



Wednesday, 03 December 2025

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: Tuesday, 09 December 2025

Time: 13:00

Venue: By Microsoft Teams,

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

Members

Councillor Joe Fagan

Paul Manning, Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council

John Binning, Principal Policy Officer, Strathclyde Partnership for Transport

Cheryl Burnett, Representative, Cambuslang and Rutherglen Community Partnership

Christine Calder, Manager, Seniors Together

Fiona Cook, Lead Manager, sportscotland

Lynne Cooper, Regional Director, VisitScotland

Julie Coyle, Area Manager, Skills Development Scotland

Stephen Frew, Partnerships (West), Place Directorate, Scottish Economic Development, Scottish Enterprise

Clare Hicks, Director of Education Reform, Scottish Government

Martin Hill, Chair, NHS Lanarkshire Board

Thomas Keay, Group Commander, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

Jennifer Kerr, Community Engagement Manager, Chief Executive's Office, South Lanarkshire Council

Hisashi Kuboyama, Development Manager, West of Scotland, Federation of Small Businesses

Tom Little, Head of Communications and Strategy, Chief Executive's Office, South Lanarkshire Council

Louise Long, Chief Executive, NHS Lanarkshire

Catriona Mason, Chairperson, Seniors Together

Stella McManus, Principal and Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire College

Nick Lansdell, Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture

Stephen Nesbit, Area Commander, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

Elizabeth O'Reilly, Head of Campus Services, University of the West of Scotland

Josephine Pravinkumar, Director of Public Health, NHS Lanarkshire

Soumen Sengupta, Director, South Lanarkshire University Health and Social Care Partnership

Callum Smith, Operations Manager, NatureScot

Vicky Watson, Chief Superintendent, Police Scotland

Jimmy Wilson, Interim Chief Executive, VASLan

BUSINESS

1 Declaration of Interests

- 2 **Note of Previous Meeting** 5 - 12
Note of the meeting of the Community Planning Partnership Board held on 17 September 2025 submitted for approval as a correct record. (Copy attached)

Monitoring Item(s)

- 3 **Community Partnerships Update** 13 - 22
Report dated 18 November 2025 by the Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council. (Copy attached)

Item(s) for Discussion/Decision

- 4 **Community Planning Partnership Budget and Expenditure Report** 23 - 28
Report dated 18 November 2025 by the Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council. (Copy attached)
- 5 **Lived Experience Fund 2025 Applications** 29 - 36
Report dated 18 November 2025 by the Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council. (Copy attached)
- 6 **East Kilbride South Neighbourhood Plan Update** 37 - 50
Report dated 2 December 2025 by the Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council. (Copy attached)
- 7 **South Lanarkshire Integration Joint Board Annual Performance Report 2024/2025** 51 - 64
Report dated 14 November 2025 by the Director, Health and Social Care, South Lanarkshire University Health and Social Care Partnership. (Copy attached)
- 8 **Lanarkshire Joint Community Planning Partnership Event – Building a Prevention-Focused System** 65 - 70
Report dated 18 November 2025 by the Director of Public Health and Health Policy, NHS Lanarkshire. (Copy attached)
- 9 **Healthy Weight Public Health Action Team (PHAcT)** 71 - 76
Report dated 18 November 2025 by the Director of Public Health and Health Policy, NHS Lanarkshire. (Copy attached)
- 10 **Community Planning Partnership Board Meeting Arrangements** 77 - 80
Report dated 18 November by the Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council. (Copy attached)

Item(s) for Noting

- 11 **South Lanarkshire's Children's Services Plan 2023 to 2026 - Annual Report of Progress for 2024/2025** 81 - 130
Joint report dated 18 November 2025 by the Director, Health and Social Care, South Lanarkshire University Health and Social Care Partnership, and the Executive Director (Education Resources). (Copy attached)
- 12 **Welfare Services Support for Households (to 31 March 2025)** 131 - 140
Report dated 18 November 2025 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources). (Copy attached)
- 13 **Community Planning Partnership Governance Update Report** 141 - 162
Report dated 18 November 2025 by the Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council. (Copy attached)
- 14 **Community Planning Partnership Board Bulletin** 163 - 170
• Challenge Poverty Week Update; and
• Community Engagement and Participation Strategy 2020 to 2025 Review Update
- 15 **Community Planning Partnership Board - Register of Information** 171 - 178
Report dated 18 November 2025 by the Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council. (Copy attached)
- 16 **Date of Next Meeting - Wednesday, 18 March 2026**

Any Other Competent Business

- 17 **Any Other Competent Business**
Any other items of business which the Chair decides are competent.

For further information, please contact:-

Clerk Name:	Laura Cunningham
Clerk Telephone:	07385 370044
Clerk Email:	laura.cunningham2@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

SOUTH LANARKSHIRE COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Note of meeting held via Microsoft Teams on 17 September 2025

Chair:

Councillor Joe Fagan, Leader, South Lanarkshire Council

Partners Present:

P Manning, Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council
 E Bonini, Interim Depute, South Lanarkshire College
 C Burnett, Representative, Cambuslang, and Rutherglen Community Partnership
 C Calder, Manager, Seniors Together
 F Cook, Lead Manager, sportscotland
 J Davenport, Superintendent, Police Scotland
 S Frew, Partnership (West), Place Directorate, Scottish Economic Development, Scottish Enterprise
 C Hicks, Director of Education Reform, Scottish Government
 M Hill, Chair, NHS Lanarkshire Board
 T Keay, Group Commander, Scottish Fire and Rescue
 J Kerr, Community Engagement Manager, Chief Executive's Office, South Lanarkshire Council
 N Lansdell, Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture
 T Little, Head of Communications and Strategy, Chief Executive's Office, South Lanarkshire Council
 J Pravinkumar, Director of Public Health, NHS Lanarkshire
 S Sengupta, Director, Health and Social Care, South Lanarkshire University Health and Social Care Partnership
 C Smith, Operations Manager, NatureScot
 J Wilson, Interim Chief Executive Officer, VASLan

Also Attending:

C Brown, Planning and Performance Manager, South Lanarkshire University Health and Social Care Partnership
 L Cunningham, Administration Officer, Finance and Corporate Resources, South Lanarkshire Council
 A Desport, Strategy and Policy Advisor, Housing and Technical Resources, South Lanarkshire Council
 S Dunsmore, Insurance and Risk Manager, Finance and Corporate Resources, South Lanarkshire Council.
 M Kane, Service Development Manager, South Lanarkshire University Health and Social Care Partnership
 BJ McIntyre, Employability Adviser, Community and Enterprise Resources, South Lanarkshire Council
 K Mullarkey, Partnership Planning Manager, Education Resources, South Lanarkshire Council
 A Murray, Community Planning Adviser, Chief Executive's Office, South Lanarkshire Council
 E Paterson, Community Planning Officer, Chief Executive's Office, South Lanarkshire Council
 H Robertson, Community Development Officer, Chief Executive's Office, South Lanarkshire Council
 I Ross, Project Manager, Community and Enterprise Resources, South Lanarkshire Council
 T Slater, Administration Adviser, Finance and Corporate Resources, South Lanarkshire Council

Apologies:

J Binning, Principal Policy Officer, Strathclyde Partnership for Transport
 L Cooper, Regional Director, VisitScotland
 J Coyle, Area Manager, Skills Development Scotland
 H Kuboyama, Development Manager, West of Scotland, Federation of Small Businesses
 L Long, Chief Executive, NHS Lanarkshire
 C Mason, Chairperson, Seniors Together
 S McManus, Principal and Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire College
 V Watson, Chief Superintendent, Police Scotland

Chair's Remarks

The Chair welcomed Callum Smith, Operations Manager, NatureScot, Nick Lansdell, Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture and Fiona Cook, Lead Manager, sportscotland to the Board.

Order of Business

The Board decided: that the items of business be dealt with in the order minuted below.

1 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

2 Note of Previous Meeting

The note of the meeting of the South Lanarkshire Community Planning Partnership Board held on 18 June 2025 was submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

3 Community Planning Partnership Risk Management – Annual Review of Risk Cards and Risk Register

A report dated 27 August 2025 by the Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council was submitted on the:-

- ◆ updated Community Planning Risk Register following the annual review
- ◆ end of year update on the 2024/2025 Risk Control Plan

A Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Risk Register and Risk Control Plan was maintained to formally record, assess, and aid management of strategic risks faced by the Partnership.

The annual review of the Risk Register and Risk Control Plan by the Community Planning Progress Group with support from South Lanarkshire Council's Risk Management Team started on 2 April 2025. The report set out the draft Risks and Risk Control Plan for 2025/2026 and provided an end of year update on the 2024/2025 Risk Control Plan. The Risk Matrix, which was used for assigning risk scores was attached as Appendix 4 to the report.

The results of the review were provided at section 5 of the report, and all risks on the Register from last year were still deemed to be valid.

Appendix 2 to the report provided the Risk Control Plan for 2025/2026 which had been updated to reflect progress. Appendix 3 to the report provided an update on progress on the 2024/2025 Risk Control Plan.

The next planned review of the full Risk Register and Control Plan would take place during April 2026.

Outcome(s):

- (1) CPP Risks, as set out at Section 5 of the report, and the Risk Control Plan for 2025/2026 approved.
- (2) End of year update on the 2024/2025 Risk Control Plan noted.

[Reference: Note of 18 September 2024 (Paragraph 7)]

4 Cambuslang and Rutherglen Community Partnership Update

A report dated 27 August 2025 by the Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council was submitted providing an update on the progress of the Cambuslang and Rutherglen Community Partnership, details of which were attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

The Partnership had met once since the previous Board meeting. The purpose of the meeting, which took place in August 2025, was to engage with the newly appointed Community Development Officer (CDO), review progress to date, and agree steps for future development.

C Burnett reported on collaborative work with the Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) concerning GP and urgent care provision. A survey had been distributed, and an update was scheduled for the next meeting.

J Pravinkumar commended the efforts of the group and expressed willingness to meet with C Burnett to discuss future plans.

T Keay provided an update on water and fire incidents, advising that there had been no recent water-related incidents and no instances of wilful fire raising in the area. However, there had been reports of weather-related grassfires.

Outcome(s): (1) Progress update, as outlined at section 4.1. and in Appendix 1 of the report, together with the intention to continue advancing those areas in collaboration with the Community Development Officer and Progress Group, noted.

[Reference: Note of 18 June 2025 (Paragraph 5)]

5 Clydesdale Community Partnership Update

A report dated 27 August 2025 by the Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council was submitted providing an update on the progress of the Clydesdale Community Partnership, details of which were attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

The Partnership had met twice since the previous Board meeting. Development work had continued, to increase the understanding of the Community Partnership model and improve attendance at meetings.

H Robertson, Community and Development Officer provided an update on the:-

- ◆ Issues highlighted in Appendix 1, which would be progressed in collaboration with the Community Development Officer and Progress Group
- ◆ Community Partnership Improvement Plan

Outcome(s): (1) Progress update, as outlined at section 4.1. and Appendix 1 of the report, together with the intention to continue advancing those areas in collaboration with the Community Participation and Development Officer and the Progress Group, be noted.

[Reference: Note of 18 June 2025 (Paragraph 6)]

6 East Kilbride and Strathaven Community Partnership Update

A report dated 27 August 2025 by the Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council was submitted providing an update on the progress of the East Kilbride and Strathaven Community Partnership, details of which were attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

H Robertson, Community Development Officer provided an update on the:-

- ◆ Issues highlighted in Appendix 1, which would be progressed in collaboration with the Community Development Officer and Progress Group
- ◆ Community Partnership Improvement Plan

Outcome(s): Progress update, as outlined at section 4.1. and Appendix 1 of the report, together with the intention to continue advancing those areas in collaboration with the Community Participation and Development Officer and the Progress Group, be noted.

[Reference: Note of 18 June 2025 (Paragraph 7)]

7 Hamilton Area Community Partnership Update

A report dated 27 August 2025 by the Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council was submitted providing an update on the progress of the Hamilton Area, details of which were attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

H Robertson, Community Development Officer provided an update on the:-

- ◆ issues highlighted in Appendix 1, which would be progressed in collaboration with the Community Development Officer and Progress Group
- ◆ Community Partnership Improvement Plan

Outcome(s): Progress update, as outlined at section 4.1. and Appendix 1 of the report, together with the intention to continue advancing those areas in collaboration with the Community Participation and Development Officer and the Progress Group, be noted.

[Reference: Note of 18 June 2025 (Paragraph 8)]

8 Community Planning Partnership Budget and Expenditure Report

A report dated 13 August 2025 by the Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council was submitted providing an update on the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) budget and expenditure for 2025/2026, as at 8 August 2025 (Period 5).

As outlined at Appendix 1 to the report, the total available for 2025/2026 was £89,651.14. This included a carry forward of £44,301.14 from the 2024/2025 budget and annual income of £45,350.

Appendix 1 also showed projected spend for the year of approximately £89,651.14 and actual expenditure at the end of Period 5 of £24,154.91.

It was proposed that the Board continue to invest in the Community Development Officer post until 31 March 2026, the cost of which could be met from the current budget with the costs being covered within the existing budget.

A further update on the CPP Budget would be provided at the next Board meeting.

- Outcome(s):** (1) Content of the report noted.
(2) Continued investment in the Community Development Officer's post on a full-time basis until 31 March 2026, be approved.

[Reference: Note of 18 June 2025 (Paragraph 9)]

9 Outcomes from the Community Planning Partnership Board Development Session 14 May 2025

A report dated 27 August 2025 by Interim Chief Executive Officer, Voluntary Action South Lanarkshire (VASLan) was submitted:-

- ◆ providing an update on the findings from the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board Development Day held on 14 May 2025.
- ◆ outlining the proposed actions aimed at strengthening collaboration between the CPP and Third Sector

Information was provided on:-

- ◆ the key findings from the Development Day in relation to:-
 - ◆ relationships and partnership working
 - ◆ representation and engagement
 - ◆ resources
 - ◆ information sharing and systems
 - ◆ co-designs and systems change
 - ◆ impact and evaluation
- ◆ the strategic development session and workshop jointly hosted by the Council and VASLan, which resulted in the production of a Third Sector Review Report that aimed to strengthen collaboration, transparency and sustainability

The chair thanked VASLan for facilitating the Development Day.

- Outcome(s):**
- (1) Establishment of a Third Sector annual development session with the CPP Board agreed.
 - (2) Review of Third Sector representation across all CPP structures to be completed.
 - (3) Promotion of Third Sector through local case studies and success stories to influence wider policy and funding models agreed.
 - (4) Promotion of co-designed planning and delivery with early and continuous Third Sector involvement agreed.

10 Community Plan Quarter 4 Progress Report 2024/2025 and Annual Outcomes Improvement Report

A report dated 27 August 2025 by the Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council was submitted advising of the progress made against the outcomes within the Community Plan 2022 to 2032 as at the end of March 2025.

The South Lanarkshire Community Plan 2022 to 2032, approved in June 2022, set out the priorities and ambitions for the Partnership over a 10-year period. The Quarter 4 Progress Report, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, detailed progress against all outcomes and the related interventions contained within the Community Plan to March 2025. A draft Annual Outcomes Improvement Report for 2024/2025 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 and blue, the latter of which indicated that the action to achieve change had been completed.

The report also detailed the key Partnership actions for 2024/2025 in relation to the priority themes.

There was discussion on the appropriate infrastructure requirements being in place to support housing developments.

The Director, Health and Social Care also responded to a question in relation to the arrangements in place for discharge of patients from Glasgow hospitals.

Outcome(s):

- (1) Progress made to date against the outcomes within the Community Plan as at the end of March 2025 noted.
- (2) Annual Outcomes Improvement Report 2024/2025 approved for publication by 30 September 2025.

[Reference: Note of 18 September 2024 (Paragraph 10)]

J Pravinkumar left the meeting during this item of business

11 Update on Neighbourhood Planning Across South Lanarkshire

A report dated 27 August 2025 by the Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council was submitted providing an update on neighbourhood planning activity across South Lanarkshire.

Neighbourhood planning activity was first initiated in South Lanarkshire in 2017, when the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board agreed to pilot the use of a new approach to neighbourhood planning. The aim of this work was to tackle inequalities and to improve outcomes for local people living in some of South Lanarkshire's most deprived areas. This work is planned and undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.

The Neighbourhood Planning Annual Progress Report 2024/2025 was attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

Information was provided on:-

- ◆ the progress of the roll out of Neighbourhood Planning in South Lanarkshire
- ◆ highlights of progress in each area
- ◆ the significant investment in Participatory Budgeting, as detailed in Appendix 3 to the report

Outcome(s):

- (1) Content of the report noted.
- (2) Progress made across each area noted.

[Reference: Note of 18 September 2024 (Paragraph 14)]

12 National Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board Self-Assessment Programme Local Outcomes

A report dated 27 August 2025 by the Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council was submitted on the local outcomes of the National Community Planning Partnership Self-Assessment Programme.

The Public Service Improvement Framework (PSIF) was a self-assessment approach managed by the Improvement Service. The key aim of self-assessment at this level was to support the CPP

Board to ensure that areas such as governance, accountability, leadership and performance management were fit for purpose to achieve the outcomes of the Community Plan.

