



CHAIRPERSON'S ANNUAL REPORT **November 2022 – November 2023**

This is my first **Annual Report** as Chair of the Hamilton Health and Social Care Forum. I have enjoyed my first year, learning new skills, particularly in chairing meetings and making new contacts within the Forum networks. I will continue to receive support and mentoring from Margaret, David and Community Links going forward and I hope to provide the Forum with a stronger chair to help navigate the changes we are expecting in the Health and Social Care Partnership and NHS Lanarkshire.

During the year, the Forum continued to meet on a 6-weekly basis in person and online with the opportunity to have invited speakers along. This proved to be a successful format and has also encouraged further networking opportunities between members and organisations.

Presentations given:

- Nickie Murphy - Lanarkshire Carers co located work within acute sites.
- Lynn Cunnigham - GP Community Link Worker Programme
- Catriona Mason – Seniors Together
- Louise Haggarty – Community Links (Positive Smoke Free Role Model)

As chair of the HHSCF below is a list of meetings and subgroups I attended over the reporting period:

South Lanarkshire Health & Social Care Forum (SLH&SCF)

Participated in updates to the South and locality Forum paperwork, which is now available on the South Community Planning Partnership website, I also participated in a Scottish Government consultation with Gillian Ventura from Public Health Scotland on “Gathering views on access to GP practices” and Dr Veronica Rainey on primary care prescribing efficiencies project.

Locality Implementation Group

Management update about staffing changes and services developments given by Kathy Blessing. This group is for statutory and voluntary sector organisations who take forward the recommendations from the Strategic Commissioning Plan that outlined the views and wishes of the local community.

Mental Health & Addiction (SLWG)

Discussed and plan for SCP to establish a Hamilton Locality MH& Addiction Network Programme. Promoted the Mental Health Pathway booklet, because of this Michael asked for another 70 to pass onto Hamilton CMHT staff.

UK Carers - Carers Leave Bill

As a member of the UK Carers at a personal level I was pleased to report to the Forum that there was a bill passed through parliament for carers who may need leave from their employment to care for the person they care for. What the bill originally asked for was 2 weeks leave, but they reduced that to 5 days. It is now discussed in the House of Lords where it will hopefully become law.

Whitehill Neighbourhood Board

I regularly attended the Whitehill Neighbourhood Board as a resident and member of the HHSCF. I actively promote the Forum, Mental Health Pathway booklet and any other relevant business/consultations.

Unity in the Community

Attended Hamilton locality third sector interface run by LAMH and David Livingstone Centre inviting all Hamilton Locality third sector organisations and groups to attend.

Locality Implementation Core Group Meeting

Chaired by Kathy Blessing, this meeting discussed the statutory training for staff within South Lanarkshire Council for CLT. After this meeting, it was decided that this would be the last Core Group Meeting and that moving forward there would only be The Locality Implementation Group Meetings every quarter.

Positive Pathway for Mental Health and Wellbeing Booklet

Launched in May 2021 and continues to be as popular as ever. The pathway booklet is available to download at [Positive Pathways | Community Links \(South Lanarkshire\) \(communitylinkssl.co.uk\)](https://communitylinkssl.co.uk) Or by emailing administrator@communitylinkssl.co.uk

We continue to supply the booklet to agencies and partners such as The Beacons, NHS Lanarkshire Mental Health team, local GP practices, as well as distributing the booklet at community events.

We are planning a rerun of the booklet in the new year following a review of the contents to make sure information and contact details are up to date and hopefully add in any new organisations.

During the year we were joined by members of the **East Kilbride Forum**, who now have joined the newly established East Kilbride Forum. Hamilton Forum and the South Forum will continue to support East Kilbride in the infancy stages of their growth.

Thanks

I would like to take this opportunity to thank David our vice chair, and our lay and associate members for their dedication to the Forum. I would also like to thank Margaret Moncrieff, **Chair South Lanarkshire Health & Social Care Forum**, and their new **Facilitator, Morgan Mitchell** for their support in keeping members up to date on South Lanarkshire Initiatives.

I am looking forward to the year ahead and working closely with the other locality Forums getting to know their issues and working collectively to address. With all the financial restraints on public services we are dedicated to work closely with NHS Lanarkshire. I would also like to thank Stewart Marshall for his support up to July this year and look forward to working with Carmen Obre in the year ahead.

Donna McAllister

Chairperson