



South Lanarkshire
Partnership
Stronger together



South Lanarkshire's Joint Local Child Poverty Action Report 2024–2025

Providing the best start
and brighter future for
children, young people
and families in
South Lanarkshire



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Section 1 - Foreword

Welcome to South Lanarkshire's 2025 Child Poverty Action Report. As a partnership of local agencies, our collective aim is to support families achieve the best possible outcomes. With the current cost of living issues in mind we are committed to helping families manage financial challenges and associated difficulties they might be facing. In order to do this, we work together with families to identify what is working well, what isn't and what more we can do to make things better for families. Our report reflects our work over the past 12 months and what we have been able to do to support families. It also considers how we identify ways that we can improve that support moving forward.

We know too many children and families continue to experience poverty in their lives to some degree and face difficult financial decisions each and every day. This often restricts opportunities for families in many important areas of life, having a detrimental impact on health, participation in education and poor housing conditions. It can also have an adverse effect on families' involvement in our communities, pursuing hobbies and interests, or being able to experience a holiday as a family.

We are committed to doing everything possible with families so that they experience the best start in life and achieve the best possible outcomes in health, education and employment and feel safe

and engaged in the communities where they live. To support this commitment, we work with families and local communities to identify ways we can bring about real change for the better in people's lives.

We know that working to address child poverty and poverty in general is unlikely to be achieved in isolation, so across South Lanarkshire we are taking a practical approach where actions to mitigate poverty are embedded in all that we do. The diagram below explains the connections across the various planning processes that contribute to tackling poverty in general and reducing its impact on children, young people and families in particular.



Taking a whole family approach to tackling poverty and improving wellbeing is a feature of our planning to achieve the best possible outcomes for families. To successfully achieve a sustained reduction in child poverty and break its damaging cycle however, requires, commitment and dedication from all partners to provide the sustained and joined up support that families need to improve their life chances.

We will continue to use the 'key drivers of poverty reduction' as our organisers for this work:

- ▶ Income from social security and benefits
- ▶ Cost of living, and:
- ▶ Income from employment

The foundation of our work continues to be built upon:

- ▶ Providing the right opportunities and integrated support to parents and young adults to enter and sustain progress in work
- ▶ Supporting families to live dignified lives with their basic needs met, and:
- ▶ Doing everything we possibly can, to ensure our next generation thrives

We firmly endorse our child poverty commitment that:

'We will provide support to South Lanarkshire's families in order to tackle child poverty head on, through an offer of the right support, at the right time and delivered in the right way.'

While our work is guided by the three main drivers to address child poverty, we will work with families to deliver support differently and more effectively where we can. The following commitments underline how we will do this.

Our commitments

- ▶ We will make sure any policy development and future service delivery is informed by the voice of children, young people and families experiencing, or at risk of poverty
- ▶ We will make best use of our vibrant third sector partners and respective voluntary organisations with their strong links to communities
- ▶ We will use available data to improve our shared understanding of poverty across South Lanarkshire and its impact at both a household and local level
- ▶ We will deliver holistic, wraparound services where possible, that are accessible for families

- ▶ We will work to reduce stigma connected with child poverty and financial struggles
- ▶ We will use our combined resources effectively to deliver services which promote wellbeing, prevent adversity, and provide the right help at the right time to those who need it
- ▶ We will continue to report on agreed short, medium and long-term outcomes

As part of this continued step change journey, South Lanarkshire's Commitment to tackle child poverty closely aligns to the national delivery plan on tackling child poverty 'Best Start Bright Futures'. As we look to refresh our Commitment document in 2026, this will be informed by the themes highlighted in the third national delivery plan, due in April next year. This Commitment will also be informed by the Marmot work locally and influenced by the new Population Health Framework.

South Lanarkshire's Children's Services Plan and the wide range of strategies and plans that are shown in the diagram above will continue to be poverty informed. At the centre of all of this is the voice of our children, young people and families which informs our planning and delivery processes and decision making.

Finally, we thank all the partner organisations and staff from across our statutory, voluntary and community sectors who continue to strive to make things better for our families. The commitment and dedication to support families to achieve best possible outcomes is a key feature in our ongoing success.



Cllr Joe Fagan
Leader of South
Lanarkshire Council



Martin Hill
Chair of NHS
Lanarkshire Board

Section 2 - The current context

This section reflects our understanding that families, and the agencies that work alongside them, are living and operating in an environment where the cost of living is having an adverse impact.

Increases in the cost of fuel and food mean that many family budgets are under pressure to meet the essential costs and we are seeing a rise in the number of families seeking help from our council benefits advice service Money Matters and the Citizen Advice Bureau. We are also seeing an increase in referrals for help to local community foodbanks and groups and organisations such as Healthy Valleys, Community Links and the Machan Trust.

Continued challenges across public sector funding create uncertainty over available resources and capacity to support families going forward and inequalities within communities continue to be a concern. We know that some groups are affected more than others by this, including the priority groups identified below:

- ▶ one-parent families
- ▶ a household where someone is disabled
- ▶ families with three or more children
- ▶ minority ethnic families
- ▶ families with a child under one year old
- ▶ families where the mother is under 25 years of age



Child Poverty in South Lanarkshire

The recent trends in relative child poverty in South Lanarkshire (see Chart 1 below) have followed a similar trajectory to Scotland as a whole, with a 4.1% reduction noted over the past 12 months in the rate of relative child poverty after housing costs, from 23.6% in 2023/24 down to 19.5%, the lowest level ever recorded.

Chart one

Year	South Lanarkshire	Scotland
2015/16	22.4%	26.0%
2016/17	22.5%	23.0%
2017/18	23.5%	24.0%
2018/19	22.5%	23.0%
2019/20	23.1%	26.0%
2020/21	-	-
2021/22	22.8%	23.0%
2022/23	23.6%	26.0%
2023/24	19.5%	23.0%

Source: Campaign to End Child Poverty- Child Poverty Action Group/ Loughborough University

The Children in Low Income Families (CiLIF) statistics (see Chart 2) provide an alternative measure on relative Child Poverty, and have the advantage that the data published is also available below the local authority level (e.g. ward level), although the figures do not take into account the effect of housing costs on household incomes. The latest 2023/24 CiLIF figures indicate that the percentage of children living in relative low-income families in South Lanarkshire has fallen from 16.3% in 2022/23 down to 14.4% in 2023/24. It is worth noting that the South Lanarkshire CiLIF rate (14.4%) in 2023/24 continues to run below the Scottish average (16.3%), which is a long term trend tracking back for more than a decade. The latest CiLIF figures available at council ward level show a falling rate of children in relative low-income families was recorded in 19 of the 20 SLC wards (see Chart 2), with just under a third of the wards (6 out of 20) continuing to record a rate above the Scottish average (16.3%) (see Chart two on the following page).

Chart two

Year	2022/23	2023/24
South Lanarkshire	16.3%	14.4%
Scotland	17.8%	16.3%
Blantyre	25.0%	23.4%
Larkhall	22.8%	19.8%
Rutherglen Central and North	21.4%	18.8%
Hamilton North and East	21.0%	18.9%
East Kilbride Central South	19.6%	17.9%
Clydesdale South	18.8%	16.3%
Hamilton West and Earnock	18.7%	17.4%
Cambuslang West	17.6%	15.0%
Hamilton South	17.5%	16.0%
Rutherglen South	17.1%	14.3%
East Kilbride Central North	16.3%	13.1%
Clydesdale North	15.9%	13.7%
East Kilbride South	15.6%	14.2%
Clydesdale East	15.1%	13.1%
Cambuslang East	14.7%	12.8%
Clydesdale West	12.9%	12.2%
East Kilbride East	12.3%	11.6%
Avondale and Stonehouse	11.1%	10.8%
Bothwell and Uddingston	8.4%	6.4%
East Kilbride West	5.8%	6.1%

Source: DWP Stat Xplore/ Children in Low Income Families (CiLIF) dataset

Local progress in reducing child poverty against the six priority family types

Of the six priority groups there has been a noticeable increase in relative child poverty levels in three of the groups between the periods 2016-19 and 2022-24¹, with poverty levels increasing most among large families with three+ children (by 11%, from 30% up to 41%), Ethnic Minority families (36% up to 37%) and families with a baby under one year (31% up to 35%).