Information was provided on:-

- ◆ self-assessment activity from 2016 to 2024
- ◆ the development of the draft Improvement Plan, attached as Appendix 1 to the report

Members were invited to provide any feedback on the draft Improvement Plan.

M Hill referred to section 2 of the Improvement Plan “Review what data is currently available in relation to inequalities across South Lanarkshire” and the population Health Framework, and proposed consideration to widening this area to include “health status”.

Outcome(s): Draft Improvement Plan approved for implementation, subject to consideration of the proposal in relation to section 2 of the Plan.

[Reference: Note of 18 September 2024 (Paragraph 8)]

13 Youth Forum on Climate Change and Sustainability Update

Report dated 27 August 2025 by the Executive Director (Education Resources), South Lanarkshire Council, was submitted advising of:-

- ◆ the progress of the Youth Forum’s action plan
- ◆ outcomes from the development session held on 23 October 2024
- ◆ arrangements for the development session to be held on 22 October 2025

Information was provided on:-

- ◆ the topics discussed at the development session on 23 October 2024 which were:-
 - ◆ the walk to school campaign
 - ◆ uniform recycling
 - ◆ community litter picks and clean ups
 - ◆ the Conference of Schools 3 (COS3) event held from 26 to 28 March 2025

Outcome(s):

(1)	That the content of the report be noted.
(2)	That developments from the Board session be noted and considered.
(3)	That the arrangements for the October Development Session be noted.
(4)	That the success of the Conference of Schools 3 (COS3) event be celebrated and noted.

[Reference: Note of 5 March 2025 (Paragraph 7)]

14 Community Planning Partnership Board Bulletin

The Community Planning Board Bulletin of 17 September 2025 was submitted providing information on: -

- ◆ Equally Safe South Lanarkshire: Preventing and Eradicating Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2025 to 2030
- ◆ South Lanarkshire Community Justice Partnership
- ◆ Partnership Approach to Water Safety (PAWS) Quarter 1 Report 2025/2026

Outcome(s): Noted.

[Reference: Note of 18 June 2025 (Paragraph 14)]

15 Community Planning Partnership Board 2026 Meeting/ Development Session Dates

A report dated 27 August 2025 by the Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council was submitted providing proposed dates for the Board meetings and development sessions for 2026.

The proposed Partnership Board/development session dates for 2026 were as follows:-

- ◆ Wednesday, 18 March 2026 (Board Meeting)
- ◆ Wednesday, 13 May 2026 (Board Development Session)
- ◆ Wednesday, 17 June 2026 (Board Meeting)
- ◆ Wednesday, 9 September 2026 (Board Meeting)
- ◆ Wednesday, 21 October 2026 (Board Development Session)
- ◆ Wednesday, 16 December 2026 (Board Meeting)

Outcome(s): Noted.

16 South Lanarkshire Register of Information

A report dated 27 August 2025 by the Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council was submitted providing a summary of information which had been circulated to Community Planning Partners between 24 May to 23 August 2025, as outlined in Appendix 1 to the report.

Outcome(s): Noted.

[Reference: Note of 18 June 2025 (Paragraph 15)]

17 Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Board would be held on Tuesday, 9 December 2025 at 1.00pm.

18 Any Other Competent Business

There were no other items of competent business.

Community Planning Partnership Board Executive Summary

Date of Meeting:	9 December 2025
Subject:	Community Partnerships Update
Report by:	Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council
Contact for Further Information:	Heather Robertson, Community Planning Community Development Officer, South Lanarkshire Community Planning Partnership Tel: 0303 123 1017 Email: heather.robertson2@southlanarkshire.gov.uk
Purpose of the Report:	♦ to provide the Partnership Board with an update on the progress of the four Community Partnerships.
Community Planning Delivery Partners:	All partners
Key Recommendations/ Decisions/Action Required from Partners:	The Board is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):- (1) that the Community Partnerships progress updates outlined at section 4 and in Appendices 1 and 2 and its intention to continue to progress these areas together with the Partnership's Community Development Officer and Progress Group, be noted.
Risks/Challenges:	Section 8 provides a summary of the risks and challenges as set out in the Partnership Risk Register relating to community participation and engagement.
Links to Community Plan Ambitions/Principles:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Ambition 1 - We will invest in people by finding ways to share power and resources. ♦ Ambition 2 - We will make progress by investing in learning together and how we can do things better. ♦ Ambition 3 - We will invest in our planet by putting local areas at the centre of our work. ♦ Principles: Communication and Empowerment; Embracing Change; and Openness and Trust.
Summary of Report:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Section 4 provides an update on current activity of the Community Partnerships. ♦ Appendix 1 provides an update on common areas across the four locality partnerships for information. ♦ Appendix 2 provides an update on engagement activity and work carried out to progress the Community Partnerships Development Plans.

Report

Report to:	Partnership Board
Date of Meeting:	9 December 2025
Report by:	Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council

Subject:	Community Partnerships Update
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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 of the four Community Partnerships.

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the Community Partnerships progress updates outlined at section 4 and in Appendices 1 and 2, and its intention to continue to progress these areas together with the Partnership's Community Development Officer and Progress Group, be noted.

3. Background

3.1. There are four locality partnerships (Cambuslang/Rutherglen, Clydesdale, East Kilbride and Hamilton) where community representatives Neighbourhood Planning areas, community councils and other community bodies come together to discuss common issues and report to the Community Planning Partnership on the discussions and look at improvement actions/options. An update on activity is detailed at section 4.

4. Current Update

4.1. Please find below the latest updates on activities within the four Community Partnership areas:

Cambuslang and Rutherglen Community Partnership:

Cambuslang and Rutherglen Community Partnership has met once since the last Board meeting. The purpose of the meeting which took place in October 2025 was to update and discuss progress to date and agree the next steps for moving forward.

- **Local Funding** – more funding opportunities required for smaller community groups. **Partner update:** The NHS Lanarkshire Funding and Development Officer who is based within the council's External Funding Team works closely with colleagues from VASLan to support registered charities to find funding opportunities. The following links to sources of funding have been provided.
- https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200168/getting_involved_in_your_community/1319/funding_for_community_groups_charities_and_businesses

- https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200168/getting_involved_in_your_community/596/community_grants
- <https://funding.scot/>
- **Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) process** – the partnership has requested an update on the changes to the PVG process from VASLan. **Partner Action:** VASLan will attend the Community Partnership meetings to share this information which is a continuous process as new members join the partnership.
- **Capacity Building** – work continues by the Community Development Officer to build capacity to support more local group representatives to attend and participate in Community Partnership meetings.
- **Participatory Budgeting (PB) process** – Following completion of this round of PB, the partnership requests that the process is evaluated early 2026.
- **Partner Action:** Stage one of a formal evaluation of the PB process will commence on 19 January 2026 and a short survey will be used to gather the views of people living in the ten neighbourhood planning areas and other stakeholders. The initial consultation will remain open for six weeks, enabling a variety of engagement methods to be used to maximise participation. The survey will be used to garner interest in the PB Advisory Group, and the findings of the survey will be used to influence the wider PB evaluation, which will be co-designed with local people.
- **Environmental Issues: Himalayan Balsam, Bankhead Pond, Rutherglen area** this has been highlighted as a water safety issue by the Bankhead Residents Group. The Himalayan Balsam is an invasive, non-native plant which grows in their local pond. Residents have highlighted this as a safety issue as children play near the pond, and its current growth means that it is difficult to see where the water in the pond begins and ends. **Partner Action:** We have had dialogue with the Council's Countryside and Greenspace Manager who is currently assessing the situation and will discuss this with the appropriate department.
- **Potholes, broken pavements and raised manhole covers, Bankhead, Rutherglen area** - These issues have been highlighted by the Bankhead Residents Association. For example, outside a property in Bankhead Road, Rutherglen, for the last few months, there have been cracked pavements, an elevated manhole with no cover and a fence surrounding it. Residents feel that these features are difficult to spot when its dark. **Partner Action:** Specific areas have been highlighted with the Council's Roads and Lighting Management Team to highlight the identified areas. Our colleagues at Roads are aware of a broken manhole cover on Bankhead Road at its junction with Watson Avenue, as this was reported to them by a Grounds colleague. The manhole cover was made safe the same day by placing traffic cones at it and reported immediately to BT as an urgent defect for them to attend to. Confirmation that the Roads Inspector checked the locus and confirms that BT have replaced the broken manhole cover.

4.2. **Clydesdale Community Partnership:**

- **Local Engagement:** The Partnership continues discussions covering locality maps for future community conversations and determining the priorities of the smaller rural communities that affect people's daily life.
- **Capacity Building Update:** The Community Development Officer is meeting as many local people, groups, partner agencies and organisations as possible sharing the unique opportunity, increasing awareness of statutory Community Planning Partnership duties and where local voices can be heard to influence change. Local members are being asked about their preferences which will help them better understand the CPP and how it can help them effect change. It has been suggested that there is a rotational Chair arrangement for the partnership and work continues to build that capacity.

Future Actions

Future actions all relate to the arrangements for meetings, learning and development, communications and improvement:

- Continue with changing the structure of meetings (supported by Third Sector Forums and smaller community conversations).
- The Community Partnership will review their Terms of Reference.
- Future Partnership Chair arrangements to be clarified.
- Members of the Partnership will be invited to identify any learning and development needs.
- The Community Partnership are focusing on communication and content for the CPP website.
- **Roads and Pavements:** Concerns about the poor condition of some pavements and roads with potholes. The areas identified are Clyde Street, at the roundabout and Wilton Road both within the Carluke area.

Partner Update: Roads and Transportation Services have inspected these roads and noted that there are no safety defects which require repair work at the current time. These roads will continue to be monitored as part of the road's prioritisation scheme.

New Housing Development: Residents of Carluke have compiled report outlining concerns about the Bellway Homes' housing application, which aims to build 304 units on the land. Residents asked for an update on the status of the application process and how these issues and objections are being acknowledged.

Partner Update: Planning's response: the application is still in its early stages and is being updated. The Head of Planning has contacted the resident who produced the report with assistance from local residents who gathered information about the potential impacts on the infrastructure; and informed them of the application's status. Updates will be provided as the process moves forwards.

Road/Traffic Survey: Carluke Community Council have asked for a local survey to be carried out on parking facilities within the town centre.

Partner Update: The Council's Roads and Transportation Services have submitted a funding bid to Transport Scotland in February 2025 under the Active Travel Tier 2 (Design) Fund. This bid included proposals to advance the priorities identified in the Active Travel Study for Carluke, with a particular focus on balancing the needs of all road users in the High Street and wider town centre. Should the bid be successful, Roads and Transportation Services anticipate appointing a consultant who would undertake a public consultation as part of their remit. The draft consultation would be incorporated into this.

- **Volunteering update:**
 - Volunteer recruitment is needed across many areas in Clydesdale. VASLan continue to support this and share volunteering opportunities across the whole sector.
 - **New Lanark Community Development Trust:** The Trust is looking for more volunteers to help support their service and activities throughout the year which includes multi-sensory story telling sessions, Christmas experience and many other activities. **Partner Action:** VASLan will support and share this opportunity helping identify any volunteers that might be interested in being involved in the project. They will also share this volunteering opportunity with other agencies who might have people looking to be involved in specific activities that this project provides.
 - **Kirkmuirhill and Blackwood Men's shed:** The Men's Shed are currently developing in Kirkmuirhill where they will continue to run their four day a week shed however are looking for more volunteers so that they can be open on more days and longer hours.
 - **Clydesdale Women's Shed:** The shed runs from Langloch Farm and is open three mornings a week Tuesday, Wednesday and Fridays, however, are looking for more volunteers to support so that they can be open on more days and longer hours.
 - **Duneaton Community Trust:** The Duneaton Community Trust continues to support rural regeneration and help facilitate projects with funds from windfarms and solar panels.
 - **Clydesdale Housing Association:** In response to local concerns about the number of churches and halls closing, the Housing Association has offered access to a room in their office that groups can use.
 - **New Housing Development Infrastructure** - Planning for new housing developments should consider the infrastructure that the community needs. This should be included as part of the development build.

4.3. **East Kilbride Community Partnership:**

- The Partnership's Community Development Officer continues to map all key groups in the locality and regularly carries out face-to-face and online communication of CPP objectives and activities with these groups through attendance at their meetings.
- Individual meetings with smaller groups have been highly successful and allowed the Community Development Officer to help directly with smaller issues that can be met by colleagues and partner agencies.
- When the Community Partnership come together, it has become apparent they are understanding processes, however there are many existing local issues that they would like to be resolved and want to be move involved in local decision making.
- The local Third Sector Network and all other local group meetings and platforms have been attended by the Community Development Officer. Members of these organisations have developed strong relationships with the partnership, and Healthy and Active have been helpful in hosting in-person meetings at their premises.
- **Neighbourhood Planning Priority Areas** – On 24 October 2025, East Kilbride South held an event to share the findings from the local consultation that was conducted to identify community issues, to establish themes for the Neighbourhood Plan and promote the delivery of activities that help solve local community issues. This event invited residents to rank the topics that they felt were most essential.

- **Litter and Fly Tipping:** Litter and fly tipping levels continue to be an issue.
Partner Update: Grounds and Waste Services will continue to assist with any areas identified for fly tipping or household bin issues. They are currently delivering a Litter Bin Replacement Programme across the East Kilbride area, which will remove all open pole mounted bins which are not fit for purpose and replace them with hooded free standing litter bins. This will increase capacity in the areas and provide a better bin infrastructure in the correct locations for use and servicing.
- **Roads and Pavements:** Concerns about the poor condition of some pavements and roads with potholes have been highlighted.
Partner Update: Discussions continue with the Council's Roads and Lighting Management Team to highlight local issues and challenges. The team has offered to attend the Hamilton Community Partnership meetings to discuss these issues and the current Roads Investment Programme.
- **Doctors Appointments:** Changes to the process for phoning to book doctors' appointments for a local medical group in the East Kilbride and Strathaven area have resulted in significant waiting times for patients for their call to be answered.
Partner update from East Kilbride HSCP: East Kilbride HSCP are looking into this and have advised that this is a new service model for booking appointments and due to this, there may be some initial issues.
- **Carers:** East Kilbride Seniors Forum are interested in having a speaker from HSCP to provide an update on the carers system and care packages.
Partner Update: The Chair from the East Kilbride HSCP has agreed to attend their next group meeting and share information.
- **Intergenerational Activities:** To foster better relationships between the Seniors Forum and young people, local clubs have invited some young people to participate and possibly become members.
Partner Update: The EK senior's forum has been contacted by East Kilbride Universal Connections and the East Kilbride Integration Team, who would like young people to visit them in their group settings to foster positive relationships. They want to collaborate, share activities, and comprehend what is important to young people.

4.4. **Hamilton Community Partnership:**

- Hamilton Area Community Partnership sessions have been conducted in smaller conversations.
- The partnership Community Development Officer continues to map all key groups in the locality and regularly carries out face-to-face and online communication of CPP objectives and activities with these groups through attendance at their meetings.
- **Housing** – Residents have highlighted that new Housing Developments continue to put a strain on local services. The Council's Planning Services have carried out extensive engagement with communities to inform the new Local Development Plan 3 and are aware of the issues raised.
- **Green spaces** – Issues raised include better use and maintenance of green spaces and the use of greenspace for housing developments. Green spaces currently used by local people need to be retained for local community use.
Partner update: Residents continue to engage on these issues with the Council's Planning Services.
- **Litter and Fly Tipping** – Litter and fly tipping levels continue to increase with lunchtime litter around schools and in main streets being of most concern.
Partner Action: The Grounds Maintenance Service are considering areas where there are high levels of litter and are investigating if a larger capacity hooded bin

would assist; and replacing the existing bin, if suitable. The service works closely with Education, various local schools and the South Lanarkshire Youth Forum on Climate Change and Sustainability to support all litter picking activities that they are undertaking. The Strutherhill and Birkenshaw Neighbourhood Planning Stakeholder Group were awarded Participatory Budgeting funding, to deliver a skip initiative and are hosting a community event called 'Our Place the Best Place' on 31 January 2026. The purpose of the event is to raise awareness and reduce the impact of fly tipping and encouraging collective community action to improve the physical environment. They hope that residents and partners will collaborate on the day and afterwards build a cleaner, greener neighbourhood. The project aims to help reduce fly tipping issues. The group are also talking to store owners about reducing the amount of packaging. Community Litter is a priority action for the South Lanarkshire Youth Forum on Climate Change and Sustainability. Activity has included local litter picks and highlighting this issue within their schools.

- **Roads and Pavements** - Concerns about the poor condition of some pavements and roads with potholes have been highlighted. **Partner Action:** Discussions continue with the Council's Roads and Lighting Management Team to highlight local issues and challenges. The team has offered to attend the Hamilton Community Partnership meetings to discuss these issues and the current Roads Investment Programme. Residents have been advised to report any repairs direct to the Roads and Transportation Service.

