HTR
A3.7	Ensure 'care experience' is identified as a support need for any young people presenting as homeless and directed towards appropriate case managed pathway.	Monitor and report (annual)	<b>Joint Housing and Technical Resources and Social Work Resources planning process identifies young care leavers housing needs from an early stage and facilitates robust housing planning. As safety measure, standard question on care experience within homelessness assessment to ensure standard management housing list priority awarded to secure suitable housing within reasonable period and prevent need for homelessness application, including where temporary accommodation is required for a short interim period.</b>	
A3.8	Complete a Wellbeing Assessment for all children and young people who are homeless	Monitor and report (annual)	<b>Work is underway with the Health and Social Care Partnership to introduce a wellbeing assessment for children experiencing homelessness. This is expected to be fully in place in 2020/21.</b>	

A3.9	Promote digital inclusion for households who are homeless		<b>Blue Triangle developed a pilot digital inclusion project for 25 homeless households (mainly with children) who have no access to the internet, delivering IT equipment, a year's online access subscription and support to develop skills as required. Progress on the pilot will be monitored throughout 2020/21.</b>	

<b>Priority Objective 4: Expand the scope and capacity of our Housing First approach to be the first response for households with multiple complex needs</b>					
<b>Measures</b>		<b>Target</b>	<b>RRTP Baseline</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>Lead</b>
M4.1	Number of current households receiving Housing First support	Phased increase to 40	3	<b>10</b>	HTR
M4.2	Number of discharge planning cases handled through multi-professional joint working arrangements in hospitals/prisons and the community	Scope baseline and determine annual requirements.	<i>tbc</i>	<b>To be reported later</b>	HSCP
<b>Actions</b>		<b>Target/Milestone</b>	<b>Progress in 2019/20</b>		<b>Lead</b>
A4.1	Expand 'Housing First' across South Lanarkshire	Programme for expansion agreed  Framework and necessary resources in place	<b>10 Housing First cases were provided with permanent accommodation with wraparound support. To assist in supporting these applicants the contract with the Salvation Army was extended, creating two additional intensive support officers. As part of this wraparound support, an enhanced starter pack is provided to assist the applicant in setting up their home.</b>		HTR
A4.2	Evaluate Housing First pathfinders and increase scale/scope of approach aligned to case	Evaluation report	<b>To be reported later</b>		

	conference criteria and pathways approach			
A4.3	Review provision of refuge accommodation for female victims of domestic abuse to ensure it is adequate across all divisions.	Review and consider extension to current contract with updated requirements	<b>To be reported later</b>	
A4.4	Work with Scottish Prison Service and Addiewell prison to implement SHORE standards for people entering and exiting prison, including a priority focus for short-sentence prisoners on remand. Explore additional options for dedicated staff resources	Implementation plan agreed, for implementation from 2020/21	<b>A pilot took place during 2019/20 working with Scottish Prison Service and HMP Barlinnie to implement SHORE standards for people entering and exiting prison, including a priority focus for short-sentence prisoners on remand. In 2020/21, funding for this pilot will be expanded to include the recruitment of a full time Officer with a specific remit for dealing with SHORE.</b>	
A4.5	Increase awareness and increase training offered to front line services to support people impacted by Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) from being homeless.	Evaluate requirement to raise awareness of partners in relation to ACE's Multi-agency training/communication programme agreed.	<b>All officers included in ACE's and PIE training delivered on partnership approach across Housing, Health and Social Care delivered by YPeople.</b>	
A4.6	Identify requirements for intensive, trauma informed and PIE residential supported accommodation to meet the needs of extreme vulnerable groups	Complete scoping report.	<b>Lindsay House homeless accommodation project attended additional homeless residential focused ACES/PIE training delivered by Scotland Homeless Network.</b>	
A4.7	Promote 'routine enquiry' across all health and care services, including visiting outreach, to identify housing provision and financial security	Monitor and report via HHNA Steering Group (annual)	<b>Housing and Technical Resources and the Health and Social Care Partnership have worked together to develop and introduce a specific Direction on this area within the Strategic Commissioning Plan 2019-22. This will be progressed in 2020/21.</b>	HTR HSCP
A4.8	Prioritise access to general medical and universal health screening services for homeless people, including primary care (GP), prescribing, dentists, etc.	Monitor and report via HHNA Steering Group (annual)	<b>Housing and Technical Resources and the Health and Social Care Partnership have worked together to develop and introduce a specific Direction on this area within the Strategic Commissioning Plan 2019-22. This will be progressed in 2020/21.</b>	HTR HSCP