Other family priority groups such as lone parent households and families with disabled children have seen a reduction in poverty levels (possibly linked to the recent introduction of benefits such as the Scottish Child Disability Payment, targeted funding at employability interventions specifically for lone parents, or extra childcare support).

Lone parent families

South Lanarkshire has a higher share of children living in relative low-income families that are also living in lone parent families (almost six in 10) compared to the Scottish average (just over four in 10)².

Over the last year the council's Money Matters Advice Service responded to 18,318 cases involving families with dependent children. From this total, 44% were from single parent families, an increase from 29% the previous year, resulting in £4,422,126 in financial gains.

We saw a 300% increase in the number of lone parents accessing the Supporting Families programme, a 66% increase accessing the Making It Work programme and a 37% increase in the number of single parents accessing the joint council/NHS Demonstrator programme.

Families with young children, under one year

The number of children under one year living in relative low income families in South Lanarkshire has been reducing in recent years (down by 40% from 2016/17)³.

During the past year 2,840 applications were made for a Best Start Foods payment, an 11% drop on the number recorded in 2023/24. Latest data shows that just under half (48%) of mothers are breastfeeding at first visit by a health visitor, the highest percentage recorded. The gap between the percentage of mothers breastfeeding at six-eight weeks in the most deprived areas and least deprived areas of South Lanarkshire has also reduced from 26.8% in 2022/23 down to 23%.

We have noted a substantial increase in parents with children under one year accessing the Making It Work programme during the past year, from just 6 in 2023/24, to 26 in 2024/25.

Large families, three or more children

The data up to March 2025⁴ suggests the percentage of children (aged 0-19) living in a household dependent on Universal Credit with three or more children has been on the increase, although South Lanarkshire has consistently recorded a figure below the Scottish average since 2023.

¹Source: Scottish Government - Income and Inequality Statistics, 2016-19 to 2021-24

²Source: DWP Stat Xplore - Children living in relative Low Income Families (CiLIF) data set

³Source: DWP Stat Xplore - Children living in relative Low Income Families (CiLIF) data set

⁴Source: DWP Stat Xplore - Households on Universal Credit

Section 2 - The current context

Six percent of cases supported by Money Matters were from households with three or more dependent children, a slight increase on the previous year, and achieved a total of £1,563,913.48 in financial gains. The employability programmes have evidenced a 72% increase in parents with three or more children accessing the Supporting Families programme and a substantial increase accessing the Making It Work programme.

Families with disabled children or adults

The percentage of children under 16 with a disability is increasing to around 3.1% of the total population and above the Scottish average of 2.8% (Census 2022)⁵. During 2024/25, 22% of families supported by Money Matters were from households with a disabled child or adult, realising £1,754,766 in financial gains.

We noted an 85% increase in the number of parents accessing the Supporting Families programme from 20 in 2022/23 to 37 in 2024/25. Almost two thirds (63%) of the families accessing the Supporting Families programme in 2024/25 were a family with a disabled parent or child.

Families headed by a young mother – under 25

The percentage of first-time mothers under 25 has been reducing in Lanarkshire over the past four years, from 1 in 5 (19.6%) to 1 in 6 (16.5%) in 2023/24⁶. From the 674 health referrals made to Money Matters Advice Service last year, 12% of these came from the Family Nurse Partnership staff, who work exclusively with young mums, who are pregnant with their first child.

We noted a large increase in the number of parents accessing the Making It Work programme, from 10 up to 31, over the past year.

Ethnic Minority Families with children

Data available from the Census (2022)⁷ suggests a noticeable increase in children from ethnic minority backgrounds over the previous decade to 7% of the population, but still continues to run below the Scottish average of 12%. In 2024, 9% of school pupils in South Lanarkshire were recorded as being from a minority ethnic background⁸. The support of Money Matters staff has secured £363,043 in financial gains for ethnic minority families.

We noted an increase in the number of ethnic minority parents accessing the Making It Work programme, from 45 to 94 in 2024/25 and the Demonstrator Programme from four in 2023/24, to 11 in 2024/25.



⁵Source: National Registers of Scotland (NRS) - Census 2022

⁶Source Public Health Scotland

⁷Source: National Registers of Scotland (NRS) - Census 2022

⁸Source: Scottish Government - Pupil Census (Pupils in Scotland) 2024

Section 3 - Our plan and its progress

This section provides highlights of the work undertaken in relation to each of our priority themes:

Driver 1:

Progress on increasing income from benefits

Maximising benefit take-up is a priority within our child poverty commitment as it delivers immediate impact. By ensuring families receive their full entitlement, we have increased household income, reduced reliance on crisis support, and built long-term financial stability. This preventative approach, consistent with the Fairer Scotland Duty and Marmot principles is helping tackle inequality and improve whole family wellbeing. It is also helping to reduce costly downstream pressure on housing, health, and social care.

Support from the Citizen's Advice

During the last year South Lanarkshire Citizen's Advice bases helped increase the uptake of benefits and supported 3,276 benefit applications for families, seeing a 14% increase on the number of families supported the previous year.

Citizen's Advice also supported a record number of financial health checks for families, with 862 carried out to help maximise income and reduce the impact of the cost of living, an increase of 20% on the previous year. They also delivered 29 training sessions for staff who are supporting low-income families.



Money Matters Advice Service

South Lanarkshire's Money Matters Advice Service has benefited from funding to increase the range of support available for families including a MacMillan Adviser, a specialist Cost of Living Adviser and two additional Energy Advisers. A further post was secured through NHS funding to support referrals from health staff and patients. However, the service has recently lost funding for a full-time adviser, reducing the capacity of the service to meet the demand for support.

During the last year this has enabled Money Matters to reach even more families than before helping 2,531 families with benefits advice, leading to almost £9 million in financial gains.

A focus on the six priority household groups supported are listed below:

Lone parent families

Financial gain £4.4 million

Families with a disabled parent or child

Financial gain £1.7 million

Families with three or more children

Financial gain £1.6 million

Families with children under the age of one

Financial gain £666,000

Minority ethnic families

Financial gain £363,000

Families with a younger mother (under 25)

Financial gain £164,000

(Please note families may be featured in more than one category)

Money Matters also administer new payments for clients, including the Cash First payment which supports families with a £50 payment for food or fuel costs, helping to reduce reliance on local food banks.

Section 3 - Our plan and its progress

Case study – Money Matters Advice Service

Simone (32) is a single parent of three children aged 2, 7 and 9, living in a SLC tenancy. She receives Universal Credit, Child Benefit and Scottish Child Benefit. Two of her children are awaiting assessment for suspected autism and ADHD. Simone was unsure whether she could apply for disability benefits without a formal diagnosis. Her financial situation and uncertainty around entitlements highlighted a need for support.

Simone was managing a low income without receiving Council Tax support and was unaware of her potential eligibility for disability-related benefits. The lack of formal diagnoses for her children added to her uncertainty. These gaps in knowledge and support were identified during initial contact and required urgent action to improve her financial stability.

Simone's goal was to ensure her children's needs were met and to improve her financial situation. She wanted clarity on benefit entitlements and support in navigating the application process to secure a more stable future for her family.