5. Common Areas of Activity

- 5.1. New priorities from the South Lanarkshire local Neighbourhood Plans for Cambuslang/Rutherglen and for the Hamilton and surrounding areas area are listed below. The Community Development Officer continues to align activities, addressing the top priorities as set out in their local plans:

Top five priorities: - Cambuslang/Rutherglen

1. More Leisure, Recreation Activities
2. Stronger and Better Communities
3. Play Park and Sports Park Improvements
4. Greater Community Safety
5. Physical Environment and Improvements

Top five priorities: - Hamilton/Larkhall/Blantyre

1. More Leisure, Recreation Activities
2. Greater Community Safety
3. Physical Environment and Improvements
4. Stronger and Better Communities
5. Easier to get around/easier to get about

- 5.2. Appendix 1 provides an update on the common areas of activity across the four locality partnerships for information. Appendix 2 sets out progress on the activities to deliver the Community Partnership Development Plan.

6. Employee Implications

- 6.1. The Partnership's Community Development Officer is contracted on a full-time basis until 31 March 2026. The development requirements of the volunteers and building community cohesion within the partnership continues to be an intensive area of work for the officer.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1. Delivery costs associated with the recruitment of the Partnership's Community Development Officer. This is funded through the Community Planning budget.

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. The main risks and challenges as set out in the Partnership Risk Register and Risk Control Plan relating to Community Engagement and Participation are set out in the table below. The Board is asked to note that this activity aligns with partnership mitigation actions and the Risk Control Plan. The information provided is an extract from the Risk Cards and more information is available from the Community Planning Team on request:-

Risk Card Reference	Risk Classification	Risk Summary
CPP/2018/001	Very High	Failure to achieve the outcomes of the Community Plan 2022 to 2032
CPP/2018/002	Very High	The CPP fail to engage effectively with communities (as required in the Community Empowerment Act and as a requirement to deliver the new Community Plan) in the planning, design and delivery of improved outcomes and inequalities

10. Integrated Impact Assessment and Consultation Requirements

- 10.1. There are no Integrated Impact Assessment implications associated with this report. This report is produced by the Community Partnership in consultation with its members.

Paul Manning
Chief Executive
South Lanarkshire Council

18 November 2025

Contact for Further Information:

If you would like further information, please contact:-

Heather Robertson, Community Planning Partnership Community Development Officer,
South Lanarkshire Community Planning Partnership

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Common Areas Identified Across All Four Community Partnerships

Further to an extensive period of face-to-face engagement with individuals and community groups across South Lanarkshire, the Community Development Officer has compiled a list of common areas for improvement across all localities. The officer will continue to work with partnership officers and community volunteers to better understand local issues and challenges, and to support the development of solutions:

- Roads and lighting
- Fly tipping, general waste issues
- Environmental issues
- Local funding opportunities
- Planning applications (infrastructure needs)
- Transport

New priorities from the local Neighbourhood Plans have been summarised and are listed below. The Community Development Officer continues to align activities, addressing the top priorities as set out in the local plans:

Top five priorities: - South Lanarkshire (as at October 2025):

1. More Leisure, Recreation Activities
2. Stronger and Better Communities
3. Greater Community Safety
4. Physical Environment and Improvements
5. Getting around and moving about

Community Partnership Development Plan

Engagement activity and work carried out to progress the Community Partnership's Development Plan continues. The following provides an update on progress to date: -

- **Communications** – each Community Partnership now has their own identity; web pages have been developed for all Community Partnerships. Partnerships receive monthly information updates on national policy and strategy and local activity and events of interest to their wider communities. We continue to share any updates and events on individual localities pages.
- **Community Leadership** – The Community Development Officer continues to engage with local organisations and groups to build capacity and increase local awareness of the partnerships. This has led to an increase in the number of new members joining the partnership. Immediate benefits for members have been achieved by introducing groups and organisations to each other, exchanging good practice, information, and offers to support each other. Work continues to have all four Partnerships represented on the Community Planning Partnership Strategic Board. They have all agreed this is a priority action and work will continue to support potential/current Chairs/Depute Chairs to participate at that level.
- **Data and profiling** – review of the Neighbourhood Planning Profiles; Deprivation Profiles; and the Deprivation Heat Maps. These are all longer-term actions.
- **Good Governance** – All partnership Terms of Reference documents are currently being reviewed by the partnerships. The self-assessment process has highlighted several areas for improvement in terms of supporting Community Partnership volunteers, including improving induction arrangements. Work has started to co-produce an induction process and materials for new members.
- **Monitoring and reporting** – The development of a Community Partnership Performance and Reporting Framework is a longer-term action and will be aligned with planned evaluation work in Neighbourhood Planning areas.
- **Statutory Remit** – To date, the Community Development Officer continues to meet local people, groups, partner agencies and organisations, increasing awareness of statutory CPP duties and sharing the opportunities presented through the partnerships, where local voices can be heard to enable change.
- **Volunteers** – Continuing to ask local members about their preferences will help them better understand the CPP and how it can help them effect change. Work continues to support volunteers to participate in Community Planning and a learning and development survey has been developed to better understand the needs of volunteers. A learning and development plan will be created from the feedback for delivery with support from partners.

Community Planning Partnership Board Executive Summary

Date of Meeting:	9 December 2025
Subject:	Community Planning Partnership Budget and Expenditure Report
Report by:	Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council
Contact for Further Information:	Jen Kerr, Community Engagement Manager, South Lanarkshire Council Tel: 0303 123 1017 Email: Jennifer.Kerr1@southlanarkshire.gov.uk
Purpose of the Report:	♦ to provide the Partnership Board with an update on the Community Planning Partnership Budget and Expenditure as of 31 October 2025 (Period 8).
Community Planning Delivery Partners:	All partners
Key Recommendations/ Decisions/Action Required from Partners:	The Board is asked to approve the following recommendations:- (1) that the content of the report be noted; and (2) that the Board continue to invest in the Community Partnership Development Officer's post on a full-time basis until 31 March 2027 (sections 5.3 to 5.4.), be approved.
Risks/Challenges:	There are no risks/challenges associated with this report.
Links to Community Plan Ambitions/Principles:	♦ All ambitions/principles.
Summary of Report:	♦ Section 4 details the budget for the year, projected spend, and actual expenditure as of 31 October 2025 (also see Appendix 1).

Report

Report to:	Partnership Board
Date of Meeting:	9 December 2025
Report by:	Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council

Subject:	Community Planning Partnership Budget and Expenditure Report
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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 of 31 October 2025 (Period 8).

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the content of the report be noted; and
- (2) that the Board continue to invest in the Community Partnership Development Officer's post on a full-time basis until 31 March 2027 (sections 5.3. to 5.4.), be approved.

3. Background

3.1. Details of the South Lanarkshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Budget and Expenditure are reported to every Partnership Board meeting. This provides 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 2025/2026 is £89,651. This consists of a funding balance carried forward of £44,301 and the annual income of £45,350.
- 4.2. The actual expenditure at the end of Period 8 is £36,669. Appendix 1 provides a breakdown.
- 4.3. An exercise has been undertaken to forecast the anticipated spend for the current financial year. This shows an expected underspend of £19,211. Details of this can be found in Appendix 1 and a proposal for the underspend has been set out in section 5.4.
- 4.4. The underspend relates to progressing the work of the Community Plan and Marmot Place Programme resulting in an impact on the spend lines for Community Planning Delivery, Community Planning Events, Printing and Stationery and Learning and Development. External funding sources have been available to deliver Neighbourhood Planning activity and the Early Years Marmot project. As a result of using more efficient approaches to how learning and development activity will be delivered, there will be less spend on this budget line and less in-person events will be organised than originally anticipated. These have a direct impact on the requirement for printed materials and other general costs. There will

also be an underspend of £2,500 in relation to the Lived Experience Fund due to some applications not meeting the set criteria.

5. Income and Expenditure during 2025/2026

5.1. Specific spend within this period relates to the costs for the Community Development Officer post and contribution to the Youth Climate and Nature Delivery Plan.

5.2. Community Partnership Development Officer

Following approval by the Board at its meeting on 17 September 2025, £12,000 has been realigned from the 'Community Plan Delivery' budget line to the 'Salaries' budget line to continue the work of the Community Partnership Development Officer (CPDO) on a full-time basis until the end of March 2026. The Partnership Update Reports outline the significant progress that the officer is making with community volunteers and partners to strengthen and develop the partnerships and to identify and resolve local issues. There also continues to be national interest in this approach. Partnerships are at a critical stage of their development.

5.3. As the current contract is due to come to an end on 31 March 2026, the Board is asked to consider continuing this work on a full-time basis until the end of March 2027. The cost of this is estimated to be circa £56,000 which is an increase of approximately £4,000 from 2025/2026 due to a 3.5% increment and an increase from 6.5% to 17.5% in pension contribution rates.

5.4. As mentioned in section 4.3, it is anticipated that there will be an underspend of £19,211 for the current financial year. This can be carried forward into next year and could be added to next year's budget. Together with the partner contributions of £45,350 would provide a budget of approximately £65,000 for 2026/2027. Should the Board approve the extension of the Community Partnership Development Officer's salary of £56,000 for 12 months, this would leave approximately £9,000 remaining to meet other costs. This is deemed sufficient for the remaining costs of the Community plan next year with the focus on investment in costs for a Community Partnerships Development Officer post to continue to develop the Community Partnerships. Existing partnership resources will be reshaped to continue to deliver the Marmot Programme.

6. CPP Budget 2025/2026

6.1. A further update will be provided at the next meeting of the Partnership Board on 18 March 2026.

7. Employee Implications

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

8. Financial Implications

8.1. The financial implications are detailed in Sections 4 and 5 of this report.

9. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

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 are no risk issues associated with this report.

11. Integrated Impact Assessment and Consultation Requirements

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

Paul Manning
Chief Executive
South Lanarkshire Council

18 November 2025

Contact for Further Information:

If you would like further information, please contact:-

Jen Kerr, Community Engagement Manager, South Lanarkshire Council

Tel: 0303 123 1017

Email: Jennifer.Kerr1@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Appendix 1

Community Planning Budget 2025/2026				
Opening Balance April 2025		£44,301	£44,301	£44,301
Income 2025/2026				
Partner Contributions		Budget	Forecast	Actual to Date (31 Oct 2025)
NHS Lanarkshire		£18,350	£18,350	£18,350
South Lanarkshire Council		£22,000	£22,000	£22,000
Police Scotland		£5,000	£5,000	£5,000
Total Income		£45,350	£45,350	£45,350
Total Available Funding 2025/2026		£89,651	£89,651	£89,651
		£	£	£
Expenditure 2025/2026		Proposed Expenditure	Forecast	Expenditure (31 Oct 2025)
Community Plan Delivery		£8,000	£1,523	£1,470
Community Planning Events		£5,000	£1,917	£971
Learning and Development		£5,000	£2,000	£65
Lived Experience Fund		£13,500	£11,000	£3,500
Printing/Stationery/General		£6,000	£2,000	£121
Salaries		£52,000	£52,000	£30,542
Travel		£151	£0	£0
Total Expenditure		£89,651	£70,440	£36,669
(Over)/ under spend		£0	£19,211	£52,982

Community Planning Partnership Board Executive Summary

Date of Meeting:	9 December 2025
Subject:	Lived Experience Fund 2025 Applications
Report by:	Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council
Contact for Further Information:	Dana Brady, Tackling Poverty and Inequalities Officer, South Lanarkshire Council Tel: 0303 123 1017 Email: dana.brady@southlanarkshire.gov.uk
Purpose of the Report:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ advise the Partnership Board of the Lived Experience Fund applications received from the second funding campaign of 2025; and ♦ the allocation of funding from the 2025 Lived Experience Fund Budget.
Community Planning Delivery Partners:	All partners
Key Recommendations/Decisions/Action Required from Partners:	The Board is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):- that the Lived Experience Fund applications from the second funding campaign for 2025 awarded as set out in Appendix 1 of this report be approved.
Risks/Challenges:	Risks identified in the Partnership Risk Register that are associated with the impacts of financial challenges are set out in section 8.
Links to Community Plan Ambitions/Principles:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Ambition 1 - We will invest in people by finding ways to share power and resources. ♦ Ambition 2 - We will make progress by investing in learning together and how we can do things better. ♦ Ambition 3 - We will invest in our planet by putting local areas at the centre of our work. <p>Principles: Communication and Empowerment; Embracing Change; and Openness and Trust.</p>
Summary of Report:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ 11 successful Lived Experience Fund applications have been submitted for approval. ♦ Feedback reports from the successful applicants will be shared with the Progress Group and the Board. ♦ Following approval of these applications, the full budget will have been spent.

Report

Report to:	Partnership Board
Date of Meeting:	9 December 2025
Report by:	Chief Executive South Lanarkshire Council

Subject:	Lived Experience Fund 2025 Applications
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ advise the Partnership Board of the Lived Experience Fund applications received from the second funding campaign for 2025; and
- ◆ the allocation of funding from the 2025 Lived Experience Fund Budget

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the Lived Experience Fund applications from the second funding campaign for 2025, awarded as set out in Appendix 1 of this report be approved.

3. Background

3.1. The Lived Experience Fund is to support organisations in capturing the lived experience of residents to help inform Community Planning Partnership service delivery and policy development. Engaging with local people in this way can help to ensure that:

- there is equality and dignity for all;
- services and activities are relevant to local needs;
- communities can voice their opinions and identify what works and what doesn't;
- everyone feels valued and included;
- sense of community is improved;
- sense of control and influence strengthened in local communities;
- collective action is promoted; and
- people are empowered to deliver effective interventions in their own lives and in that of their communities.

3.2. This money can only be used to capture the views and experiences of people who live in South Lanarkshire and who experience poverty, inequalities and/or deprivation. The money can be used for example:-

- cost of living support for community groups
- activities for youth
- food growing
- support for older people.

- 3.3. All applications need 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. The first round of funding from the Lived Experience Fund was approved by the Board on 25 June 2025. 11 successful applications were submitted from various community organisations and received £500 each.
- 3.5. A total of £13,500 was allocated to the Lived Experience Fund for 2025. Following phase 1 in June, £5,500 was divided equally between the 11 applicants leaving a total of a further £8,000 to be spent.
- 3.6. Following approval by the Board for a further phase of funding, an invitation to apply opened on 6 October 2025 and closed on 31 October 2025. All applications were acknowledged and assessed against standard criteria.

4. Application Approval

- 4.1. 14 applications were received. Officers worked with applicants who had submitted applications that didn't meet the required criteria on first submission and provided support with submissions where required.
- 4.2. Overall, three applications were refused, one who applied and was successful in phase 1; and 2 who applied for ongoing running costs which does not meet the funding criteria. The remaining 11, met the full criteria for approval by the Board.
- 4.3. The Board are asked to approve the list of applications at Appendix 1. A range of methods will be used to gather feedback – this will include working closely with successful applicants who will return their feedback forms which will include information on their project and the individuals/families that they work with, how the funds were spent, and how many people were engaged in delivery of the project.
- 4.4. Further information on the individual applications is available to the Board on request.

5. Employee Implications

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

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. The current position of the Lived Experience funding allocation for 2025/26 is as follows:-

Total allocation for Lived Experience Fund 2025/26	£13,500
Lived Experience Funding approved	£5,500
Lived Experience Funding approved (pending approval)	£5,500
Remaining balance	£2,500

7. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

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

8. Other Implications

- 8.1. The main risks and challenges as set out in the Partnership Risk Register and Risk Control Plan relating to Financial Challenges are set out in the table below. The Board is asked to note that this activity aligns with partnership mitigation actions and the Risk Control Plan. The information provided is an extract from the Risk Cards, and more information is available from the Community Planning Team on request:

Risk Card Reference	Risk Classification	Risk Summary
CPP/2018/001	Very High	Failure to achieve the outcomes of the Community Plan 2022 to 2032
CPP/2018/002	Very High	Ineffective engagement and collaborative working with communities

9. Integrated Impact Assessment and Consultation Requirements

- 9.1. There are no Impact Assessment Requirements associated with this report. The Lived Experience Fund is a method of community consultation. Feedback from both the applicant and the individuals/families that they work will be used to inform local policy and service delivery. This feedback will be reported to the Community Planning Progress Group for any proposed actions/potential interventions and then to the Community Planning Partnership Board.