<b>Priority Objective 5: Enhance integration and partnership working to embed RRTP through a whole systems approach</b>					
<b>Measures</b>		<b>Target</b>	<b>RRTP Baseline</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>Lead</b>
M5.1	Number of training and employment pathways for homeless households.	<i>To be progressed</i>	<i>To be agreed</i>	<b>To be reported later</b>	FCR
<b>Actions</b>		<b>Target/Milestone</b>	<b>Progress in 2019/20</b>		<b>Lead</b>
A5.1	Work with DWP to further develop use of discretionary support funding for homeless households to undertake appropriate training to develop skills and resilience to improve access to employment.	Agree target 2019/20	<b>Working in partnership with the Department for Work and Pensions and Employment and Training to establish routes into work for homeless households. Initial details of available courses and access routes were provided during 2019/20. Work is ongoing to develop the partnership approach.</b>		HTR DWP
A5.2	Explore options for improving digital connectivity for all homeless households, increasing engagement with services and enabling improved tenancy management.	Explore options and report	<b>Blue Triangle developed a pilot digital inclusion project for 25 homeless households (mainly with children) who have no access to the internet, delivering IT equipment, a year's online access subscription and support to develop skills as required. Progress on the pilot will be monitored throughout 2020/21.</b>		HTR
A5.3	Ensure effective training for staff is in place on awareness of third sector support available at a divisional level for at risk homelessness households.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scope current training provision</li> <li>• Implement improvements as required</li> </ul>	<b>In partnership with VASLan, Housing and Technical Resources developed and delivered awareness training to front line officers on VASLan's Locator tool. The tool provides a database of local services available across South Lanarkshire covering a range of areas, including homelessness and financial advice.</b>		TS
A5.4	Contribute to ongoing development and review of homelessness business plan to ensure sufficient resources available to continue to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implemented recommendations as required.</li> </ul>	<b>Progress against Homelessness Business plan is monitored on an ongoing basis throughout year against monthly performance reports, mid-year and year-end review.</b>		HTR

	provide high quality services to homeless households			
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# Report

Report to:	<b>Partnership Board</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>21 October 2020</b>
Report by:	<b>Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) South Lanarkshire Council</b>

Subject:	<b>Community Planning Partnership Board – 2021 Meeting/Development Session Dates</b>
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## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ provide the Partnership Board with the proposed meeting and development session dates for 2021

## 2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the Partnership Board dates for 2021 be noted.

## 3. Meeting/Development Session Dates 2021

3.1. At the Partnership Board on 9 September 2020 it was agreed that the number of annual board meetings should be reduced from 6 to 4 and that development sessions should be scheduled in advance.

3.2. The proposed Partnership Board/Development Session dates for 2021 are as follows:-

- ◆ Wednesday, 3 March 2021 (Board Meeting)
- ◆ Wednesday, 21 April 2021 (Board Development Session)
- ◆ Thursday, 24 June 2021 (Board Meeting)
- ◆ Wednesday, 15 September 2021 (Board Meeting)
- ◆ Wednesday, 20 October 2021 (Board Development Session)
- ◆ Thursday, 2 December 2021 (Board Meeting)

## 4. Venue and timings

4.1. Meetings/development sessions will start at 1pm. Accommodation that adheres to physical distancing requirements has been booked should the Board choose to return to face to face meetings.

## 5. Employee Implications

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

## 6. Financial Implications

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

**7. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implication**

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

**8. Other Implications**

8.1. There are no risk issues associated with this report.

**9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**

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

**Paul Manning**  
**Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)**  
**South Lanarkshire Council**

23 September 2020

**Contact for Further Information:**

If you would like further information, please contact:-

Rhonda Leith, Community Engagement Manager, South Lanarkshire Council

Phone: 01698 455783

Email: [rhonda.leith@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:rhonda.leith@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)

# Report

Report to:	<b>Partnership Board</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>21 October 2020</b>
Report by:	<b>Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) South Lanarkshire Council</b>

Subject:	<b>South Lanarkshire Register of Information</b>
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## **1. Purpose of Report**

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ provide the Partnership Board with a summary of the information that has been circulated to Community Planning Partners

## **2. Recommendation(s)**

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

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

## **3. Background**

3.1. This report provides a summary of the information circulated to Community Planning Partners and gives partners an opportunity to seek clarification or an update on any matters contained therein.