"I didn't know I could get help without a diagnosis. I was really struggling and didn't know where to start. Now I feel like I can breathe again and focus on my kids."

- ▶ A full benefit check was carried out to identify gaps in support.
- ▶ Assisted with a Council Tax Reduction application and requested a 6-month backdate.
- ▶ Explained eligibility criteria for Child Disability Payment, confirming a diagnosis was not required.
- ▶ Supported Simone in submitting two successful CDP claims, including gathering evidence.
- ▶ Helped update her Universal Credit claim to include two disabled child elements and one carers element.

Simone's weekly income increased by approximately £290 following successful benefit applications and adjustments:

- ▶ £14.55/week Council Tax Reduction with £378.30 backdated
- ▶ £101.35/week CDP with £1,925.65 backdated
- ▶ £57.40/week CDP with £1,033.20 backdated
- ▶ £510.33/month UC increase with £2,551.65 backdated

This financial uplift has significantly improved Simone's ability to support her family.

Expanding the Routine Enquiry approach

Midwives and Health Visitors are helping to support the financial wellbeing of families throughout pregnancy and post-natal periods with their successful routine enquiry approach and onward referral to Money Matters Advice Service. This year, a total of 674 referrals have been made, leading to over £324,000 in financial gains.

There has been a small reduction in the number of NHS referrals to Money Matters since the previous year with some families seeking support from Citizens Advice, or from the range of third sector organisations available.

NHS Lanarkshire will continue to support the routine enquiry approach through training and awareness raising for new and existing staff, emphasising the benefits of increased financial wellbeing for families and its direct impact on health inequalities. Over this reporting period, the training has reached around 300 staff supporting children, young people and families.

The partnership between the health improvement and the welfare rights officer from Money Matters Advice Service in South Lanarkshire was recognised via an NHS Lanarkshire “Big Shout Out” Award in 2024;

www.nhslanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk/big-shout-out-to-lyndsay-mcdonald-and-james-robertson-tackling-poverty-team/.



Glasgow Royal Hospital for Children Project

Families in Lanarkshire who have a child attending the Royal Hospital for Children in Glasgow are benefiting from onsite financial support if they are struggling financially. The dedicated team are supporting families to access benefits, grants and available discounts. In the last year 28 South Lanarkshire families were supported by this service, leading to over £149,000 in financial gains.

28 families

£149,000

The breakdown of health-based routine enquiry referrals is as follows:

Self-referral	65%
Family Nurses	12%
Heath Visitors	11%
Midwives	3%
NHS primary Care	3%
Secondary care	2%
Community Link Workers	2%
First Step Workers	1%
Macmillan ICJ	1%

GP Community Link Worker Programme

The GP Link Worker programme is enabling primary care teams to support families to live well in their communities. Through the direct support of a Community Link Worker, parents and carers who are experiencing challenges affecting their health and wellbeing are getting additional support to access Citizen’s Advice and Money Matters more easily. Over the last year 1,486 families were supported in a number of ways including mental health support and referrals to Money Matters Advice Service and the Citizen Advice Bureau.

Social Security Scotland benefits and actions

Social Security Scotland continue to promote their child focused benefits and provide information to stakeholders. Information sessions take place regularly to ensure partners are kept up to date with new developments and information to pass onto families. Media campaigns continue to reach client groups, such as low-income families and Social Security Scotland continue to help families directly and support benefit applications, with appeals.

The result of this work can be seen below:

Benefit	Applications from families	Children benefiting	Percentage of the Scottish Total	Financial Gain
Scottish Child Payment	2615	19680	6%	£27,543,793 (highest on record)
Child Disability Payment	5170	6330	6%	£80,624,890 (up 22% and highest amount recorded)
Best Start Grant	2840		6%	£2,172,779 (highest recorded)
Child Winter Heating Payment	2850		7%	£716,000 (up 39% on last year)

Section 3 - Our plan and its progress

Paths Away From Poverty – COVEY

Community Volunteers Enabling You (COVEY) delivered a “Paths Away From Poverty” project offering person centred, needs led support, which helped families achieve their goals and aspirations and work through barriers, difficulties and or complexities they were experiencing.

Families benefited from a range of support e.g. peer networking, supported access to a range of essential services such as GPs, housing providers, Family Support Hubs and referral to clothing and food banks. COVEY’s navigational role was an important feature in helping families access financial wellbeing support they needed to improve their circumstances.

As a result, families reported a reduction in financial stress and other goals e.g. improved quality of living within the home, improved health and wellbeing, stronger and more trusting relationships with CAMHS, local GP surgeries and schools, improved confidence and motivation of parents/carers and stronger connections within their communities.

“What worked well was the regular support and being consistently there for me and my family. Covey was able to organise and simplify all the different agencies and make it understandable for me”. - Kinship Carer

“My increased benefits are now for life, more money at home will help always. I feel like I matter and that my family matter”. - Carer

Relational Mentoring – The Wise Group

The Wise Group’s relational mentoring support is helping to improve families’ wellbeing and create a foundation for sustainable positive change in their lives. The initiative supported 87 families with more than 150 children in the past year and the navigational role provided by mentors is supporting stronger connectivity and support for families with a range of partners including social work, education, NHS, DWP and local third sector organisations.

For families, this has led to better management of the household finances with children living in safer, warmer environments with lessened burdens of financial concerns. Within the target cohort of families, 59% made progress with their financial support. Families have also been able to make improvements in their health and wellbeing and parents and carers to improve their employment options.

Case Study – Sanman’s Story

Sanam met her mentor at a career fair organised by The Wise Group. After separating from her husband, she was left to raise her two teenage sons alone in a small two-bedroom flat, burdened with a large amount of credit card debt.

Through working with the mentor Sanam has returned to both work and education, aiming to complete her degree in data processing. Currently, she holds two part-time jobs, she has an interview for a position she never thought she could apply for without relational mentoring support.

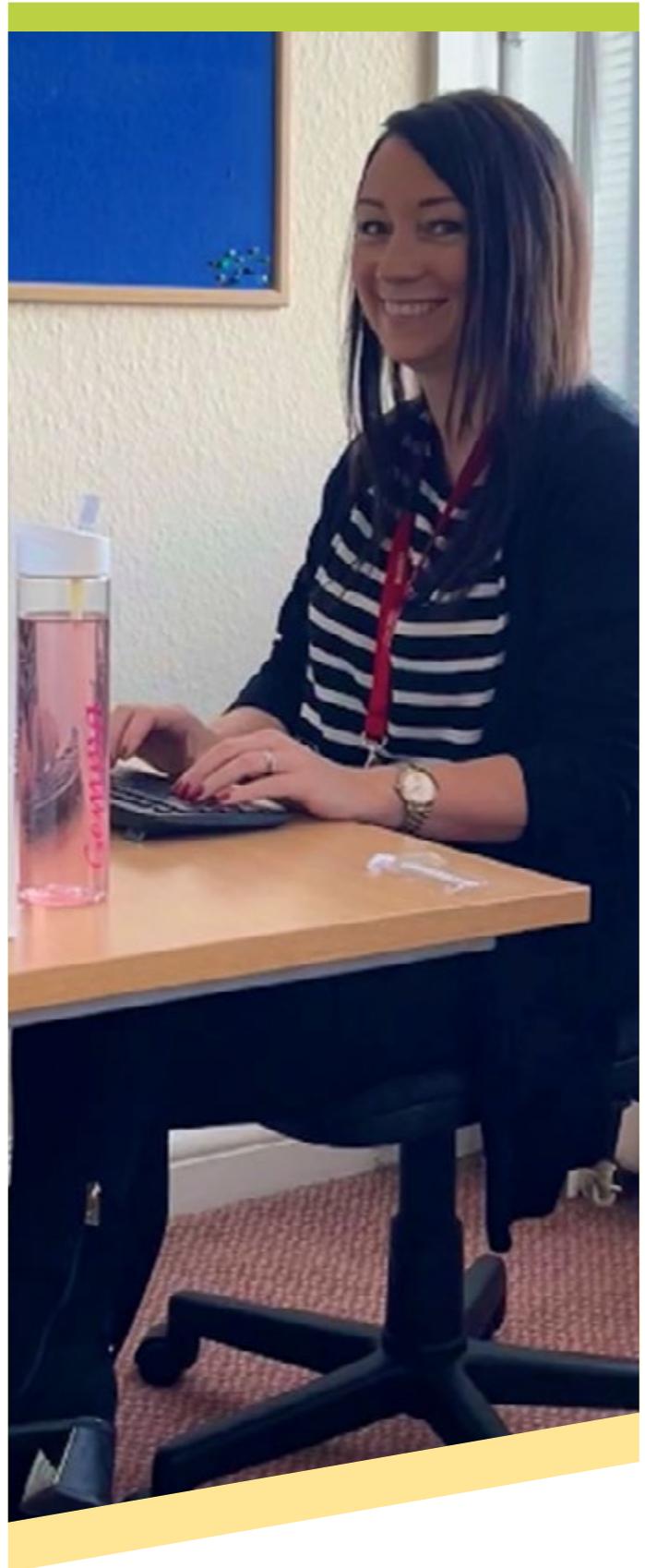
Sanam’s sons have noticed how hard their mother has been working, and things have been improving at home. She laughed as she shared how they have started to clean the house, recognising the effort she is making to give them a better life.