Paul Manning
Chief Executive
South Lanarkshire Council

18 November 2025

Contact for Further Information:

If you would like further information, please contact:-

Dana Brady, Tackling Poverty and Inequalities Officer, South Lanarkshire Council
Tel: 0303 123 1017
Email: dana.brady@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Appendix 1
Lived Experience Fund Applicants 2025

App. No.	Applicant	Amount requested	Purpose of Grant	Amount awarded
001	Douglas Valley Men's Shed	£500	The group plan to host a Community Engagement Day where they will share updates and plans for the development of the Men's Shed/encourage support and participation. A one-day event is planned for February 2026, and the space will be fully accessible and inclusive, and encourage collaboration across all generations to bring together older adults and young people. It is open to the wider Douglas Valley communities and plans include a community garden space for growing vegetables and a variety of fruit trees. There are plans to provide shared learning experiences that will teach new skills from old to young and young to old.	£500
002	East Kilbride Boot Camp (EKBC) Community Interest Company	£500	The group plan to host health and fitness wellbeing sessions that will help people on low income and with mental health issues attend the sessions. They will be tailored to each individual and will be run to make them feel confident and gain life skills. These sessions are designed for individuals with long-term health conditions, single parents, and families with low incomes. They provide a non-judgmental environment where participants can build confidence, meet new friends, and develop life skills.	£500
003	Fernhill Kids Playscheme, Rutherglen	£500	The group plan to hold activities for parents, carers and children in the local community hall including hiring of play equipment to encourage what the pros and cons are of their area and what leisure activities will benefit their area.	£500
004	Fairhill Residents Association, Hamilton	£500	The group plan to host a community café for the local Fairhill residents, providing fresh and nutritious food to enhance health and wellbeing and provide a warm safe space for residents to connect. This space will provide a space to be open and talk about what matters to local people.	£500
005	Life Well Lived Biggar	£500	Life Well Lived Biggar will use the information gathered from this project to better understand the lived experiences, needs, and priorities of	£500

App. No.	Applicant	Amount requested	Purpose of Grant	Amount awarded
			<p>participants in the Fun and Friendship group, the Gillespie Centre, and the wider Biggar community. Feedback from facilitated discussions, creative exercises, and digital forms will help to identify what aspects of their activities are most meaningful, what barriers prevent participation, and where additional support is needed. This information will directly inform the design and delivery of their programmes, enabling them to tailor sessions to reduce social isolation, build confidence, and foster intergenerational connections. By understanding the challenges participants face—including health conditions, bereavement, or social disadvantage—they can ensure that each session is inclusive, therapeutic, and responsive to the real needs of the community. Additionally, the findings will be used to produce an anonymised report with key themes and practical recommendations for local service providers and community planners, demonstrating how grassroots organisations like Life Well Lived Biggar contribute to tackling deprivation, poverty, and inequality in the area. Sharing the insights back with participants will also empower them, showing that their voices influence the services and support available locally.</p>	
006	Loaves and Fishes, East Kilbride	£500	<p>The group plan to host cooking classes whilst contributing to the reduction of social isolation, and concurrent provision of access to housing, benefits and health services. The cooking seminar will encourage people in poverty to make healthier meals from basic supplies.</p>	£500

App. No.	Applicant	Amount requested	Purpose of Grant	Amount awarded
007	Supporting Our Community (SOC), Hamilton	£500	The group plan to host stress prevention workshops, one session a month for three months. This will be a workshop that specifically targets both unpaid carers and those working in care. The objectives are to share skills in mindfulness, breathing techniques and simple exercises such as Yoga which can provide useful tools to people working in care with little support, as this can be a very difficult role and compassion fatigue is very common. They will use the information that they learn from this project to inform their regular activities, many of which include people who are working in care, unpaid carers or receiving care and support. They hope to evaluate which of these techniques people respond to the most and find the most effective and find ways to then spread these positive skills and tools further in the community.	£500
008	Trust Jack Foundation, Hamilton Locality	£500	The group aim to target people and families experiencing financial hardship, especially those currently using food banks and community kitchens. The project will provide four events a year (quarterly) to encourage residents out of the house to enjoy other people's company and make new friends. This will allow them to socialise as they are unable to do so which affect mental health being isolated and lonely. The information collected from this project will be used to assess the effectiveness of their support, inform future planning, and demonstrate impact to funders and partners. Specifically: 1. Assess Community Needs: Feedback will help them to us understand the challenges faced by individuals and families experiencing food insecurity and identify the types of support most beneficial to them. 2. Monitor and Measure Impact: They will record the number of people supported, the frequency of assistance, and the types of food and drinks distributed. This data will allow them to evaluate whether the project is reaching those most in need and achieving its objectives.	£500

App. No.	Applicant	Amount requested	Purpose of Grant	Amount awarded
009	Waist Not Want Not, East Kilbride	£500	The group would like to offer a Christmas lunch/afternoon tea and social gathering for older people and vulnerable members of their community, people with disabilities and people experiencing poverty. They will have conversations with people with lived experience around "Christmas past".	£500
010	Whitlawburn Community Resource Centre, Cambuslang	£500	The group would like to provide small meat parcels to support local families over the Christmas period, particularly during the two weeks when the centre will be closed as well as a Free Christmas Lunch event. This will be offered to a mix of families, single people, and elderly residents. The organisation will use the information collected from this project to evaluate its impact on the community, including the reach and effectiveness of our support. This data will help identify needs, improve future services, plan resources more effectively, and demonstrate outcomes to stakeholders and funders.	£500
011	Glespin Community Group SCIO	£500	The group would like to deliver two seasonal workshops designed to support residents to provide hands-on experiences that promote wellbeing, creativity, and connection to nature using sustainable materials. Insights and feedback gathered will be used to evaluate impact on wellbeing, social connection and engagement, identify barriers to participation, tailor future workshops to the needs and interests of the community, provide evidence of community benefit and demand for funding applications and share learning.	£500

Community Planning Partnership Board Executive Summary

Date of Meeting:	9 December 2025
Subject:	East Kilbride South Neighbourhood Plan Update
Report by:	Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council
Contact for Further Information:	Jen Kerr, Community Development Manager, South Lanarkshire Council Jennifer.kerr1@southlanarkshire.gov.uk
Purpose of the Report:	♦ to present the East Kilbride South Neighbourhood Plan to the Partnership Board.
Community Planning Delivery Partners:	All partners
Key Recommendations/ Decisions/Action Required from Partners:	The Board is asked to approve the following recommendation(s): (1) that the content of the report be endorsed.
Risks/Challenges:	There are no risks or challenges associated with this report.
Links to Community Plan Ambitions/Principles:	♦ All ambitions/principles.
Summary of Report:	♦ Section 4 presents the East Kilbride South Neighbourhood Plan.

Report

Report to:	Partnership Board
Date of Meeting:	9 December 2025
Report by:	Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council

Subject:	East Kilbride South Neighbourhood Plan Update
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:

- ◆ present the East Kilbride South Neighbourhood Plan to the Partnership Board.

2. Recommendation(s)

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

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

3. Background

- 3.1. The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 places a statutory duty on Community Planning Partnerships (CPP) to identify smaller areas within the local authority area which experience the poorest outcomes and to prepare and publish locality plans to improve outcomes on agreed priorities for these communities. These plans are required to set out clear priorities for improving local outcomes and tackling inequalities which are agreed by the CPP and the community.
- 3.2. The guidance outlines that participation with communities must lie at the heart of Community Planning and that the partners must engage with the communities identified. This must be more than just consultation and should involve active engagement and empowerment. We meet these duties through collaborative neighbourhood planning with residents.
- 3.3. At its meeting on 3 March 2021, the Board agreed to develop new neighbourhood planning arrangements within the East Kilbride locality and the council's Community Engagement Team were asked to consider the areas of Crosshouse, Greenhills and Whitehills. The Board also agreed that this plan would also have a Child Poverty focus.
- 3.4. A full analysis of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) data at data zone level by ward across South Lanarkshire was completed in 2019 as part of the development of Neighbourhood Planning activity and continues to be maintained and was used to identify the East Kilbride South area which is ranked amongst the lowest SIMD areas within East Kilbride.
- 3.5. This report presents the Neighbourhood Plan for the East Kilbride South neighbourhood for 2025-2026.

4. The Development of the Plan

- 4.1. A Stakeholder Group was established in August 2023. This group carried out a community engagement process to involve residents and raise awareness of the group.
- 4.2. The Engagement work included:
 - An online survey opened on 31 October 2023
 - Door-to-door consultations in the Whitehills
 - Community Engagement Team met local residents in public venues and spaces, 'popping up' with banners and iPads and reminder cards
 - Met with children at local primary schools in April 2024 to gather their experiences of living in the area and what they would like to see in the future.
 - Heathy and Active, round of surveys - 'What matters to you?'
- 4.3. By May 2024, a total of 781 community views were recorded in survey responses.
- 4.4. Over the spring/summer of 2024, the local library and the community hall were announced as at risk of closure and the local community came together to undertake an asset transfer through Loaves and Fishes charity.
- 4.5. This process supported the growth of the community led Stakeholder Group in September 2024 with a total of 8 eight local groups and community stakeholders participating in the group alongside officers.
- 4.6. Analysis of the data gathered from the community were organised into themes and presented back to the community in October 2025 through a survey and a community event. Residents ranked the identified themes from 1 to 11 in order of priority and to identify what action should be taken to address the themes and priorities.
- 4.7. This information was analysed in line with the survey analysis and was presented to the stakeholders for and approved at its meeting in November 2025 as the Neighbourhood Plan for East Kilbride South.

5 The East Kilbride Neighbourhood Plan

- 5.1. The East Kilbride Neighbourhood Plan is attached as Appendix 1 in its accessible format.
- 5.2. The 11 priority themes, identified and resident ranked by importance, are as follows:
 - 1 Outdoor Green Spaces
 - 2 Play Park Improvements
 - 3 Community Activities
 - 4 Local Economy
 - 5 Health and Wellbeing
 - 6 Community Safety
 - 7 Housing
 - 8 Sporting Activities and Facilities
 - 9 Transport and Connectivity
 - 10 Community Halls and Community Facilities; and
 - 11 Cleaner Community
- 5.3. Through the second phase of engagement asking local people to suggest how priorities could be achieved, a common thread of 'affordability' was noticeable. Comments were made in relation to affordable activities for children and young people,

affordable hall lets, affordable housing and to tackle poverty by having access to outdoor play areas which are free to use.

- 5.4 Further demographic and data work will continue to provide more information and context to each of the community's priorities to inform the actions of the plan.
- 5.5 Investigations into the top two priorities to date has identified that there is an inequality of access to play spaces and outdoor spaces across East Kilbride South: There are 16 play parks in East Kilbride South, 12 of which (75%) are in Lindsayfield which is the least deprived community and the lowest rate of children living in low-income households. Whereas only 4 play facilities (25%) are in the Greenhills, Whitehills and Crosshouse areas, one of which is indoors. These areas are where the majority of under 16s live in the East Kilbride South ward and are the most deprived data zones in the ward.

6 Participatory Budgeting (PB) 2025

- 6.1. In 2025, £12,000 was invested into the East Kilbride South neighbourhood through Participatory Budgeting.
- 6.2. Healthy and Active ran a £7,000 PB programme on behalf of the Stakeholder Group in March 2025. This was funded by the Can-Do Community Grant funding by on behalf of the Stakeholder Group to build momentum around the Neighbourhood Plan. There was an in-person community voting event in March 2025, further to an online vote, whereby applicants presented their ideas, and final voting took place. The successful applicants were notified at the end of the event.
- 6.3 In June 2025, a further £5,000 of Participatory Budgeting funding was opened for applications through the South Lanarkshire Council place-based Participatory Budgeting programme. The outcome of the public vote was announced in August 2025.
- 6.4. Details of PB awards can be found at Appendix 2.

6. Next Steps

- 6.1. The Stakeholder Group will decide a schedule of regular meetings to ensure momentum behind the delivery of the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 6.2. An action plan for the delivery of the plan will be designed and agreed by the Stakeholder Group.
- 6.3. The digital design of the Neighbourhood Plan will be created and agreed by the Stakeholder Group for publishing on the Community Planning Partnership website.
- 6.4. A launch event to celebrate the Neighbourhood Plan will be planned by the Stakeholder Group to share with the local community.
- 6.5. The Stakeholder Group will engage with relevant partners and officers around the delivery of the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 6.8. The Neighbourhood Plan has been kept on the agenda of the Child Poverty Partnership Group, and the emerging themes will be presented to the group in the new year, with a view to identifying where partners can support and inform activity in relation to the priorities. Locally based staff from partner organisations will be encouraged to engage with the Stakeholder Group to help identify and inform Neighbourhood Plan actions.

7. Employee Implications

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

8. Financial Implications

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

9. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

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

10. Other Implications

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

11. Integrated Impact Assessment and Consultation Requirements

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

Paul Manning
Chief Executive
South Lanarkshire Council

02 December 2025

Contact for Further Information:

If you would like further information, please contact:

Jen Kerr, Community Engagement Manager, South Lanarkshire Council
Jennifer.kerr1@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Louise Williamson, Community Development Officer, South Lanarkshire Council
Tel: 0303 123 1017
Louise.williamson@southlanarkshire.gov.uk



Our Neighbourhood Plan for East Kilbride South Year One 2025-2026

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

This report sets out priorities and themes identified by East Kilbride South residents in the East Kilbride South Neighbourhood Plan survey which closed in May 2024 with 781 community views responses recorded.

Introduction

Local community stakeholders have shaped this process by utilising local knowledge to capture community views. This has been a combination of local community residents alongside representatives from key local agencies and organisations.

It is encouraged to review the actions set out within this plan on a yearly basis. This is the first phase of longer-term developments in our community.

You will see we have used the data gathered through the survey to set 11 priority themes for action for the East Kilbride South neighbourhood.

For this plan to work it needs the commitment of every resident, every worker, volunteer or elected member in the area can help to bring about change and help us make the most of our shared resources – our people and our place. You can help in many ways by telling others about what's going on, by joining the stakeholder's group or the working groups to take forward some of the actions in the plan or simply enjoy and take part in what's happening around you.

Challenging Child Poverty in East Kilbride South

After nearly a decade of increases since 2014/2015 the rate of relative child poverty in South Lanarkshire fell last year by -4.1%, with the current rate (19.5% in 2023/2024) now at the lowest level recorded for more than 10 years.

The impact of child poverty in East Kilbride South becomes more evident at a local level, compared to higher geographies such as council wards. While East Kilbride has the lowest share of deprived data zones of the 4 partnership areas in terms of multiple deprivation (SIMD), it records the second largest share of the 4 areas, for data zones with a rate of child poverty above the Scottish average. The East Kilbride South ward includes data zones that rank among the highest in South Lanarkshire for child poverty (or children in relative low income families), with areas of the ward such as Greenhills, Whitehills and Crosshouse, particularly affected. There are 6 child poverty priority groups: large families with 3 or more children, single parent households, families with children under 1, families with disabled children or disabled parents with children, ethnic minority families with children and young mothers under 25 with children. The priorities identified by our young people and family hub centres will be delivered in a co-ordinated approach with the Marmot Place Programme.

Taking this into account, there has been an additional focus on engagement with children and young people as detailed below.

Information

This Neighbourhood Plan has been informed by extensive community engagement carried out between August 2023 and October 2025 the process involved:

- An asset map of the community was produced to highlight the great work already ongoing within the community.

- Community Engagement Team attended 3 local primary schools in April 2024, Crosshouse Primary School, St Vincent's Primary School and South Park Primary School. The young people were assisted in the classroom to complete the survey on their views of their local community.
- Several meetings with local residents and representatives from key organisations in the area to design the engagement.
- A community survey delivered door to door which covered all households within Greenhills, Whitehills and Crosshouse.
- Healthy and Active (third sector stakeholder partner) undertook a further round of surveys 'What matters to you' with 42 local views which will be incorporate into the evidence base.
- Local stakeholders promoted the opportunity through their networks.
- Community voting event and survey for the local community to vote on their top priorities and suggest action for how this priority can be achieved.

Thank you to everyone who took part.

- (Male 40% & Female 60%) 451 F 292 M 12 Prefer not to say
- 781 residents took part
- 42 residents took part in "what matters to you" survey

A further 54 residents voted on their local priorities and suggestions on how this priority can be achieved.

Survey findings

What people like about their local community

1. Parks and recreational spaces
Parks, children's play areas, pitches for community use for football and rugby.
2. Housing and Community Safety
Quiet, safe, clean/tidy housing that feels safe.
3. Community spirit
Friends, family and neighbours are important.
4. Local economy
Access to local shops and supermarket East Kilbride town centre and retail parks.
5. Community spirit
Community spirit - friendly, peaceful people.
6. Outdoor green spaces
Outdoor green spaces, including nature trails, paths, walking routes and access to the countryside.
7. Community assets and facilities
Community hall, library, Waist Not Want Not community space, Village Theatre, Bowling Club, Art Centre, churches, and the community activities enjoyed within these facilities. Community activities: community groups, toddler groups, sewing group and older peoples groups.
8. Sporting activities and facilities
Sporting activities and facilities for football, swimming, ice skating, cycling, skate park, gymnastics.
9. Education
Local schools and nurseries.
10. Transport and connectivity
Good transport links, roads and parking facilities and proximity to amenities.

What people would say are useful or valuable resources within the community

1. Sporting activities and facilities
Sporting facilities: such as football, swimming, ice skating, boxing and rugby.
2. Outdoor green spaces
Local parks, sports pitches, woodlands and walking routes.
3. Local economy
Local shops, dessert shops, supermarkets and restaurants.
4. Community spirit
Friends, School, Family and community spirit.
5. Community safety
Safe spaces to play and feeling safe in the community.
6. Community assets and facilities
Local library and community hall.
7. Community events and activities
Community events for all, activities for younger people, toddlers and older people. Clubs for young people.
8. Health and Wellbeing
Access to local health centre and dentist.
9. Education
Local schools and nurseries.

10. Transport and connectivity

Good public transport links, roads and parking facilities.

Third Sector partner Healthy and Active East Kilbride undertook consultation in the community with the support of local charity Waist Not Want Not to explore 'what matters to you' in East Kilbride South. There were 41 responses from local community members, the below table outlines the outcome of this engagement.