## **4. Period covered – 13 August to 22 September 2020**

4.1. Appendix 1 provides a summary of the information circulated from 13 August to 22 September 2020.

## **5. Employee Implications**

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

## **6. Financial Implications**

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

## **7. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implication**

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

## **8. Other Implications**

8.1. There are no risk issues associated with this report.

## **9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**

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

**Paul Manning**  
**Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)**  
**South Lanarkshire Council**

24 September 2020

**Contact for Further Information**

If you would like further information, please contact:-

Rhonda Leith, Community Engagement Manager, South Lanarkshire Council

Phone: 01698 455783

Email: [rhonda.leith@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:rhonda.leith@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)

Register of Information circulated to the Partnership

From 13 August to 22 September 2020

Date	Subject	Received From	Summary	Action taken
24/8/20	Mental Health Improvement Newsletter August 2020	South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership	Mental Health Improvement Newsletter providing articles on the effect on the population's mental health due to the COVID-19 pandemic.	Circulated to the Community Planning Progress Group for information.
2/9/20	United to Prevent Suicide	South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership	A new approach to preventing suicide in Scotland with the launch of a new visual identity and suicide prevention campaign on Suicide Prevention Day on 10 September 2020.	Circulated to the Community Planning Progress Group for information.
2/9/20	Learning Resource for Children and Young People – Promoting Children and Young People's Mental Health and Preventing Self-Harm and Suicide	South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership	Animations co-produced by NHS Education for Scotland and Public Health Scotland to support the implementation of Scotland's Public Health Priorities for Mental Health, Scotland's Mental Strategy 2017-27 and Scotland's Suicide Prevention Action Plan – Every Life Matters. <a href="#">Mental health improvement, and prevention of self-harm and suicide</a>	Circulated to the Community Planning Progress Group for information.
3/9/20	Be suicide ALERT webinar for all staff	South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership	Webinars taking place in September/October 2020 which will focus on the ALERT model which supports people who are talking with someone who may be at risk of suicide.	Circulated to the Community Planning Progress Group for information.
4/9/20	Expressions of Interest - Sustaining Choices, transport-focused action plans	Strathclyde Partnership for Transport	Project developed by PAS (Planning Aid for Scotland) with 'Smarter Choices, Smarter Places' funding from Paths for All to develop mini, transport focused action plans aimed at increasing the evidence base to support sustainable transport interventions in economically disadvantaged and isolated communities in urban and rural Scotland. <a href="#">Expressions of interest form</a>	Circulated to the Community Planning Progress Group for information.

Date	Subject	Received From	Summary	Action taken
7.9.20	Keep Lanarkshire Out of Lockdown	South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership	Information emphasising the principles of FACTS to remind people about the spread of Coronavirus and how they can help to prevent another lockdown.	Circulated to the Community Planning Progress Group for information.
9.9.20	Can Do Community Wellbeing Video	Community Engagement Team, South Lanarkshire Council	A new community wellbeing film highlighting the assistance which has been provided to South Lanarkshire communities during the pandemic and how those who need help can get in touch. <a href="#">Community Wellbeing film</a>	Circulated to the Community Planning Progress Group for information.
21.9.20	Impact of COVID-19 Wellbeing in Scotland	Community Planning Team	This report contains the findings from a telephone survey organised by the Scottish Government to better understand the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on people in Scotland. It contains key findings and chapters on: employment and income; happiness, anxiety, loneliness and worries; coping and activities during lockdown; neighbourhood perceptions and support; and further characteristics. <a href="#">The Impact of COVID-19 on Wellbeing in Scotland</a>	Circulated to the Community Planning Progress Group for information.
21.9.20	Children's Services Plan Annual Report 2019-20	Children's Services Partnership Planning Manager	This is the third annual report for the current Children's Services Plan 2017-2020 and it highlights the progress that the partnership is making towards their shared vision of ensuring that 'South Lanarkshire's children, young people and families will be safeguarded and supported to reach their full potential and thrive within their communities'.	Circulated to the Community Planning Progress Group for information.