Supporting Care Experienced Young People manage money better

All care experienced young people are supported to budget for themselves through advocacy support from the Promise Team and other corporate parents. Support includes accessing a food larder, managing savings and accessing benefits advice.

Young people have been helped to actively manage their Child Trust Fund and/or Junior ISA savings accounts, which are currently administered by the Share Foundation. The council have been working with Share Scotland to identify any unclaimed ISAs and to make sure that young people get the financial benefits they are entitled to. Young people have been supported to engage with the Stepladder Plus programme, which can earn them up to £1,500. So far, £14,500 has been earned by 14 young people. All the young people who have participated in the programme report that they are better informed about financial planning, have increased confidence with managing their money and are beginning to access additional entitlements.

14 young people **£14,500**



Section 3 - Our plan and its progress

Driver 2:

Progress on minimising the effects of cost-of-living rises

Increased uptake of funded and early learning and childcare entitlement for 2 and 3 year olds - South Lanarkshire Council Early Years Learning and Childcare

By March 2025, 1,347 (or 44.8% of all children in South Lanarkshire aged 2-3 years) were accessing 1,140 hours of funded Early Learning and Childcare, a 15.3% increase compared to 2023/24.

Reducing the cost of the school day initiatives

The 2025 Cost of the School Day Parental Survey gathered responses from 1,560 parents across schools and highlighted uniform costs, food, school trips, and extracurricular activities as areas of concern regarding affordability.

Nearly a third of parents reported difficulty affording school-related expenses, particularly food and residential trips. In response many schools have implemented initiatives such as pre-loved uniform banks, free breakfast clubs, subsidised or fully funded school trips, hardship funds, and discreet payment plans. Schools are also working to improve communication with families about available help, promoting a non-judgmental approach.

Schools across South Lanarkshire are encouraged to share and learn from good practice through a Staff Learning Centre and the Equity Hub that provides additional resources to support practice to reduce the cost of the school day for families. At the end March 2025, all South Lanarkshire Schools had a Cost of the School Day Policy in place.

Case Study - Carluke High School

Uniform, Winter Clothing and Prom Packages

Freshly laundered, pre-loved uniforms are available from an office and a store cupboard in the school, including non-uniform items (winter coats etc.) Pupils know they can access these items at any point in the day and families will be supported with any school uniform item they need.

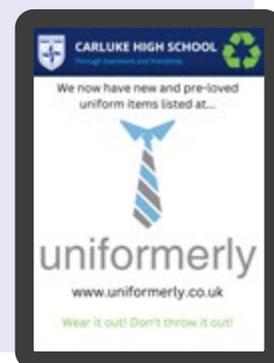
Carluke have moved to using Uniformerly through an App that parents can use (this is similar to 'Vinted', where you can select the item and then collect from the school at no charge). Community support is strong with some parents handing in brand new items to help others.

The school had vouchers donated and used these to buy stocks of new leggings and tights. They also used these for buying emergency supplies for pupils who need them e.g. shoes/underwear/toiletries.

Every new S1 pupil is gifted a top for P.E as part of their Welcome Pack and blazers are available as part of the uniform, but not compulsory.

Some pupils are given a winter allowance to access much needed winter clothing, and the young people get to choose what jackets they want. Staff have reported that pupils often prioritise warmth and comfort over brand labels.

As a commitment to enable all young people to attend Prom, without money being a barrier, the school offer a stock of dresses and suits for the young people to borrow or keep and provide a full 'prom package' where the girls can get their hair, makeup and nails done. Last year this benefited 3 boys and 4 girls. The teachers have also worn the dresses at Prom to show how good they are and that there should be no stigma attached to borrowing them.



Participatory Budgeting in Schools

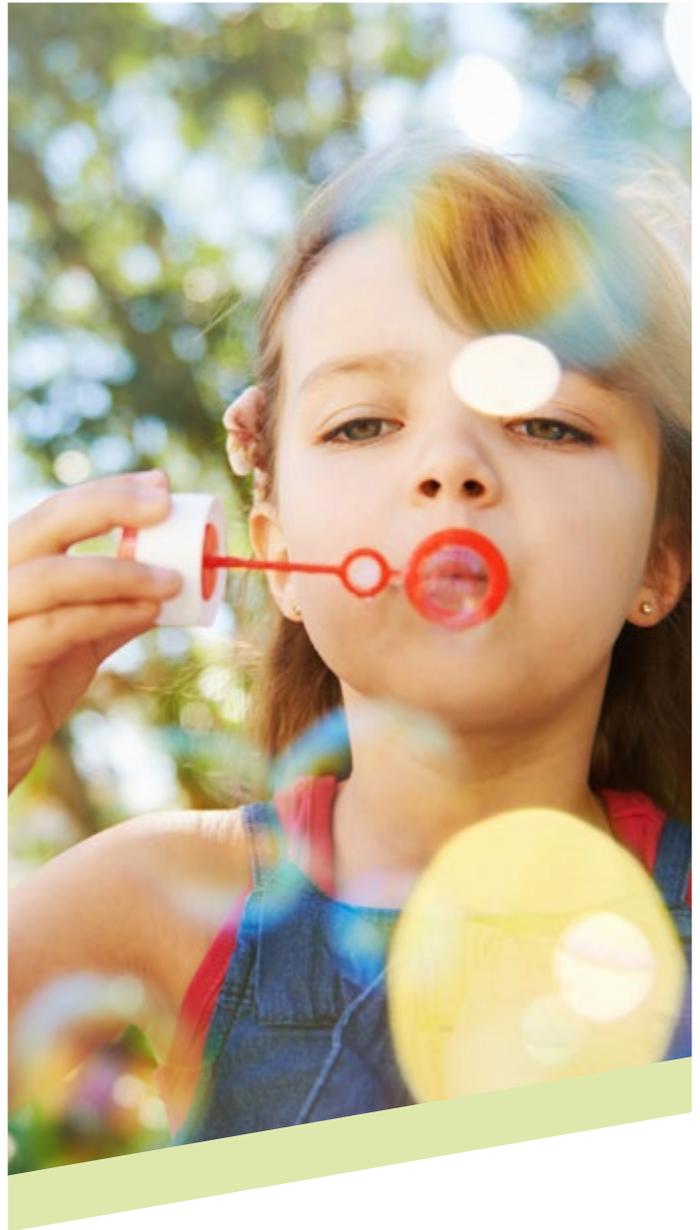
All South Lanarkshire schools who receive Pupil Equity Funding (PEF) have continued to contribute at least 5% to participatory budgeting activities this year and helps put children and young people's voice at the heart of our work to challenge poverty.