Friends and Family	23%
Community	20%
Mental Health Groups	11%
Health and Wellbeing	9%
Exercise Groups	9%
Activity Groups	8%
Community Spaces for Groups	7%
Inclusivity	4%
Socialising	3%
Warm/safe spaces	3%
Animal Welfare	1%
Activities for younger children	1%
Volunteering	1%

Friends and family, community and mental health groups are the 3 most commented as to what matters most to the local community.

The locally identified themes from the survey analysis were presented back to the community in October 2025 with an opportunity for local people to vote on the order of importance to rank the themes from 1 to 11 to prioritise these local themes. The community was therefore asked to identify what action should be taken address the themes and priorities.

The outcome of this engagement is listed below showing the local themes in order of importance with the suggested action to be taken.

1. Outdoor Green Spaces
More trees, flowers and improvements to the natural environment. Better upkeep of greenspaces and nature walks. Improved access to outdoor spaces. More community gardens. Protection of the greenbelt from future house building.
2. Play Park Improvements
More parks which are regularly maintained. Inspect the parks and replace broken equipment when required. Tackle poverty by having free outdoor play areas for children to use. Upgrade play equipment in play areas and include accessible equipment.
3. Community Activities
Access to funding for groups to tackle loneliness and isolation. Local authority funded activities and programmes for people in the community. Affordable or free clubs and activities for children and families. Social groups for the elderly. Family events. Activities and clubs for children after working hours. Youth clubs for teenagers.
4. Local Economy
More local shops such as greengrocers and cafes. More local family run businesses. Rewards for shopping local. Adequate parking in the shopping areas.
5. Health and Wellbeing
Improved access to GP appointments. Booking systems for GP appointments to support working people. Better mental health services for the elderly. Increased support for Additional Supports Needs. Improved Transport links to health services. More NHS dentists.
6. Community Safety
Increased local police presence – engage with local teenagers. More security for homes – action for those who can't afford ring doorbells in high crime areas. Neighbourhood watch scheme. Host Community Safety Awareness Day. Improved street lighting. Better street lighting in Greenhills Square. Remove large bushes on sides of paths.

7. Housing
More housing - especially social and affordable. Availability of bigger family homes. Social housing for families and young couples. Repairs to social houses.
8. Sporting Activities and Sporting Facilities
Outdoor fitness park with outdoor sport equipment. More sporting activities for of the family to attend. Affordable activities to participate in. Affordable clubs for children to attend. Affordable sporting facilities. More sports halls and football pitches. Sporting activities for teenagers to participate in.
9. Transport and Connectivity
More bus services for children to attend local schools. Improved bus routes to Calderglen High School. Improvements to roads – fix potholes and drainage. Safe pedestrian crossings. More frequent public transport. Bus services which link to the train services. Better lighting on paths. Improvements to bus link to Glasgow City Centre.
10. Community Halls and Community Facilities
Access to halls that are now in community ownership. Affordable hall lets and use of community spaces. Safe spaces for children to socialise. Availability of hall hire for parties. Keep open community halls and libraries.
11. Cleaner Community
More public bins and promote recycling. More dog poo bins. Bins to be emptied more frequently. Regular community litter picks. Clean paths of leaves. Tackle graffiti. Remove dangerous trees.

Challenging Child Poverty in East Kilbride South

The Neighbourhood Plan has been kept on the agenda of the Child Poverty Partnership Group, and the emerging themes from this report will be presented to the group in the new year, with a view to identifying where partners can support and inform activity in relation to the priorities stated by communities above. Locally based staff from partner organisations will be encouraged to engage with the stakeholder group to help identify and inform neighbourhood plan actions.

As stated above, these emerging priorities will also link in with the upcoming delivery of the Marmot Place Programme which will have a particular focus on child poverty across South Lanarkshire. There is also an opportunity to work with the Family Support Hub based in the neighbouring East Kilbride ward.

If you live or work in the area and would like to get involved please contact **0303 123 1017** or email communities@southlanarkshire.gov.uk.

Participatory Budgeting in East Kilbride South

Participatory Budgeting is recognised internationally as a way for people to have a direct say in how money is spent in their neighbourhood.

There has been a total investment of **£12,000** in the East Kilbride South neighbourhood from Participatory Budgeting funds.

Can-Do Community Grant funding of **£7,000** for local groups to apply for, was successfully obtained for the area in 2024 by local third sector organisation, Healthy and Active, on behalf of the Stakeholder Group. Healthy and Active hosted and facilitated an initial Participatory Budgeting (PB) programme in the area and build momentum around the Neighbourhood Plan.

The Stakeholder Steering Group agreed a process for the PB which aimed to increase local democracy, participation and decision making. **3,480** votes were cast from **1,160** people.

The votes were then counted and the projects with the most votes were allocated funding to allow their projects to get underway. An in-person community event was held whereby applicants presented and final voting took place. The successful applicants were notified at the end of the event.

Organisation	Activities	Award Amount
Little Brains	Little Brains 'Unmasked' group currently hosts 38 children per week with Additional Support Needs. This funding is to purchase resources to enhance the community space to make it more sensory friendly for children with Additional Support Needs who attend the group.	£1,000
Dementia Carers	Funding to host quarterly coffee mornings open to the full community to attend. The aim of these coffee mornings is to actively involve people living with dementia and their family carers to ensure that they can be an active part of their local community.	£500
Waist Not Want Not	To purchase heaters for the new community space in the former Greenhills Library, to provide a warm and safe space for the community.	£1,000
Coffee and Chat	A summer outing to Moffat for the members of the group, to give people something to look forward to. Lunch and socialising for the group to enjoy.	£800
Dynamic Brass	Funding to provide an 8-week programme for primary 4 and 5 aged children from schools in the Greenhills community to provide an opportunity to be introduced to music potentially sparking their interest in learning a musical instrument, whilst developing skills and enhancing their confidence.	£950
Sew Not Wanted	Funding to facilitate an additional evening class for participants to learn to mend and upcycle items, to support the rising cost of	£1,000

	living crisis and encourage sustainability. The demand for the classes has been high with a long waiting list.	
Craft for Wellbeing	To support the ongoing costs of running the group for local people to enjoy. The group provides a supportive, inclusive environment for local people to come together to improve their mental health through creative activities.	£1,000
Morphit	Part award funding to provide a safe space for the community, which is inclusive, accessible and enables people to pursue a healthy lifestyle. This programme works towards improving physical, mental and emotional wellbeing.	£750

In July 2025, a further **£5,000** of PB money was opened for applications in East Kilbride South through the South Lanarkshire Council's Community Engagement Team place based Participatory Budgeting programme. The outcome of the public vote was announced in August 2025 with the following awards being granted.

Organisation	Activities	Award Amount
Little Brains	Little Brains, a local Additional Support Needs (ASN) charity for families with children between 5-15 years, have been awarded funding to support the room rental for the next six months, materials for the sessions and to provide safeguarding, first aid, and ASN awareness training for younger volunteers.	£2,100
Waist Not Want Not	Waist Not Want Not were awarded funding to start a new Holistic men's group, which will be facilitated by a qualified facilitator. The funding will be used for the facilitator fee and activity costs to build community capacity through a participant led wellbeing group for men.	£2,280
Healthy and Active	Healthy and Active have been part awarded funding for the new Krafty Kids project which is aimed at children between 8-12 years through a series of after school workshops which will be held at Loaves and Fishes Community Hub in Greenhills. The sessions will be led by local artists and will focus on exploring creativity in a safe and welcoming environment.	£620

Community Planning Partnership Board Executive Summary

Date of meeting:	9 December 2025
Subject:	South Lanarkshire Integration Joint Board Annual Performance Report 2024/2025
Report by:	Chief Officer, South Lanarkshire Integration Joint Board
Contact for Further Information:	Martin Kane, Service Manager (Performance and Support), South Lanarkshire University Health and Social Care Partnership Tel: 01698 453743 Email: martin.kane@southlanarkshire.gov.uk
Purpose of the Report:	♦ to provide the Partnership Board with an update on the South Lanarkshire Integration Joint Board's (IJB) Annual Performance Report 2024/2025.
Community Planning Delivery Partners:	South Lanarkshire Council, NHS Lanarkshire and other Community Planning Partners.
Key Recommendations/Decisions/Action Required from Partners:	The Board is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):- (1) that the content of the report be noted.
Risks/Challenges:	Audit Scotland's Integration Joint Boards: Finance and Performance 2024 highlighted the pressures, challenges and uncertainties facing Integration Joint Board's.
Links to Community Plan Ambitions/Principles:	♦ People live the healthiest lives possible.
Summary of Report:	♦ The Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 requires that Annual Performance Reports (APRs) are prepared by an Integration Authority. The appended APR has been prepared with respect to the final year of the South Lanarkshire Integration Joint Board (IJB) Strategic Commissioning Plan 2022/2023 to 2024/2025 and was approved at the 23 September 2025 meeting of the South Lanarkshire Integration Joint Board.

Report

Report to:	Partnership Board
Date of Meeting:	9 December 2025
Report by:	Chief Officer, South Lanarkshire Integration Joint Board

Subject:	South Lanarkshire Integration Joint Board Annual Performance Report 2024/2025
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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 South Lanarkshire Integration Joint Board's (IJB) Annual Performance Report 2024/2025

2. Recommendation(s)

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

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

3. Background

- 3.1. The Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 requires that Annual Performance Reports (APRs) are prepared by an Integration Authority – i.e. the Integration Joint Board (IJB) in a South Lanarkshire context.
- 3.2. The purpose of the APR is to ensure that performance is open and accountable, whilst at the same time providing an overall assessment of performance in relation to planning and carrying out integration functions. The APR is also of interest to the Health Board and to South Lanarkshire Council in monitoring the success of the integration arrangements they have put in place, as per the Integration Scheme.
- 3.3. The appended APR has been prepared with respect to the final year of the Strategic Commissioning Plan 2022/2023 to 2024/2025 and was approved at the 23 September 2025 meeting of the South Lanarkshire IJB.

4. Annual Performance Report

- 4.1. This APR sits alongside routine performance reporting in-year that has been provided to both the IJB and its Performance and Audit Sub-Committee (PASC). In March 2025, Internal Audit concluded that performance monitoring reports provided to the IJB and the PASC supported good governance, accountability and visibility.
- 4.2. The preparation and design of the APR as an on-line document has been informed by feedback from the presentation of publications to-date. Fundamental to this has been key insights derived from external auditor observations in relation to the negative impact that excessive detail and extraneous information can have on reader accessibility; and that the reader experience, and by extension transparency, can be enhanced by greater use of infographics as a replacement for block text. The APR

attached in Appendix 1 has been honed then with an emphasis on succinctness and clarity; connectivity; visual accessibility; and strategic – i.e. high level – focus.

- 4.3. In accordance with good practice, hyperlinks have been used throughout to aid accessibility, so that readers can navigate between content, and access relevant information quickly as required whilst avoiding duplication of content.
- 4.4. Integration Authorities are required by legislation to report on the Core Suite of Integration Indicators. Public Health Scotland (PHS) publish annual rates for the Core Suite of Integration Indicators for each IJB area and Scotland.
<https://publichealthscotland.scot/publications/core-suite-of-integration-indicators/core-suite-of-integration-indicators-1-july-2025/>
- 4.5. The APR includes a hypertext link to a distinct on-line report that summarises the performance in relation to the Core Suite of Integration Indicators with respect to the South Lanarkshire IJB.
- 4.6. As a further best practice extension of the aforementioned insights derived from external auditor observation, examples of notable achievements within 2024/2025 have been provided in the form of videos rather than as text.

5. Employee Implications

- 5.1. There are no employee implications associated with this report.
- 5.2. Audit Scotland's Integration Joint Boards: Finance and Performance 2024 (published in July 2025) highlighted that IJBs face a complex landscape of unprecedented pressures, challenges and uncertainties; and that these are not easy to resolve and are worsening, despite a driven and committed workforce.
<https://audit.scot/publications/integration-joint-boards-finance-and-performance-2024>

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. Audit Scotland's Integration Joint Boards: Finance and Performance 2024 (published in July 2025) details how the financial health of IJBs continues to weaken, with the then projected funding gap for 2023/24 across all 31 IJBs being £357 million; and with indications of more challenging times ahead.
<https://audit.scot/publications/integration-joint-boards-finance-and-performance-2024>
- 6.2. In October 2024, the External Auditor concluded that the South Lanarkshire IJB has a strong focus on financial sustainability over the medium term and with a plan to address significant financial challenges over the coming years.
- 6.3. As reported within the IJB Annual Accounts 2024/2025 as presented at its meeting of 16 June 2025, the IJB ended the year 2024/2025 in financial balance.

7. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

- 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. The APR presents progress in a range of areas that contribute to the mitigation of a number of risks within the IJB Risk Register, notably:-
 - Financial sustainability (very high);
 - Workforce availability and capacity (very high);
 - Performance delivery (very high); and
 - Failure to meet public protection and legislative requirements (high).

8.1. There are no other issues associated with this report.

9. Integrated Impact Assessment and Consultation Requirements

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

9.2. The APR relates to the Strategic Commissioning Plan 2022 to 2025, which was extensively consulted on.

Professor Soumen Sengupta
Chief Officer
South Lanarkshire Integration Joint Board

14 November 2025

Contact for Further Information

If you would like further information, please contact:-

Name: Martin Kane, Service Manager Performance and Support, South Lanarkshire
University Health and Social Care Partnership
Tel: 01698 453743
Email: martin.kane@southlanarkshire.gov.uk



South Lanarkshire
University
Health and Social Care
Partnership

South Lanarkshire Integration Joint Board Annual Performance Report | 2024–25



*“He had a second
chance in life”*

1. Foreword

The final year of our Strategic Commissioning Plan 2022 – 25 brought a renewed focus to the significant challenges that continue to shape our strategic landscape and operational realities. The environment in which we deliver health and social care has become increasingly complex - marked by demographic shifts, rising demand, escalating costs, and evolving public expectations. While these pressures have tested the resilience of our services, they have also reaffirmed the unwavering commitment of our leadership team and our staff to the people and communities we serve.

Delivering value and driving improvement in such a dynamic context demands disciplined financial stewardship and the full mobilisation of the expertise, compassion, and ingenuity of our teams. Our approach is rooted in collaboration - with our partners, our workforce, and our communities - as we strive to improve the health and wellbeing of local people, with a particular focus on protecting and supporting those most at risk and living with vulnerability.

This report highlights both the progress we have made and the tangible impact our dedicated staff continue to deliver. The challenges that so many of our communities face have strengthened our resolve and, as emphasised in our new [Strategic Commissioning Plan 2025 - 2028](#) sharpened our focus. We remain deeply grateful for the commitment of our teams and partners, and appreciative of the insights, support, and encouragement from our communities. As we look ahead, we do so with determination and a profound sense of responsibility to make the best use of the resources available to improve the lives of people across South Lanarkshire.



Margaret Walker
Chair
South Lanarkshire
Integration Joint Board



Lesley McDonald
Vice-Chair
South Lanarkshire
Integration Joint Board



Professor Soumen Sengupta
Chief Officer
South Lanarkshire
Integration Joint Board

2. Context

As defined within the [Public Bodies \(Joint Working\) \(Scotland\) Act 2014](#), Integration Joint Boards (IJB) are responsible for the governance, planning and resourcing of social care, primary and community healthcare and unscheduled hospital care for adults in their area. The [South Lanarkshire Integration Scheme](#) details the services/functions and arrangements for the IJB, an updated scheme having been approved by Scottish Ministers in March 2024.

[Audit Scotland](#) has highlighted that IJBs across Scotland face a complex landscape of unprecedented pressures, challenges and uncertainties. South Lanarkshire IJB's [Strategic Commissioning Plan 2022 - 2025](#) set out how health and social care services would be delivered to improve the quality of support for people in its area over that three-year period.

3. Roles

Integration Joint Board (Strategic)

- Formal public body
- Develops and leads the strategy for health and social care through the Strategic Commissioning Plan
- Issues 'Direction to South Lanarkshire Council (SLC) and NHS Lanarkshire (NHSL)

Health and Social Care Partnership (Operational)

- Takes forward the operational implementation of the plan on behalf of the parties – SLC and NHSL
- Provides assurance to the IJB and the parties on progress with the implementation of the plan

4. Governance

The IJB has well-established governance and decision-making arrangements in place as set out in the [Integration Scheme](#).

Supporting this is the governance structure for South Lanarkshire University HSCP which provides a robust and streamlined process for efficient and effective decision-making. The IJB

holds the ultimate decision-making and commissioning authority, with its assurance responsibilities strengthened by the important scrutiny provided by its Performance and Audit Sub Committee (PASC). See [IJB and PASC](#).

The [South Lanarkshire IJB Code of Corporate Governance](#) details the systems, processes, culture and values by which the IJB is directed and controlled, including the [Code of Conduct](#) for all IJB members.

Our sustainability and value option appraisal screening approach continues to provide a consistent and transparent framework for considering proposals for change, reinforcing the IJB's commitment to prioritising the most vulnerable and at-risk across our communities.

During 2024/25, the IJB reviewed how it issues Directions to the Health Board and Council and approved an updated [Directions policy and guidance](#).



5. Performance

The IJB seeks to promote a culture of continuous improvement to deliver better outcomes for individuals and communities.