In August 2024, a participatory budgeting event was delivered to Head Teachers and staff who felt they needed a refresh or were new to the position and built on learning and good practice examples from previous years.

The total amount allocated to participatory budgeting in schools was in excess of £565,000.

142 schools

£565,000



Section 3 - Our plan and its progress

Maximising the uptake of school benefits – free school meals and clothing grants

More families across South Lanarkshire than ever before are being supported to access school related benefits.

- ▶ The number of children accessing free meals in South Lanarkshire Council nurseries has grown over the last year, from 539,087 in 2023/24, to 686,380 in 2024/25, an increase of 28%.
- ▶ Nearly three quarters (73%) of eligible primary school pupils and half (49%) of eligible secondary school pupils took advantage of free school meals. For primary school pupils, this was a 6% increase on last year, and for secondary school pupils a 4% increase. In both cases the outcome exceeded the annual target for expected uptake.
- ▶ Children in families in receipt of benefits, including housing benefit and council tax reduction, are now automatically enrolled for school clothing grants, thanks to a data sharing agreement between SLC Finance and SLC Education Resources. More than 1 in 4 children (12,408 in the South Lanarkshire Council area were in receipt of a clothing grant with £1,765,720 paid to families, an 3% increase on 2023/24.

Promoting Active Travel among young people

School travel plans support active travel and road safety initiatives and 83 schools now have a plan in place, supporting families choose active travel options and helping to reduce the cost of the school day for many. Active travel plans are co-designed with pupils who are asked about their current travel choices and attitudes.

Feedback from the most recent Sustrans Hands-Up Survey in 2024 indicated that there was a 2% fall in the percentage of children in South Lanarkshire using an active travel option to get to school (wheeling/walking/cycling) from 43.9% in 2023, down to 41.9% in 2024, 4.7% below the Scottish average (46.6%). On a more positive note, the number of children under 5's travelling to and from nurseries by active travel has increased slightly to 34.9%.

Active travel pupil choices 2023	43.9%
Active travel pupil choices 2024	41.9%

Breakfast Clubs

Latest figures show 118 primary schools in South Lanarkshire have a breakfast club with 64,098 pupils attending on a monthly basis, a 13.5% increase on the number recorded last year.

Parents are now more aware of the availability of the breakfast clubs and capacity to deliver clubs has also increased through greater availability of staff and volunteers. More parents are also in employment, or having to work longer hours, so putting their children into the breakfast club allows them to go to work without having to pay additional childcare costs.

118 breakfast clubs **64,098 pupils 13.5% increase**

The Machan Trust

The Machan Trust continues to run four Breakfast Clubs in partnership with the council. The number of children attending has increased by 38% over the last year.

More than 45% of the pupils in the four primary schools in Larkhall with a breakfast club supported by the trust attended at least one club during 2024/25. Due to a funding gap to support the holiday programmes, provision was reduced to one week in Spring and two weeks in Summer. Despite the limited provision, the number of children attending breakfast clubs during the summer weeks increased from 155 last year to 160 in 2024/25.

Reducing housing costs for families - increasing the supply of affordable homes for families

The council and its partners were able to support families by matching their needs to available properties including the following support:

- ▶ Building 71 affordable new homes, including 23 houses with three or more bedrooms designed for families
- ▶ Securing 130 homes through the council's Market Purchase Scheme, providing opportunities to support families who have particular requirements
- ▶ The development of local 'masterplans' in a number of areas including East Kilbride and

Hamilton town centres with a focus on affordable housing to meet the needs of local communities, including families.

- ▶ 54 of the new builds and repurchased housing have seen 131 children and young people benefiting from a new home, who has previously been homeless, under the threat of homelessness or were part of a family living in a home that did not meet their needs.

71 new affordable homes built
130 market purchase homes available
131 children in a new home

Maintaining affordable rents for council tenants

The average weekly rent paid by South Lanarkshire Council tenants in 2024/25 was £84.44, a 6.5% increase on last year. South Lanarkshire Council rent has been maintained at a lower level than the Scottish Local Authority average.

Supporting the housing needs of minority groups

To inform the 2025/26 budget setting process, a consultation was undertaken comprising an online survey, social media posts and presentations to local tenant focus groups, Gypsy/Traveller site residents and the homelessness service user group. As a result of 1,335 responses received, it was agreed that a rent freeze would be an ongoing commitment, subject to an annual review.

During 2024/25, four asylum-seeking families were provided with a tenancy in South Lanarkshire under the Home Office resettlement programme.

Asylum seeking families **4**

Reducing energy costs for families

Citizen's Advice and Money Matters together helped 2,810 families with energy and energy debt advice, during 2024/25. Over half a million pounds (£522,639) in financial gains were secured for families, the highest amount on record.

2810 families **£522,639**

Reducing homelessness and the threat of homelessness among families, children and young people

The council continues to work to reduce the amount of time that families with children have to spend in temporary accommodation. This includes increasing the number of properties available for families across South Lanarkshire. As a result of this work:

- ▶ Families with children are spending on average 144 days in homeless accommodation (a 13% reduction, compared to the previous year)
- ▶ 487 properties have been made available to families with children under the age of 16 compared to 433 last year
- ▶ 13 families had their temporary accommodation tenancies converted to a Scottish Secure Tenancy, providing the family with a permanent home
- ▶ there were 262 families with 441 children in temporary accommodation, compared to 305 families with 571 children at the same point last year, showing a significant reduction
- ▶ 387 properties were allocated to 16-25 year olds, compared to 293 last year, showing a significant increase in lets to this age group

Tenancy Sustainment Fund

The Tenancy Sustainment Fund was introduced in 2019 to support council tenants maintain rent payments in order to sustain their tenancy and prevent homelessness. This was continued this year with £300,000 from the Housing Revenue Account supporting 122 awards worth over £80,000 to families.

122 families **£80,000+**

Improved digital inclusion amongst families in the most deprived areas

Ten Digital Support Hubs are now established in South Lanarkshire, supported by the Good Things Foundation, who have developed an interactive map to direct people to their nearest hub for digital support: www.goodthingsfoundation.org/find-support/map.

Section 3 - Our plan and its progress

These are a mix of Commercial and Community and Voluntary Sector organisations providing free digital skills training.

Throughout the year, 489 sim cards were issued through local foodbanks, allowing free mobile internet access to foodbank users and their families and helping prevent digital exclusion.

Reduced food poverty

Over the last year, eight food banks across South Lanarkshire distributed 27,509 food parcels to families, a 7% increase on the previous year and the highest level recorded. In addition, the food banks helped with 1,116 vouchers to provide families greater choice in accessing food and to allow them to purchase items such as fresh meat, fruit/vegetables and milk, from local retailers.

Several food banks collect and distribute items of clothing and toys for children. In response to issues such as digital exclusion and fuel poverty faced by many families, the food banks together also issued 1,344 energy vouchers to help with heating and electricity bills and 489 sim cards.

8 foodbanks	27,509 food parcels
1344 energy vouchers	7% increase
1,116 cash first vouchers	489 sim cards

Winter Wishes

Care experienced Young People have been given additional support in the Winter months due to the rising costs of living. The Promise Board identified 'Winter Wishes' funding which has helped to make things easier, particularly for care experienced young people in their own tenancies or without networks of support or family to rely on. Winter Wishes has also helped young people in supported placements, foster care, Kinship care and in residential houses and other settings.

The fund has boosted the food larder in the Continuing Care Hub, provided a weekly warm hub drop in with soup and sandwiches, crisis support for young people returning from custody and external provisions and warm clothing was via vouchers and support to shop. It also helped with Christmas food parcels/dinners and Christmas parties for children.

Young people told us:

"I was able to buy some winter clothing for my child and good quality footwear that will last longer"

"The voucher I received helped me to purchase smart clothing as I had a job interview"

"I topped up my meter which had worried me, my mental health was at rock bottom"

"I had my first Christmas dinner in four years and cooked it"

"My cat and dog were better cared for, this is an ongoing stress for me"

Promoting healthy living among children and families living in poverty

Third sector organisations have supported families manage food poverty challenges, improving parent and child health and wellbeing and encouraging energy and climate action.

Community Links in partnership with other local services, organised and delivered;

- ▶ Four 'Make a Meal of It' sessions for 48 parents and carers. Each participant was given a taster of the food that was demonstrated, a copy of the menus and supplies of ingredients to replicate their learning at home.
- ▶ 5,075 people accessed weekly hubs and 2,131 food bags were distributed. Other services including; Money Matters, DWP and Energy Saving Partners also had a presence within the hubs to support people as they attended.

4 Make A Meal Of It sessions
48 parents/carers
2131 food bags
5,075 people
700 participants

Healthy Valleys provided access to activities to positively impact on the lives of local families, including;

- ▶ Health and Wellbeing courses, trips and opportunities for 179 children they would otherwise not have had access to
- ▶ 81 cooking sessions, attended by 108 individuals
- ▶ 99 food waste sessions
- ▶ 31 food bank referrals, supporting 101 individuals
- ▶ 256 onward referrals to various partner services, including; Home Energy Scotland, Baby Bank, Social Security Scotland, Citizens Advice and Money Matters
- ▶ Eight community-based family events with promotional materials, referral pathways and targeted conversations to support financial wellbeing and reduce transport poverty.

180 sessions **109 individuals** **179 children**
31 food bank referrals **256 onward referrals**
8 family events

Reduce costs associated with health harming behaviours

The NHS Lanarkshire 'Quit Your Way' Service supported parents and carers to stop smoking with targeted work focussed on pregnant women living in areas of higher deprivation.

Increased training has been provided to staff and organisations working with pregnant women and families, including;

- ▶ Tobacco Dependency in Pregnancy training delivered to 101 first year student midwives
- ▶ Induction training delivered to seven newly qualified midwives
- ▶ 25 staff members from NHS Lanarkshire completed the Very Brief Advice module on smoking in pregnancy

Between April – September 2024, five pregnant women living in the 40% most deprived areas, successfully quit smoking at 12 weeks. The project has found that quitting smoking saves people a significant amount of money, on average £4,380 per year if they smoke 20 cigarettes per day (based on average packet of cheapest brand cigarettes in supermarkets).

Breastfeeding

The latest figures (2024) suggest that just under half (48%) of mothers in South Lanarkshire are recorded as breastfeeding at the time of the first visit by a health visitor, the highest level ever recorded. The gap between mothers breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks in the most deprived and least deprived (SIMD 5) areas has also reduced.

South Lanarkshire Council is working towards achieving bronze level in the Breastfeeding Friendly Scotland local authority award. All council premises are in the process of signing up to the scheme, a communications plan has been drafted, the Breastfeeding and Returning to Work Policy has been updated, and new HR policies and Child Poverty Action plans are in place. In addition, 16 Early Learning and Childcare settings are involved in the pilot roll out of the Breastfeeding Scotland Early Learning Scheme.

There are almost 700 business and premises across Lanarkshire signed up to the Breastfeeding Friendly Scotland scheme. A whole town approach project has been carried out in Carnwath to sign up the full community's premises and businesses and is the first of its kind in Lanarkshire. www.nhslanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk/news-carnwath-becomes-lanarkshires-first-breastfeeding-friendly-town/



Section 3 - Our plan and its progress

Driver 3 - Progress on maximising opportunities to increase income from employment

South Lanarkshire's comprehensive employability initiatives and partnership-driven approaches are helping address barriers such as childcare costs, skills development and in-work poverty through targeted programmes, sustainable pathways to employment and improved wellbeing.

Local Employability Partnership

The Local Employability Partnership brings together organisations committed to creating and delivering opportunities to enhance employability for both young people and adults. Last year, a multi-agency Tackling Child Poverty subgroup was established to address service gaps and prevent duplication around initiatives helping lift families out of poverty.

This year, the group identified a childcare gap, in partnership with the Scottish Childminding Association and support from the Scottish Government, introduced a new initiative offering subsidised grants to help parents become childminders.

Employability Service

South Lanarkshire Council's Employability Service: South Lanarkshire Works, provides parental employment support through "No One Left Behind" Tackling Child Poverty funding with a particular emphasis on parents and carers from the six child poverty priority groups. The service offers a variety of participant-led programmes and is accessible to all parents and carers.

Each parent is assigned a dedicated key worker and a comprehensive action plan to ensure a holistic and tailored approach to their employment needs. The Employability Service collaborates with partners to support parents throughout their employment journey. The following examples are highlights from this approach:

Supporting Families

The Supporting Families initiative is available in nurseries and schools across Rutherglen, Cambuslang, Larkhall and Rigside with plans to expand in 2025/26 to include new rural establishments, funded through windfarm community benefit grants in partnership with Connect 2 Renewables.

The programme is helping remove barriers through a range of early support for parents and carers and prepare them for employment. The programme has also helped improve housing options, increased access to benefits and child care and supported access to English for Speakers of Other Languages courses. Staff from Supporting Families work closely with local Family Support Hubs to support a whole family approach.

During the last year 59 parents benefited from the programme, a 119% increase compared to 2023/24. Over the past year, 37 households with a disabled adult or child were supported, alongside 33 lone parent households and 24 large families with three or more children.

Families with a disabled parent or child **37**
Lone parent families **33**
Families with three or more children **24**



Case Study – Supporting Families

Irum, a British Pakistani mother of three, was referred to the Supporting Families Programme seeking support to improve her skills through college and secure better employment. Irum's family lived in a cramped two bedroom flat facing persistent noise from an upstairs neighbour. This stressful environment caused her children to miss school due to lack of sleep.

After a holistic needs assessment, support was offered to address both her employability and housing issues. The housing association was engaged and assistance was provided to apply for a larger council home.

After resigning from her previous job due to childcare costs, Irum aimed to retrain as a primary teacher and hoped to move to better housing and resolve anti-social behaviour around her current flat. Support provided to the family included:

- ▶ Financial advice and support
- ▶ Housing support to tackle anti-social behaviour
- ▶ Foodbank and wellbeing referrals
- ▶ Guidance on further education and primary teaching pathways
- ▶ Health and wellbeing support, including leisure memberships for the family

Irum was accepted into Glasgow Clyde College's Primary Education entry course, leading to a guaranteed interview for a PGDE at the University of Strathclyde. The family received an offer for a 3-bedroom house in East Kilbride after over a year on the waiting list.

Participant Feedback:

"I felt supported and listened to throughout. Hazel went above and beyond, easing my burdens and providing essential help when I needed it most."

Making It Work

Making it Work for parents and carers is delivered by Routes to Work South and offers intensive support for parents facing barriers like low confidence, poor mental health and financial instability. It provides one-to-one coaching, job readiness training, access to qualifications and volunteering opportunities to help parents secure sustainable employment and break the cycle of poverty.

The Cook & Learn Training programme within Making It Work teaches practical cooking, nutrition and food hygiene skills, provides affordable nutritious food and is helping to improve family wellbeing and increase employability in the hospitality sector.