IJB's priorities, as set out within its Strategic Commissioning Plan 2022 – 2025, complement and reinforce the prescribed [National Health and Wellbeing Outcomes](#); and the priorities set within NHS Lanarkshire Health Board's [Our Health Together](#) and South Lanarkshire Council's [Connect Plan](#). These priorities also contribute to and are progressed alongside the wider work of the South Lanarkshire [Community Planning Partnership](#).

The IJB's performance monitoring arrangements reflect the positive developments recommended by its External and Internal Auditors. The performance and progress made by the South Lanarkshire University HSCP in delivering these priorities have been regularly and publicly reported to the IJB and can be accessed from the [HSCP website](#). Performance as whole for the IJB in respect of the full suite of national core indicators can be viewed [here](#).



National integration core indicators - overview

Table 1a Year On Year Comparison (April to March 24/25) – unvalidated and subject to change

	2023/24	2024/25	Increase / Decrease on 2022/23	% Change
A&E Attendances	106,484	107,873	1,389	1.30%
Emergency Admissions	37,674	38,186	512	1.36%
UC Bed days - Acute	256,080	246,164	-9,916	-3.87%
UC Bed days - Acute/GLS/MH	323,745	315,588	-8,157	-2.52%
Delayed Discharge Non-Code 9 bed days	33,263	36,337	3,074	9.24%

Table 1b Performance Against Targets

2024/25	Target	Performance	Variance	% Variance
A&E Attendances	111,132	107,873	-3,259	-2.93%
Emergency Admissions	40,677	38,186	-2,491	-6.12%
UC Bed days - Acute	233,731	246,164	12,433	5.32%
UC Bed days - Acute/GLS/MH	300,636	315,588	14,952	4.97%
Delayed Discharge standard bed days	33,802	36,337	2535	7.5%

UC (Unscheduled Care) / GLS (Geriatric Long Stay) / MH (Mental Health)

6. Impact



Pathway 4 in South Lanarkshire enables people with advanced conditions to receive early palliative care at home by coordinating services and avoiding hospital stays.

Click on the image to view the video.

Home Assessment Teams in South Lanarkshire enable people to regain independence by providing short-term, reablement support after hospital discharge.

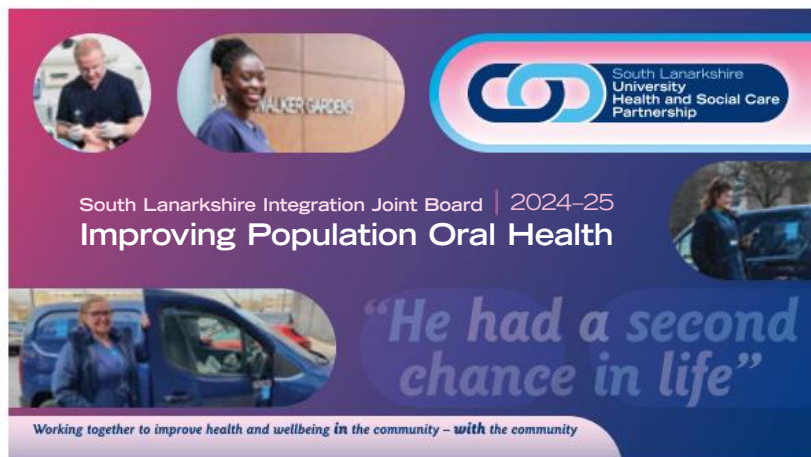
Click on the image to view the video.



Blantyre LIFE in South Lanarkshire enables people to live independently by combining housing and care through the 'home for life' principle.

Click on the image to view the video.

6. Impact



*The Public Dental Service in Lanarkshire enables people to access vital dental care by providing clinics, home visits and prevention programmes.

Click on the image to view the video.

*These are Lanarkshire-wide health care services hosted by the South Lanarkshire IJB

*The Out of Hours service in Lanarkshire enables people to get urgent care by offering treatment when GP practices are closed.

Click on the image to view the video.



7. Finance

The IJB is recognised as having a strong track-record of sound financial management and robust financial governance, with its [External Auditor](#) having concluded that the IJB has a strong focus on financial sustainability over the medium-term.

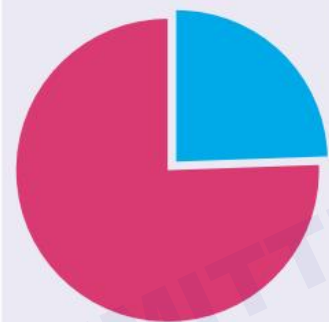
The IJB has a statutory duty to set a balanced budget. Following a process of consultation, the [IJB Financial Plan for 2024/25](#) was approved by the IJB on 26 March 2024. The financial envelope available to the IJB in 2024/2025 totalled £740m.

Detailed financial monitoring reports are regularly and publicly presented to the IJB and can be accessed from the [HSCP website](#).

View the outturn position at the year-end in the IJB [Annual Accounts 2024/25](#). This strong year-end financial position for 2024/25 contributes to the financial framework articulated to support the delivery of the [Strategic Commissioning Plan 2025 - 2028](#).

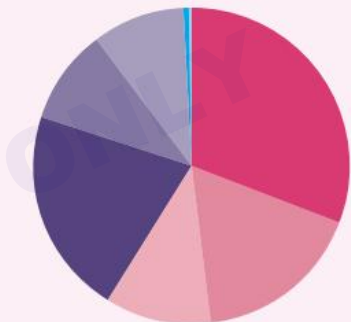
The [Scottish Government’s Medium-Term Financial Strategy](#) presents national consequences and implications of lower growth in projected resource funding relative to estimated spending for the country’s public services. It is recognised that failure to make necessary changes to how public services are delivered will likely mean further budget pressures, and so further uncertainty and growing instability, into the future. Given this backdrop, the IJB’s [Medium to Long-Term Financial Forecast](#) has reinforced the importance of ensuring that local health and social care services are financially sustainable within the resources available.

2024/2025
Funding £740m



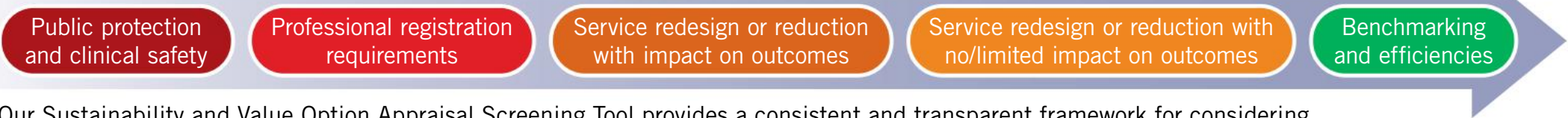
- SLC funding £182m
(Core – £182m; Reserves – Nil)
- NHSL Funding £558m
(Core – £556m; Reserves – £1.8m)

2024/2025
Expenditure £733m



- Social Care Services (£228m)
- Family Health Services (£126m)
- Prescribing Costs (£80m)
- Hosted Health Care Services (£156m)
- Hospital Acute Services/ Notional Set Aside Budget (£71m)
- Health Care Services (£70m)
- Housing Services (£1.5m)
- Corporate Services (£0.2m)

Sustainability and value option appraisal screening scale



Our Sustainability and Value Option Appraisal Screening Tool provides a consistent and transparent framework for considering proposals for change, reinforcing the IJB’s commitment to prioritising the most vulnerable and at-risk across our communities.

9. Risk

The IJB is committed to promoting an environment that is risk aware and strives to place risk management information at the heart of key decisions. The [IJB Risk Management Strategy](#) is the foundation of good corporate governance and internal control and complements the existing risk management processes within the Health Board and Council. The IJB and PASC are regularly appraised of challenges and risks to health and social care services, as well as the opportunities for transforming services and support with partners.

Risk management reports are regularly and publicly presented to the IJB and can be accessed from the [HSCP website](#). The four IJB risks assessed as being very high or high (both pre and post-mitigation) at 31 March 2025 were as undernoted.

Very High Risk	High Risk
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Financial sustainability• Workforce availability and capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Performance delivery• Failure to meet public protection and legislative requirements



10. Ahead

Candid conversations and pragmatic collaboration with our staff, our partners and our communities will be crucial to securing safe, effective and sustainable health and social care support for local people, particularly those at-most-risk and those most vulnerable.

As highlighted in the media clips throughout this report, exceptional support is being delivered and developed, providing momentum for the delivery of the strategic goals within the IJB's [Strategic Commissioning Plan 2025 - 2028](#).

By combining insight, evidence, and lived experience, we will continue to strive to make responsible decisions that are grounded in realism and focused on securing the best outcomes possible for the people of South Lanarkshire.



Our Mission

Working together to improve
health and wellbeing in
the community - with
the community

Our Catalysts for Change

Our Funding



Our Staff



Our Carers



Our Technology



Our Partnerships



Protect



Nurture



Recover



Our Vision
For all our communities
to live longer and healthier
lives, supported by the right
care, in the right place and
at the right time.

Access



Flow



Our Guiding
Principles

Early
intervention

Learning

Empowerment

Person
centred
care

Inclusion

Candour





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

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South Lanarkshire
University
Health and Social Care
Partnership

Community Planning Partnership Board Executive Summary

Date of Meeting:	9 December 2025
Subject:	Lanarkshire Joint Community Planning Partnership Event – Building a Prevention-Focused System
Report by:	Director of Public Health and Health Policy, NHS Lanarkshire
Contact for Further Information:	<p>Professor S. Josephine Pravinkumar, Director of Public Health and Health Policy, NHS Lanarkshire Email: Josephine.Pravinkumar@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk</p> <p>Dr. Nick Riches, Public Health Registrar, NHS Lanarkshire Email: nick.riches@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk</p>
Purpose of the Report:	<p>♦ To provide an update to the Community Planning Partnership Board on the Joint Lanarkshire Community Planning Partnership Event held in October 2025, summarising key themes, outputs and next steps, including the establishment of a Joint Community Planning Partnership–Population Health Framework Collaborative to oversee implementation.</p>
Community Planning Delivery Partners:	All members of North and South Lanarkshire Community Planning Partnerships, NHS Lanarkshire, Public Health Scotland, Local Authorities, Health and Social Care Partnerships, Police Scotland, Education, Housing, and the Third Sector.
Key Recommendations/ Decisions/Action Required from Partners:	<p>The Board is asked to approve the following recommendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Note the contents of the report and the outcomes of the October 2025 Community Planning Partnership event; (2) Endorse the establishment of a Joint Community Planning Partnership (CPP) – Population Health Framework (PHF) Collaborative to coordinate prevention strategy, delivery and monitoring across Lanarkshire; (3) Support alignment of Community Planning Partnership strategic priorities, governance and investment to embed prevention and tackle inequalities; and (4) Maintain prevention as a standing agenda item across Community Planning Partnership governance and planning forums.
Risks/Challenges:	<p>♦ Sustaining leadership and cross-sector momentum amid financial pressures and workforce constraints;</p> <p>♦ Fragmented data and governance arrangements that limit shared accountability and measurement; and</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Short-term funding cycles undermining innovation, continuity, and workforce stability.
Links to Community Plan Ambitions/Principles:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ All Community Plan Ambitions/Principles
Summary of Report:	<p>On 9 October 2025, over 70 senior leaders from North and South Lanarkshire CPPs and NHS Lanarkshire met for a joint event to translate Scotland's Population Health Framework into local action. The event established shared principles for a prevention-focused system, addressing inequalities, child poverty, mental health and family wellbeing.</p> <p>Participants agreed to form a Joint CPP–PHF Steering Group to drive alignment, governance, and measurement across Lanarkshire. Key themes included whole-system leadership, long-term investment, workforce development, and community empowerment. The report sets out agreed next steps and immediate priorities to embed prevention as the organising principle of public service delivery across Lanarkshire.</p>

Report

Report to:	Partnership Board
Date of Meeting:	9 December 2025
Report by:	Director of Public Health and Health Policy, NHS Lanarkshire

Subject:	Lanarkshire Joint Community Planning Partnership Event – Building a Prevention-Focused System
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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 Joint Lanarkshire Community Planning Partnership Event held in October 2025, summarising its key themes, discussions and agreed next steps, including establishment of a Joint Community Planning Partnership (CPP)–Population Health Collaborative (PHF). Further detail is provided in Appendix 1.

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) note the contents of the report and the outcomes of the October 2025 CPP event;
- (2) endorse the establishment of a Joint CPP–PHF Collaborative to coordinate prevention strategy, delivery and monitoring across Lanarkshire;
- (3) support alignment of CPP strategic priorities, governance and investment to embed prevention and tackle inequalities;
- (4) the contents of the action plan are noted; and
- (5) maintain prevention as a standing agenda item across CPP governance and planning forums.

3. Background

3.1. The Joint CPP Event (9 October 2025) brought together senior leaders and partners from across North and South Lanarkshire CPPs, NHS Lanarkshire, local government, education, housing, Police Scotland, and the third sector.

3.2. The event aimed to translate the ambitions of Scotland's Population Health Framework into practical, local action. Through plenary sessions and workshops, participants developed a shared understanding of prevention as the organising principle of public service delivery and identified the conditions required for success.

Cross-cutting themes included:

- whole-system leadership and governance
- long-term, multi-year investment
- shared data and intelligence

- workforce culture and capacity
- community empowerment
- equity and proportionate universalism

4. Key Outcomes and Next Steps

4.1. Following approval by the Board, immediate priorities will be:

Area	Key Action	Lead / Partnership	Timescale
Leadership	Champion prevention visibly at every CPP and Board meeting, integrating it into policy, budget, and performance cycles.	CPP Chairs / Chief Officers	Immediate – ongoing
Governance	Establish the joint CPP–PHF Collaborative to coordinate prevention strategy, delivery, and monitoring.	NHS Lanarkshire / North and South CPPs	Q4 2025
Strategic Alignment	Map all current prevention and inequality programmes (PHF, Marmot, Anchor, Child Poverty, LOIPs) to identify overlaps and shared outcomes.	CPP Secretariat / Public Health Scotland	Q1 2026
Measurement	Develop shared system-level dashboards tracking prevention and inequality indicators at place level. Commit to open, place-based dashboards and joint evaluation for transparency and accountability.	NHS Lanarkshire Public Health Intelligence	Q1 2026
Workforce and Culture	Embed prevention and inequality objectives in all organisational training, development, and appraisal frameworks.	All CPP Partners	From 2026
Community Engagement	Implement neighbourhood prevention forums and invest in community capacity to co-design local priorities and feedback loops.	Local Authorities /Third Sector Interfaces	Q1 2026

4.2. These actions will enable Lanarkshire’s CPPs and NHS partners to operationalise the Population Health Framework and strengthen shared accountability for health and wellbeing outcomes.

5. Employee Implications

5.1. There are no direct employee implications associated with this report.

6. Financial Implications

6.1. There are no immediate financial implications. Future investment priorities will be developed through the Steering Group, with opportunities for alignment and reinvestment of prevention-related savings.

7. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

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

8. Other Implications

- 8.1. There are no additional risk or governance implications arising directly from this report.

9. Integrated Impact Assessment and Consultation Requirements

- 9.1. No Integrated Impact Assessment or Consultation implications at this stage. Any subsequent workstreams will include appropriate assessments as part of their governance.

Professor Josephine Pravinkumar
Director of Public Health and Health Policy
NHS Lanarkshire

18 November 2025

Contact for Further Information:

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Dr. Nick Riches, Public Health Registrar, NHS Lanarkshire

Email: Nick.riches@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk

Community Planning Partnership Board Executive Summary

Date of Meeting:	9 December 2025
Subject:	Healthy Weight Public Health Action Team (PHAcT)
Report by:	Director of Public Health and Health Policy, NHS Lanarkshire
Contact for Further Information:	<p>Professor S. Josephine Pravinkumar, Director of Public Health and Health Policy, NHS Lanarkshire Email: Josephine.Pravinkumar@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk</p> <p>Alana McGlynn, Public Health Programme Manager, NHS Lanarkshire Alana.mcglynn@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk</p>
Purpose of the Report:	♦ to provide the Partnership Board with an update on the Healthy Weight PHAcT.
Community Planning Delivery Partners:	NHS Lanarkshire, South Lanarkshire Council, VASLan. Others will be involved as work progresses.
Key Recommendations/Decisions/Action Required from Partners:	<p>The Board is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-</p> <p>(1) that the content of the report be noted.</p>
Risks/Challenges:	Collaborative, whole-system approaches are essential to tackle obesity, support healthy weight and improve health outcomes. While treatment and support for individuals living with obesity play a part, prevention must be prioritised to reduce the long-term burden of disease, improve healthy life expectancy, and reduce health inequalities across Lanarkshire and Scotland.
Links to Community Plan Ambitions/Principles:	All ambitions and principles
Summary of Report:	<p>The report presents an update on the work of a multi-agency Healthy Weight PHAcT. It covers 4 key areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whole Systems approach; • Review of Lanarkshire Weight Management Service (LWMS); • Child Health Surveillance at 27-30 months with a focus on increasing referrals for children who are significantly overweight/severely obese; and • Development of the Good Food Nation Plan at a pan Lanarkshire level.