340 parents and carers an 88% increase on previous year

Lone parent families **174**

Families with a disabled adult or child **132**

Families with three or more children **122**

Minority ethnic families **94**

Outcomes

Employment **125** - 238% increase on previous year

Further training **56**

Demonstrator programme **11**

Demonstrator

The Demonstrator programme supports parents in the later stages of the employability pipeline by offering real work experience in live settings with council funded wage subsidies for up to six months. Subsidies are available until the end of March 2026.

Following the programme's success, the council has now become a host employer, creating additional posts in areas suited to parents and carers needing term-time opportunities. The team is also working to address the gender gap by engaging fathers in grounds maintenance opportunities.

Each parent is supported by Money Matters, ensuring income maximisation through benefits checks and "better off in work" calculations. A £300 job start payment is provided to each parent, bridging the gap between leaving benefits and receiving their first wage.

26 Parents and carers 45% increase on previous year

Lone parent families **11**

Families with a disabled adult or child **11**

Minority ethnic families **11**

Outcomes

17 Employment

6 Further Education

Case study – Demonstrator

Pamela joined NHS Lanarkshire’s Demonstrator Programme in October 2024 after 14 years as a full-time carer for her daughter, she sought to re-enter the workforce and rebuild her personal identity. She was placed at Rutherglen Health Centre in the School Nursing Team. A long absence from work led to low confidence and she needed support to re-engage professionally.

Pamela wanted a new challenge and to regain her confidence and independence through meaningful employment. She was given on-the-job training and learnt new systems, built her confidence and has made the most of the opportunity to meet new people and develop professionally. As a result, Pamela successfully secured a permanent role within the School Nursing Team.

“The programme has been amazing, allowing me to build my confidence and do something for myself.”

In Work Upskilling / Aim 2 Achieve

Aim 2 Achieve is a South Lanarkshire Council programme for parents in employment whether be part time, full time or zero-hour contract. The programme is tackling in-work poverty and providing improved career opportunities through wrap around support including training, qualifications and financial and childcare support. CV building and interview preparation is helping secure and sustain better employment for participants.

59 parents and carers a 104% increase on previous year

Lone parent families **19**

Families with a disabled parent or child **4**

Families with three or more children **4**

Young mothers **2**

Outcomes

Job searches **13**

Training **11**

Further education **4**

As part of the upskilling approach the council is working with South Lanarkshire College’s Employability Academy creating courses for registered parents and carers from Aim 2 Achieve e.g. Classroom Assistant, Barista, First Aid and Paediatric First Aid, a Pre NHS course and an overview of Word, Excel, Email and Microsoft Teams.

Developing the Young Work Force into Positive Futures

Local partners are helping more young people, especially those who have experienced care or live in deprived areas, successfully transition from school into positive destinations. Young people are supported through programmes such as Aspire, Gradu8, and Foundation Apprenticeships for those still in school, alongside Aspire Works for young people who have already left school. These programmes offer personalised support, groupwork, vocational training, health and wellbeing initiatives and work placements. The Employability Promise was launched in March 2025 and is offering care-experienced young people more opportunities to work within the council, supporting their progression towards permanent employment.

Care experience young people

Positive destination **91.2%**

All young people (16-19)

Positive destination **93.8%**

Our current data shows that 91.2% of care-experienced young people move into positive destinations after school. Although the gap has widened slightly by 1.2% from 2022/23, now standing at 5.2%, it remains better than the national rate of 8.5%, which has also increased.

Results from 2024 show that 93.8% of young people aged 16-19 are in positive destinations.

Community Wealth Building

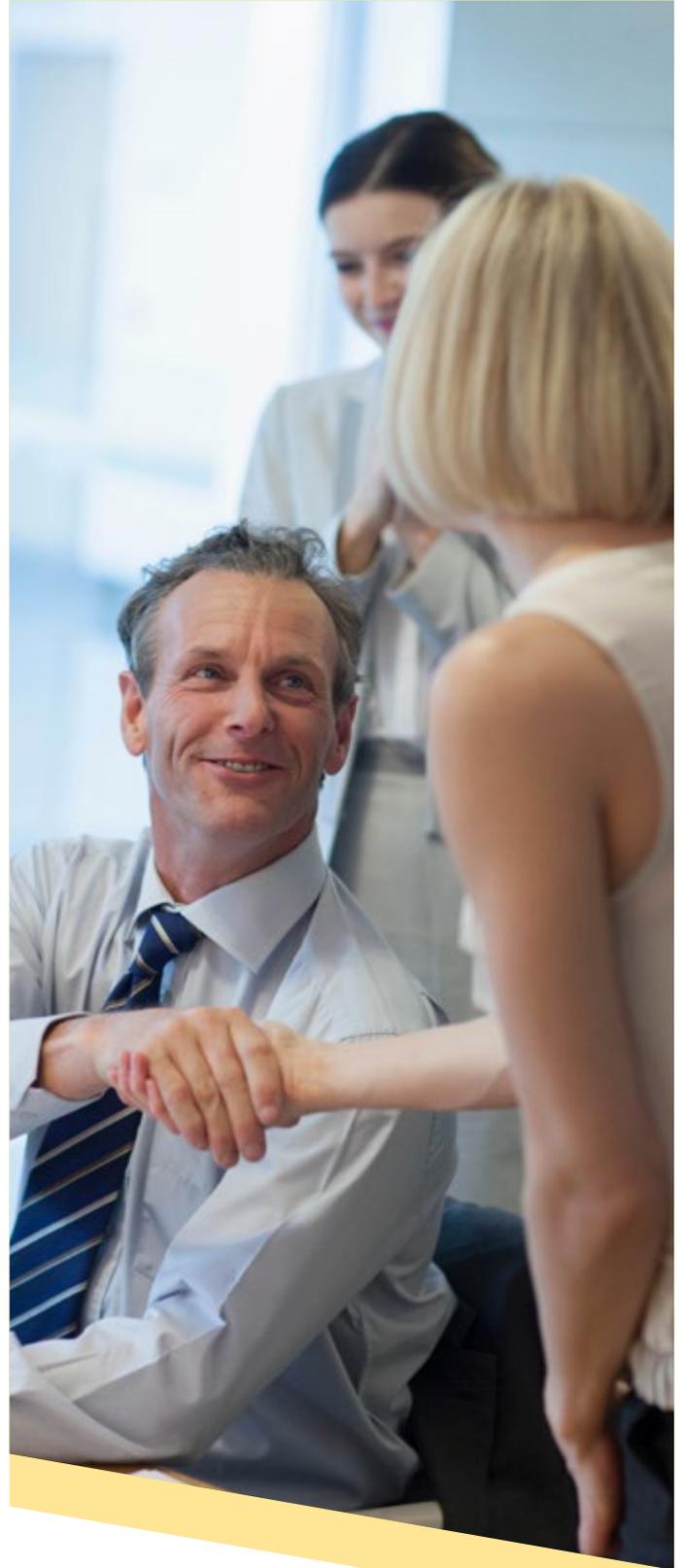
Community Wealth Building initiatives are helping create a resilient local economy, generating local jobs and supporting a diverse range of businesses, which in turn is helping tackle poverty by ensuring economic benefits stay within communities.

We have worked to ensure that all anchor organisations and community planning partners including the council and NHS Lanarkshire have adopted the Living Wage, living hours and fair work practices helping lift families out of in-work poverty, increasing disposable income, boosting local businesses and building stronger, more inclusive communities.

In 2024, local employers with Real Living Wage status who were procured through these initiatives provided 18 placement opportunities to South Lanarkshire participants.