Report

Report to:	Partnership Board
Date of Meeting:	9 December 2025
Report by:	Director Public Health and Health Policy, NHS Lanarkshire

Subject:	Healthy Weight Public Health Action Team (PHAcT)
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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 Healthy Weight PHAcT.

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. Preventing overweight and obesity is a public health priority with significant implications for population health, health inequalities, and the sustainability of health and care services.
- 3.2. Obesity has been cited as a key priority in the recently published Scotland's Population Health Framework (2025-2035)¹. The Population Health Framework sets out a 10-year vision to improve life expectancy and reduce inequalities through a whole-system, whole-society approach. It explores the current challenges and opportunities for population health in Scotland with a set of actions, longer term priorities, and a high-level aim to drive the delivery and implementation of the Framework. The two main initial priorities identified are as follows:
- a. Creating a Prevention-Focused System – shifting resources and efforts upstream to prevent ill health.
 - b. Tackling Obesity and Promoting Healthy Weight – addressing a major and unequal public health challenge.
- 3.3. In 2024, Public Health Scotland and the Scottish Directors of Public Health published a consensus statement outlining the urgent need for action to improve the health and wellbeing of Scotland's population through decisive action to improve diet and weight². Local community Planning Partners also identified obesity as a key area for focus within the Population Health Vision sessions, which were led by NHS Lanarkshire.

A multi-agency Healthy Weight PHAcT was put in place (from April 2024) to focus on a whole systems approach to the promotion of healthy weight and the prevention of obesity within Lanarkshire.

The PHAcT identified three key initial priorities to focus on:

- Review of Lanarkshire Weight Management Service (LWMS);
- Child Health Surveillance at 27-30 months with a focus on increasing referrals for children who are significantly overweight / severely obese; and
- Development of the Good Food Nation Plan at a pan Lanarkshire level.

3.4. All of these priorities are considered in the context of a whole systems approach and one that continues to prioritise prevention.

4. Update on Whole System Approach and Key Initial Priorities

4.1. Whole System Approach

Throughout the course of the Healthy Weight PHAcT, the group have prioritised learning and considering evidence and best practice in relation to whole systems approaches.

- A whole systems approach to tackling obesity- evidence overview, was presented and discussed within the group;
- A presentation on whole systems approaches to obesity within Scotland, England and Wales was shared with the group;
- A mapping exercise was carried out against the framework contained within Public Health England's whole systems approach to obesity³; and
- A proposal and draft plan for two whole system workshops has been discussed and early planning is starting for the first workshop. Dates are still to be agreed.

4.2. Review of Lanarkshire Weight Management Service (LWMS):

The review of the Lanarkshire Weight Management Service involves 4 core tasks:

Task 1 – Overview of Recently Authorised LWMS Restructuring:

- Collation and review of all relevant documentation related to previous service changes.
- Identification of resource shifts, staffing gaps, and areas for optimisation.
- Horizon scanning for policy and funding implications.

Task 2 – Recommendations for Anti-Obesity Medication (AOM) Incorporation into Clinical Intervention Models:

- Assessment of staffing and funding requirements to integrate AOM.
- Development of an implementation model based on service redesign.

Task 3 – Paediatric Service Review:

- Evaluation of existing paediatric weight management pathways.
- Consideration of referral mechanisms, including Child Health Surveillance data.
- Mapping and review of patient and staff feedback.
- Structured consultations with staff, patients, and external partners.
- Surveys and focus groups to gather qualitative insights.
- Review of associated resource implications.
- Input from the separate 27-30-month Child Health Programme review

Task 4 – Broader Adult Service Review:

- Assessment of service elements not recently reviewed.
- Determination of resource reallocation following AOM integration.
- Identification of further service development needs.
- Mapping and review of patient and staff feedback.
- Structured consultations with staff, patients, and external partners.
- Surveys and focus groups to gather qualitative insights.

- 4.3. Tasks 1 and 2 have been completed and updates provided to the NHS Lanarkshire's Corporate Management Team (CMT).
- 4.4. One option that seeks to secure external funding for the wrap around costs of AOM and therefore would be cost-neutral for NHSL has been identified. However, this is reliant on Once for Scotland Obesity Pathway Improvement Programme (OPIP) bids. Conversations around these bids have been ongoing locally and nationally and it is anticipated that NHSL will be the lead partner in an OPIP bid to develop an end-to-end remote healthcare weight management pathway. The Digital Patient Management System that the LWMS has been developing over the last 18 months will be the basis for this Once for Scotland approach. NHS Lanarkshire CMT agreed that we would put in a bid for the OPIP funding.
- 4.5. Progression of tasks 3 and 4 will begin in due course.
- 4.6. Child Health Surveillance (27-30 months)
This priority focuses on improving early identification and referral of overweight and obese children during their developmental reviews, specifically at the 27–30 month stage. The aim is to ensure that children who are identified as overweight or obese are referred into appropriate support services as early as possible.
- 4.7. The latest data from the first quarter of 2025/2026 showed that 62% of completed Health Visitor reviews included height and weight assessments, meaning 38% still did not. From the reviews that were completed, 38 severely clinically obese children were identified, and 33 were referred, an improvement compared to previous figures.
- 4.8. Progress has been acknowledged as a positive step, albeit incremental, in strengthening early intervention. The group recognises that while the referral rate is improving, there remains a significant gap in consistent assessment and follow-through. Discussion has highlighted the importance of maintaining momentum and ensuring that the pathway is embedded across services, with continued monitoring and support to improve uptake and outcomes.
- 4.9. The subgroup overseeing this work continues to meet, and further updates are expected. The data will also be included in the NHS Lanarkshire's Integrated Performance and Quality Report (IPQR) as part of the reporting on Population Health priorities.
- 4.10. Good Food Nation
The Good Food National (Scotland) Act 2022 imposes a legislative duty on Scottish Ministers, local authorities, and territorial health boards to create Good Food Nation Plans. The Scottish Government consulted on a [draft plan](#)⁴ in 2024 and an updated plan was laid before Parliament in June 2025. A final plan is expected to be published by the end of 2025.
- 4.11. Precise timelines for Health Boards and local authorities to publish their local plans have yet to be determined but indications are that Scottish Government will give public bodies a notice period in Spring 2026. Thereafter, section 10 of the Act, will come into force in Spring 2027 which means they have 12 months to publish their final plans.
- 4.12. This Board has received previous updates on the Lanarkshire plans to work jointly across South Lanarkshire Council, North Lanarkshire Council and NHS Lanarkshire

when developing Good Food Nation plans, to join forces in consulting with communities and ensure synergistic plans are developed.

- 4.13. Through discussions with national leads, plans are emerging for a Scottish workshop in early 2026 to which all local Good Food Nation leads will be invited. The purpose of the event will be to share local progress and plans and establish support required.
- 4.14. Regular updates will be provided to the Healthy Weight PHAcT and through the CPP structures.

5. Employee Implications

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

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. There are no financial implications for the CPP associated with this report. If successful with OPIP funding, further consideration to be given with regards to impact and sustainability.

7. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

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

8. Other Implications

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

9. Integrated Impact Assessment and Consultation Requirements

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

Professor Josephine Pravinkumar
Director of Public Health and Health Policy
NHS Lanarkshire

18 November 2025

Contact for Further Information:

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Alana McGlynn, Public Health Programme Manager, NHS Lanarkshire

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References

- [Initial Framework Priorities \(2025-2027\) - Scotland's Population Health Framework - gov.scot](https://www.gov.scot/publications/initial-framework-priorities-2025-2027/pages/initial-framework-priorities-2025-2027.aspx)
- [Improving Scotland's diet and weight - News - Public Health Scotland](https://www.gov.scot/publications/improving-scotland-diet-weight/pages/improving-scotland-diet-weight.aspx)
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/whole-systems-approach-to-obesity>
- [https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-good-food-nation-plan-consultation-document/](https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-good-food-nation-plan-consultation-document/pages/national-good-food-nation-plan-consultation-document.aspx)

Community Planning Partnership Board Executive Summary

Date of meeting:	9 December 2025
Subject:	Community Planning Partnership Board Meeting Arrangements
Report by:	Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council
Contact for Further Information:	Jen Kerr, Community Engagement Manager, South Lanarkshire Council Tel: 0303 123 1017 Email: jennifer.kerr@southlanarkshire.gov.uk
Purpose of the Report:	♦ Submit a proposal to the Partnership Board to amend the CPP Board meeting arrangements for 2026.
Community Planning Delivery Partners:	All partners
Key Recommendations/ Decisions/Action Required from Partners:	The Board is asked to approve the following recommendation:- (1) that the content of the report be approved.
Risks/Challenges:	There are no risks or challenges associated with this report.
Links to Community Plan Ambitions/Principles:	♦ All ambitions/principles
Summary of Report:	♦ Seeking approval of the CPP Board to amend the CPP Board meeting arrangements for 2026 to hold two of the four CPP Board meetings in-person.

Report

Report to:	Partnership Board
Date of Meeting:	9 December 2025
Report by:	Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council

Subject:	Community Planning Partnership Board Meeting Arrangements
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ submit a proposal to the Partnership Board to amend the CPP Board meeting arrangements for 2026.

2. Recommendation(s)

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

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

3. Background

- 3.1. At the Partnership Board on 9 September 2020, it was agreed that the number of annual board meetings should be reduced from six to four and that two development sessions take place.
- 3.2. Due to the COVID pandemic in 2020, all CPP Board meetings and development sessions were changed from in-person to online and this arrangement has remained in place since. In-person development sessions commenced again in October 2022.
- 3.3. The Partnership Board/Development Session dates for 2026 as approved by the Board are as follows:
- Wednesday, 18 March 2026 (Board Meeting);
 - Wednesday, 13 May 2026 (Board Development Session);
 - Wednesday, 17 June 2026 (Board Meeting);
 - Wednesday, 9 September 2026 (Board Meeting);
 - Wednesday, 21 October 2026 (Board Development Session); and
 - Wednesday, 16 December 2026 (Board Meeting).

4. CPP Board Meeting Proposal

- 4.1. In addition to the two in-person development sessions, it is proposed that two of the four Board meetings are held in-person; with the March 2026 meeting being held within the Committee Suite, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton and the September 2026 meeting being hosted by a partner. Partners are asked if they would like to host the September meeting and they should contact the Community

Planning Team to discuss. This means that moving forwards, two would be held online via Teams and two would be held in-person.

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 Implications

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

8. Other Implications

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

9. Integrated Impact Assessment and Consultation Requirements

- 9.1. There are no Integrated Impact Assessment or Consultation arrangement implications associated with this report.

Paul Manning
Chief Executive
South Lanarkshire Council

18 November 2025

Contact for Further Information:

If you would like further information, please contact:-

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Community Planning Partnership Board Executive Summary

Date of meeting:	9 December 2025
Subject:	South Lanarkshire's Children's Services Plan 2023 to 2026 -Annual Report of Progress for 2024/2025
Report by:	Director, Health and Social Care, South Lanarkshire University Health and Social Care Partnership and Executive Director, (Education Resources), South Lanarkshire Council
Contact for Further Information:	Kevin Mullarkey, Children's Services Partnership Planning Manager, South Lanarkshire Council Tel: 07795453122 Email: kevin.mullarkey@southlanarkshire.gov.uk
Purpose of the Report:	♦ update the Partnership Board on the work to ensure South Lanarkshire's Children's Services Plan (CSP) remains in line with Scottish Government guidance and is helping to contribute towards best possible outcomes for children young people and families.
Community Planning Delivery Partners:	All partners
Key Recommendations/ Decisions/Action Required from Partners:	The Board is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):- (1) that the content of the Children's Services Partnership Annual Progress Report for the period 2024/2025 be noted.
Risks/Challenges:	There are no risks or challenges associated with this report.
Links to Community Plan Ambitions/Principles:	♦ All ambitions/principles
Summary of Report:	♦ Details of the work to deliver the content of the Children's Services Plan Annual Progress Report for the period 2024/2025.

Report

Report to:	Partnership Board
Date of Meeting:	9 December 2025
Report by:	Director, Health and Social Care, South Lanarkshire University Health and Social Care Partnership and Executive Director, (Education Resources), South Lanarkshire Council

Subject:	South Lanarkshire's Children's Services Plan 2023 to 2026 - Annual Report of Progress for 2024/2025
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to: -

- ◆ update the Partnership Board on the work to ensure South Lanarkshire's Children's Services Plan (CSP) remains in line with Scottish Government guidance and is helping to contribute towards best possible outcomes for children, young people and families

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the content of the Children's Services Plan Annual Progress Report for the period 2024/2025 be noted.

3. Background

3.1. The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 introduced requirements for each Local Authority and linked Health Board to prepare and publish the following:-

- (a) Children's Services Plan (CSP) covering the period April 2017 to March 2020 (and then in a continuing three-year cycle); and
- (b) A Children's Rights Report by March 2020 (and then in a continuing three-year cycle).

3.2. The duty to publish a Children's Rights Report every three years has become a statutory duty because of the UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024.

3.3. South Lanarkshire's model of reporting has for several years incorporated a section on our work to deliver on children's rights. This is in addition to our (now statutory) duty to produce a Children's Rights Report on a three-year cycle. The report for 2024/2025 continues this approach.

3.4. Our Annual Progress Report for 2024/2025 was endorsed by the Getting It Right for South Lanarkshire's Children Strategy Group in June this year.

4. Progress Update

- 4.1. A pdf version of the annual report for 2024/2025 is attached as Appendix 1 and contains a summary of the key activity of our Children's Services Partnership covering the second year of our current plan. An accessible online version can be found here: <https://bit.ly/GIRFSLC>
- 4.2. The content of the report is informed by the work of the three Thematic Groups (Whole Family Approach, Health and Wellbeing and Keeping the Promise) reflecting relevant data gathered, the experiences of children, young people and families and the analysis of partners leading and delivering this work.
- 4.3. The report style reflects the current branding of the Children's Services Plan.
- 4.4. The tables below show the high-level outcomes and priorities driving the work of the Children's Services Plan.

Every family that needs support gets the right family support at the right time for as long as it is needed

Reduce the number of children and young people living away from their families

Reduce the number of families requiring crisis intervention

Reduce the inequality gap in child development

Reduce the inequality gap in wellbeing outcomes for families' children and young people

Increase the number of families taking up wider supports

Children and young people grow up loved, safe, respected and listened to

Put voice at the heart of all decision-making processes at all levels

Increase the number of care experienced people accessing further and/or higher education opportunities and successful employment

Reduce poverty amongst care experienced people

Improve lifelong support for care experienced people

Improve support into long term housing for care experienced people

Improve the mental health and emotional wellbeing of care experienced people

Every child and young person will be able to access support which helps improve their mental health and emotional wellbeing

Improve maternal and infant mental health

Improve support offered to children and young people who may be at risk of suicide and self-harm

Improve whole school approaches to mental health and wellbeing

Improve visibility and accessibility of community mental health supports and services

Develop staff professional learning and development to ensure their own and others' wellbeing is established

- 4.5. The Children's Services Partnership partners carried out a reflection process at the end of 2022 to ensure that our governance structure is fit for purpose and reflects the main policy areas informing services for children, young people and families. The outcome of that process can be seen in the structure diagram on page forty-one of the annual report (attached as Appendix 1). This reflection process will be repeated this year to ensure that our governance and oversight continues to be as good as it can be.
- 4.6. The content of the Plan is organised around the three thematic groups. The groups implement and monitor action plans which combined provide an oversight of progress in a performance framework. This framework is being updated for 2025/2026 to take us to the end of the current planning cycle.
- 4.7. The report has been agreed by South Lanarkshire Council's Corporate Management Team and NHS Lanarkshire's Population Health Committee and subsequently, published online and a copy and link sent to the Scottish Government as per reporting requirements in the 2014 Act. Copies have been made available to all Children's Services Partnership members with a request to cascade across their services.
- 4.8. A small number of paper copies have been printed and are available on request.
- 4.9. As part of our efforts to connect the Plan and it's supporting activity, a series of seminars have taken place across South Lanarkshire sharing practice described in the report and engaging mainly locality-based practitioners and managers.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1. A 'child friendly version' of the annual report is currently being developed in partnership with young people. This helps meet the requirement in the 2024 UNCRC Act to produce materials in child friendly formats.
- 5.2. The Performance Framework will continue to support the implementation, monitoring and reporting of progress against each of the agreed priorities. Each of the thematic groups will take responsibility for maintaining their contribution and in ensuring appropriate performance evidence is collected to measure impact and support reporting demands.
- 5.3. Work towards a refreshed Children's Services Plan is underway, and a task group is currently quality checking a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment document to inform the priorities for the 2026 to 2029 planning cycle. This work will support the development of a 'dashboard' of higher-level indicators aligned with the priorities in the 2026 to 2029 plan and the final report for the current cycle will begin to scope this out in a 'where are we now' section.
- 5.4. Recent legislation around children's rights means that we must change our focus slightly in how we report children's rights activity. The shift is largely in reporting our activity to implement the requirements of the 2024 Act and ensure that the widest scope of public services is reported on. One way that this can be supported is by a cross-resource process that helps gather relevant evidence from across Council services.
- 5.5. While there are no plans to deviate from embedding our children's rights reporting duty into our CSP annual reports, NHS Lanarkshire has indicated that they plan to produce a stand-alone Pan-Lanarkshire children's rights report. Discussions have

started with linked staff to discuss alignment with the Children's Services Partnership report.