Employees in South Lanarkshire earning the real living wage **88%** – 0.4% below national average
Employers paying the real living wage **183**
(highest on record)

A key factor contributing to this higher-than-average level of accredited employers is the activity of the Lanarkshire Living Wage Campaign Group, which works to increase the number of businesses paying the Living Wage. The group engages with employers to promote the benefits the Living Wage through information sharing, networking events, support for Living Wage Week and the Living Wage Accreditation Discount Scheme. This scheme offers up to £1,000 in discounts per year to employers for each employee paid the Living Wage, leading to better recruitment and retention, higher staff morale and productivity and an enhanced reputation with the community.



Section 4 - Monitoring of progress and delivering on our ambitions

As a partnership, we take improvement seriously and look to where we can deliver the best outcomes for children, young people and families. We are informed by available data, the voices of children, young people and families and the views of our wider workforce.

Our commitment to continuous improvement is informed by:

- ▶ Our Local Child Poverty Action Report and Child Poverty Commitment document
- ▶ Implementing a clear Performance Framework that utilises measures to show the impact of our work
- ▶ Evaluating our work effectively and promoting best practice across agencies

- ▶ Engaging children, young people and families to listen to their experiences of accessing services, life circumstances, hopes and aspirations
- ▶ Using available data and other evidence to inform our joint planning and evaluation

By taking this approach, we map progress and refine our work to ensure we are doing the right things in the right way. Most importantly it helps us understand where we are making a positive difference for children, young people and families

We have set a suite of measures for 2023-26 that will help determine if we are being successful in this ambition:

Indicator	Baseline	Most recent	Change 12 months
Percentage of children (0-15) living in relative poverty (after housing costs) ⁹	Baseline 2021/22 22.8% (SLC) 23% (Scotland)	2023/24 19.5% (SLC) 23% (Scotland)	-4.1% (SLC) -3% (Scotland)
Percentage of children (0-15) in relative low-income families (before housing costs) ¹⁰	Baseline 2021/22 15.5% (SLC) 16.9% (Scotland)	2023/24 14.4% (SLC) 16.3% (Scotland)	-1.9% (SLC) -1.5% (Scotland)
Number of children (0-15) in relative low-income families (before housing costs) ¹¹	Baseline 2021/22 8,601 (SLC) 151,679 (Scotland)	2023/24 8,069 (SLC) 145,804 (Scotland)	-10.4% (SLC) -7.9% (Scotland)
Percentage of children (0-15) in absolute low-income families (before housing costs) ¹²	Baseline 2021/22 11.4% (SLC) 12.6% (Scotland)	2023/24 11.9% (SLC) 13.2% (Scotland)	-0.6% (SLC) -0.6% (Scotland)
Number of children (0-15) in absolute low-income families (before housing costs) ¹³	Baseline 2021/22 6,311 (SLC) 113,230 (Scotland)	2023/24 6,618 (SLC) 118,341 (Scotland)	-4.2% (SLC) -3.6% (Scotland)
Percentage of households with children responding not managing well financially (over the previous 12 months) ¹⁴	Baseline 2019 13% (SLC) 12% (Scotland)	2023* 7% (SLC) 12% (Scotland)	-6% (SLC) % (Scotland)
Percentage of fuel poor households	Baseline 2019 22% (SLC) 24% (Scotland)	2017- 19 22% (SLC) 24% (Scotland)	Next data update expected early 2026

⁹ Source: Campaign to End Child Poverty - Child Poverty Action Group/ Loughborough University

¹⁰ Source: DWP Stat Xplore - Children living in relative Low Income Families (CILIF) data set

¹¹ Source: DWP Stat Xplore - Children living in relative Low Income Families (CILIF) data set

¹² Source: DWP Stat Xplore - Children living in relative Low Income Families (CILIF) data set

¹³ Source: DWP Stat Xplore - Children living in relative Low Income Families (CILIF) data set

¹⁴ Source: Scottish Household Survey, Single parent / Small family / Large family households



Collaboration for Health Equity in Scotland (CHES)

Earlier in 2025 South Lanarkshire Community Planning Partnership set out on an ambitious journey to understand the scale of health inequality across the area and to develop creative ways to reduce the gap in wellbeing outcomes.

The Collaboration for Health Equity in Scotland brings a new approach that has previously had success in parts of England and Wales, including improvements in life expectancy. The approach originates from the work of Professor Sir Michael Marmot, Director of University College London's Institute of Health Equity, who is now collaborating with Public Health Scotland in three Scottish local authority areas.

In South Lanarkshire, the council and community planning partners will work with the Institute for Health Equity and Public Health Scotland to strengthen local plans to reduce health inequalities and improve wellbeing in communities. This work will include identifying particular pockets of poverty and will have a particular approach to supporting families in the earliest point in children's lives to provide a preventative solution.

At the launch of the initiative, Council Leader Joe Fagan said: "I am delighted that South Lanarkshire was chosen to be one of the three areas involved (along with Aberdeen and North Ayrshire). We were really keen to be part of this - not just the council but all of our partners too. Because we all could see the potential to make a real difference here in South Lanarkshire".

We hope that the initiative will provide a platform to engage with the community, share the vision of the collaboration, and kickstart this ambitious project to build a healthier, more equitable South Lanarkshire. The aspirations and areas for improvement will be further presented in our refreshed **Child Poverty Commitment**, which we will publish by mid-2026.

How will we achieve this?

- ▶ Use of 'Test of Change' methods to try new ways of working, with families at the centre
- ▶ Increased joint working and the pooling of expertise and resources to deliver added value through the Child Poverty Working Group
- ▶ Working with other partnership groups to drive forward change
- ▶ Commitment to evidence based approaches which gives particular consideration to the needs of families at highest risk of child poverty
- ▶ Meaningful involvement of families with lived experience and the third sector in policy development, decision-making and delivery



Section 5 - Our priorities for 2024/25 and the longer term

Income from benefits	Cost of living	Income from employment	Working together to deliver differently
An increase in the awareness of families about the benefits and entitlements they are eligible for	Reduction in financial barriers to education for school age children	Reduce the gap in school leavers entering a positive destination between most deprived 20% and least deprived 20% areas	The voice of children, young people and families experiencing poverty informs policy development and service design
Families are more aware of changes in available benefits	Reduced housing costs for families	Support care experienced school leavers sustain a positive destination	Support the third sector to be involved in the planning, implementation, and delivery of child poverty activity
Care experienced young people improve their understanding of money and available benefits	Increased uptake of funded and early learning and childcare entitlement for two and three year olds	Increase employment support for low-income parents	Improve the use of data so that partners can build a shared understanding of poverty at household, neighbourhood, and locality level
	Improved digital inclusion amongst families in the most deprived areas	Employees being paid the living wage - parents	Deliver more holistic, wraparound, accessible support to families experiencing poverty
	Reduce food poverty	Employee upskilling - parents	Develop an 'Ask Once' test of change in East Kilbride
	Reduce costs associated with health harming behaviours		
	Increase the rate of breastfeeding at birth and at eight weeks and achieve the Breastfeeding Friendly Scotland Local Authority Bronze Award		

Useful links

The Local Housing Strategy 2022-2027

www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/local-housing-strategy

South Lanarkshire's Community Plan

www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/cp/CommunityPlan2022-2032

South Lanarkshire's Children's Services Plan 2023 -26, Working together making a difference

www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/childrens-services-plan

Children and Young People's Health Plan Lanarkshire

bit.ly/NHS-children-young-peoples-health-plan

Best Start, Bright Futures, the national child poverty delivery plan

bit.ly/tackling-child-poverty-delivery-plan

South Lanarkshire's Community Learning and Development Strategy and Action Plan

www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/community-learning-development-strategic-plan

Community Wealth Building Strategy

www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/community-wealth-building-strategy

'Connect' the Council Plan

www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/council-plan

South Lanarkshire Works

www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200201/south_lanarkshire_works



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