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 in this report.

9. Other Implications

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

10. Integrated Impact Assessment and Consultation Requirements

10.1. In developing the new children's services plan, a combined Equality Impact Assessment and Children's Rights Wellbeing Impact Assessment has been completed as part of the work to build the plan.

10.2. The work to support the participation of children, young people, and families in implementing the priorities of the plan is central to our commitment to the UNCRC and 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, if it is within the law.

Professor Soumen Sengupta

Director, Health and Social Care, South Lanarkshire University Health and Social Care Partnership

Lyndsay McRoberts

Executive Director (Education Resources)

South Lanarkshire Council

18 November 2025

Contact for Further Information

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South Lanarkshire
Partnership
Stronger together



11



Annual Progress Report
2024–2025

for South Lanarkshire's
**Children's
Services Plan**

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



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**Working together:
making a difference**



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



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Section one:

Foreword

Welcome to the second annual report of Working together: making a difference, South Lanarkshire's Children's Services Plan 2023-2026. 'Working Together: Making a Difference' is at the heart of our children's services partnership and how we work together to support the best outcomes for all children, young people and families across South Lanarkshire.

This report reflects on much of the activity of the last year to make things better for children, young people and families, and also looks to the future direction we are taking going forward. Our three high level thematic groups continue to ensure that our activity is closely linked to the national policy agenda, and where possible making the most of available funding streams to help us deliver the changes we aspire for our children and young people.

Our children's services partnership recognises that improvement activity is the core feature of our plan. The learning from this work informs how we work together to offer the best possible support to families and to help us collectively achieve 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.

This report highlights the agreed priorities in our plan and what we still need to do to further improve the life chances of our children, young people and families.

Our priorities are grouped around the following themes:

- ▶ Joining up Whole Family Support
- ▶ Improving the health and wellbeing of children, young people and families, and
- ▶ Keeping the Promise to our care experienced children, young people and families

Our plan is closely aligned to South Lanarkshire's Child Poverty Commitment and its supporting Local Child Poverty Action Report. Our plan also provides 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.

While this report focusses on the priority outcomes of our children's services plan and the improvement work in place to help achieve these outcomes, it also captures wider practice from partners over the last year.

Commitment to Keeping the Promise is a feature across all our planning work, which is increasingly informed by the voice of our children and young people, making them more active and influential in the work of the partnership. Our commitment to support our care experienced children, young people and families is reflected in the role of the Promise Board and the children and young people led Champions Board. Our goal is that the voice of service users will support real change, helping to ensure that South Lanarkshire's children and young people grow up loved, safe and respected.

We are enthused by the opportunities of the UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024 and to making children's rights real in all our work. Best children's rights practice requires proactivity on our part, to which we are committed and one way we do this is to ensure the voices of our children and young people are heard and acted upon across our three thematic groups, where we have meaningful participation of children, young people and families at the heart of the co-design of services.

This report details ways we have worked together to improve outcomes for children, young people and their families in South Lanarkshire and built a strong pathway for delivering on our agreed priorities.

While the report is intended to provide a flavour of work in South Lanarkshire, our achievements and what we have learnt from our work, we also look to where we can do better going forward.



Paul Manning
Chief Executive,
South Lanarkshire
Council



Louise Long
Chief Executive,
NHS Lanarkshire



Section two: Our Vision

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

SLC not for print

Plan 23-26



Section three: Children's Rights in South Lanarkshire



Our commitment to children's rights

The UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024 provided a unique opportunity to work towards best practice in children's rights in everything we do.

Our approach is informed by the aspiration to help children access their rights more easily and we have been engaging with our wider workforce to help them understand children's rights better, be more aware of the demands that incorporation will make on public services and to understand what best practice looks like.

The commitment to respect and promote the rights of all children and young people is central to the work we do, and this strong rights-based approach is making a significant difference to children and young people's lives.

What is great is that we are listening to the voices of more children and young people than ever before, which in turn is informing our work and the work of the wider public sector.

As a partnership we aim to ensure that the voices and lived experience of children, young people and parents and carers are embedded within all our planning processes, and we clearly understand the impact that they have on decisions we make.

Our commitment to children's rights and engagement participation is a strength and features in our children's services plan animation, designed and created by our children and young people:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=fS-fdwNfgOo

Section three: Children's Rights in South Lanarkshire

A selection of the many examples of children's rights practice over the last year to support the implementations of the requirements of the act is shared below:

Children's Rights activity

A Child Friendly Complaints model has been developed by Education Resources which looks at practice regarding complaints and supports children and young people to share their views when complaints about services that affect them are made. This will be rolled out across education establishments in the coming year.

(Article 12 – the right to be heard)

Children's Rights Wellbeing Impact Assessments (CRWIAs) have been incorporated into our corporate Integrated Impact Assessments, and as a result all council services are making decisions informed by an understanding of the potential effect on children and young people. This further reinforces our commitment that the voice of children and young people informs policy and decision making as widely as possible.

(Article 12 the right to be heard)

A new UNCRC eLearning module has been created by our children and young people and has been made available across all public and third sector partners. This training puts children and young people at the heart of our rights-based practice and takes the form of a videoed webinar that informs staff in an entertaining way of the key messages in the UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024 and includes a cameo appearance from the council chief executive Paul Manning.

(Article 42 – the right to know your rights)

We continue to refresh our Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC) website with the latest information and guidance on children's rights, making sure staff are well informed about children's rights and their role in supporting them.

(Article 3 the best interests of the child)

Children and young people are more involved in the planning, delivery and participation in the events.

An event to celebrate Care Day in February 2025, was planned with and led by young people from our Champion's Board. The young people hosted the event and challenged corporate parents to show how they were continuing to keep South Lanarkshire's Promise. This event brought together over 180 care experienced children and young people and corporate parents to share experiences and identify what more we can do together.

(Articles 9, 20 and 21 the right to be cared for)

Our Wellbeing Warriors were at the heart of a conference in March helping to share good practice in schools across South Lanarkshire to support emotional wellbeing. The event also helped highlight other important supports that were available to support children and young people's mental health and emotional wellbeing. The event was attended by both local and national organisations including a representative from the Mental Health Directorate at the Scottish Government.

(Article 24 the right to health care)

The care experienced Champions Board have been more visible to care experienced children and young people and to corporate parents. The Champions regularly host sessions with corporate parents to discuss all aspects of The Promise. This includes a regular visit from council chief executive.

(Article 12 the right to be heard, Article 3 the best interests of the child)

We have introduced a 'Mini Champs' process and made sure that pupils in schools have the opportunity to be heard.

(Article 12 the right to be heard)

Our Champions Board helped to make our Winter Wishes campaign a success and make sure that care experienced young people got extra help over the Winter period with cost-of-living challenges including access to food, Winter clothing, help with paying bills and having their basic needs met, despite the challenges of the cost of living and price increases.

(Article 27 the right to food and clothing and a place to live)

The Champions Board and young people from the Pathfinders project hosted a visit from Scottish Government Minister Natalie Don-Innes in July 2024 and helped launch a national consultation on 'Moving On from care' from the Throughcare and Aftercare Hub. The young people were delighted to get the chance to meet, listen and discuss issues and ideas with a member of the Scottish Government.
(Article 4 Governments have a responsibility to protect children's rights)

Support from the national Promise Fund has helped support a reduction in the criminalisation and inform future support to care-experienced young people who are over-represented in the justice system. Care and justice experienced young people are coming together through the Absent Skills and Knowledge (ASK) youth justice and rights approach to have a say in how best young people can be supported and safeguarded in their communities. The work is being led by young leaders and peer researchers and is supported by the council, COVEY and the University of the West of Scotland.

(Article 19 the right to be protected from harm and article 40 the right to help in the justice system)

As part of a public consultation on council budgets, children and young people led 1300 of their peers in an interactive video process to make their views of known throughout South Lanarkshire visible to decision makers.

The report on their voice was published and made available to elected members as part of the engagement process. In a follow up elected members were asked what impact the views of children and young people had had on the process. Around 25% of all elected members responded to the survey said that the views of children and young people helped convince them they were making the right budgeting decisions.

They were impressed by the emphasis young people placed on education, sports, transport, sustainability infrastructure, music and learning in order to maintain their health and wellbeing and the health and wellbeing of others. Elected members also emphasised the value of the voices of children and young people and that they should keep doing this and they will keep listening and acting to help them. Young people reported that they enjoyed the experience, and it was easy and fun to give their opinions on budget proposals and other issues

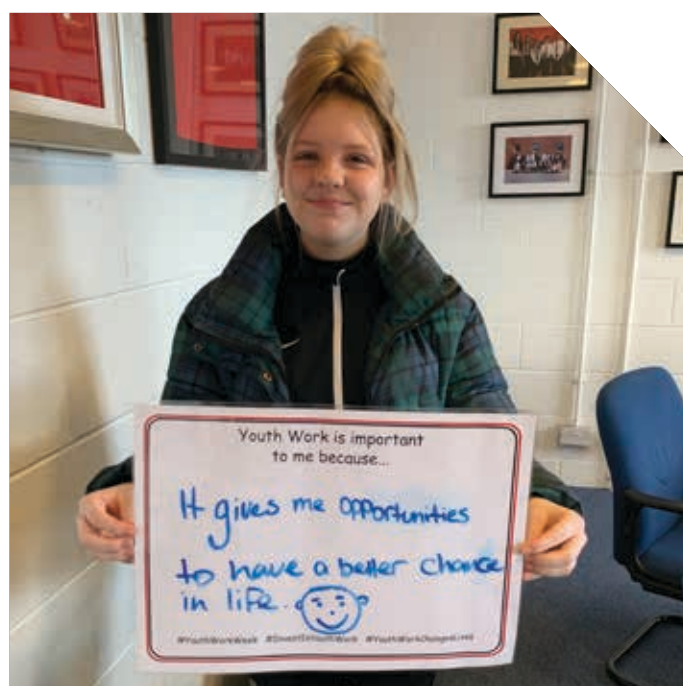
affecting their lives. An annual 'check in' process with children and young people will become a visible feature of community engagement.
(Article 12 the right to be heard)

Gaining the voice of our young people and their input is so important in setting the budget. Elected member

Yes, thank you for taking part, your views are vital for the council to ensure you are able to access opportunities and to flourish in all aspects of your life. Elected member

South Lanarkshire is one of three local authority areas to participate the Marmot Place Programme, which is offering a unique opportunity to improve our understanding of inequalities across South Lanarkshire. Young people spoke at the launch event for the programme and will be a visible and important part of this collaborative approach to address and reduce health inequality across our communities.

(Article 24 the right to the best possible health care and healthy environment)



Section three: Children's Rights in South Lanarkshire

What next for children's rights and participation in South Lanarkshire?

The work of our partnership is rooted in a rights respecting approach, supporting and informing our work and challenging staff to aspire to the best possible outcomes for all children and young people, particularly those who are most vulnerable.

Over the next year and beyond, the following commitments will be a priority for our partnership:

- ▶ We will continue to promote rights-based practice, so all **children's voices are heard** by decision makers
- ▶ We will ensure that the voices of children and young people are listened to at the highest level across all public sector partners as an integral part of practice, building on the **impact of the Child Voice Project**
- ▶ We will further test and extend a consistent approach to **making complaints a child friendly process**
- ▶ We will encourage staff from across the public sector workforce to participate in the UNCRC staff webinar **created and presented by our children and young people**
- ▶ As an integral part of children's services thematic groups, children, young people and families will continue to inform services based on their experiences in the past, their current needs and their **aspirations for the future**
- ▶ We will continue to be innovative in the way we involve children and young people, especially those who do not tend to engage in traditional consultation processes, for example in **seminars, conferences and other big events**
- ▶ We will ensure that the **seven principles of rights-based practice** are at the heart of our all work
- ▶ We will involve children and young people in the development of South Lanarkshire Children's Services Partnership's and NHS Lanarkshire's first Children's Rights Reports in 2026



Section four: Our plan and its progress



Transforming Whole Family Support

Central to our Whole Family Approach is helping all families to flourish and get the right support at the right time supporting a child's right to be raised safely in their own families, for as long as they need it.

We are working together to shift from crisis responses to more proactive approaches by providing support to families earlier to reduce the likelihood of difficulties arising in the first place.

This involves working with the family to identify their needs and potential solutions. Our Whole Family Approach Thematic Group, in collaboration with partners from education, health, social work, and the third sector, coordinates support efforts. We aim to leverage strong relationships to address the needs of the entire family and minimise the necessity for future interventions.

We have structured our time, energy, and resources to focus on prevention. We are providing early help by building on family strengths and making the most of community support to offer practical solutions and reduce any barriers families face. Our holistic family and trauma-informed support takes a 'no wrong door' approach to deliver comprehensive support for individual families.

As stated in our plan, we have agreed a number of areas of change that are being supported by a shared commitment to strong leadership and workforce

strategy, a support system that is accountable to families, and better accessibility to support.

Making sure that our families are at the centre of the design of new and changing services has been a feature of our work in a number of areas and this commitment will continue to be a core aspect of our approach.

Our improvement work has focused on the following:

- ▶ Helping families inform the support they are offered at the earliest stage
- ▶ Reducing the need for more formal support from Social Work
- ▶ Extending the successful Pathfinder project
- ▶ Building staff competence to support parents
- ▶ Working to address and reduce the instances of neglect
- ▶ Addressing domestic abuse
- ▶ Supporting families with disability with financial wellbeing

Section four: Our plan and its progress

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

Outcome - Every family that needs support gets the right family support at the right time for as long as it is needed

Reducing the number of babies, children and young people living away from their families

Family Support Hubs

Family Support Hubs have offered accessible provision in Hamilton, East Kilbride, Lanark and Cambuslang localities. Each area has a team of social workers, family support workers, group workers, peer workers, Children 1st staff and therapists who have offered families a wide range of different types of support with a shared remit of providing whole family support that prevents crisis, reduces inequalities and improves child development, family functioning and wellbeing.

As a result of this 'no wrong door approach' for families 75% of new referrals to Children and Families Social Work were dealt with by the hubs, a 14% increase from last year.

A Parenting Support Group Work Pathway has been successfully implemented with key partners to ensure a coordinated approach to supporting parents through a range of evidence-based programmes and locally developed engagement programmes based on Getting it Right for Every Child. 76% of parents who attended the Incredible Years Programme reported an improvement in their child's strengths and difficulties score. 96% of parents who attended the You and Your Child programme reported an improved understanding of their child's developmental needs and how to meet these as parents.

There has been an increase in participation from fathers this year both in the Dad's Group and across

the other programmes. Across the hubs there is a range of groups and activities available for children and young people, including group work for teens, summer activities and outdoor learning.

The hubs held a 'celebrating success' event in December 2024, which was attended by partners across health, education, social work, leisure and third sector to find out and celebrate the impact that the hubs were making to children and families across South Lanarkshire.

The voices of children and families were the highpoint of the event when they shared their experiences through video of support and the difference it made to their lives. One parent attended the event in person to share her story and highlight the positive impact that these supports have had on her and her children. She emphasised the importance of consistent non-judgmental relationships with workers from the hub, easy access to support and the ways that this helped her family to engage more effectively.

The videos included members of a dad's group and parents and grandparents who attended group work programmes. A young person also shared her experience of the difference individual support from the hubs made in her life. As is our commitment to the voice of children, young people and families, these sharing of experience will directly influence how the services provided by the hubs develop going forward.

Partners at the event were asked to share their views on future areas of improvement for the Family Support Hubs, highlighting any gaps in provision and how these could be addressed by an approach rooted in GIRFEC.

This also informed the future development of the hubs and what they offer to children and families. One aspect of this approach includes the offer of peer support, and as a result 100 per cent of parents supported by the hubs said that peer support is an effective way to provide support when there are barriers preventing a parent from engaging with agencies.

The hubs are supporting more families at an earlier stage than previously was possible, and have helped to reduce a range of more formal interventions for example, less referrals to social work teams, fewer statutory social work interventions, lower rates of child protection investigations and fewer children on the child protection register.

*“ Having my worker by my side has really helped me manage my mental health better. **Young Person** ”*

*“ It was good because it got us all talking. I think it brought us all closer together. **Parent** ”*

*“ I have learned not to doubt myself so much and better ways of helping my child. **Parent** ”*

*“ The meeting was good, it felt positive about trying to move forward in what we could do. It helped us step back a bit and look at the situation. We didn't have a clue about it at first but we were looking for something, anything so we thought try it, it could be helpful. **Grandad** ”*

*“ I have gained so much and am so glad I participated; I am pleased and have left with excellent knowledge and confidence. **Parent** ”*

Family Group Decision Making

Family Group Decision Making is helping families to find their own solutions to any challenges they are facing. This service, provided by Children First and delivered through the Family Hubs has seen 74 families benefit from the support in the last year. The whole family, restorative approach with a strong foundation in human rights, relational and strengths-based practice has been effective in keeping children safe and at home within their families.

Families are being empowered to create a plan for the child and to take ownership of working towards their own outcomes. Meetings are carried out in safe spaces, supporting strong engagement and a sense of equality in the relationship with children and families at its heart.

Children 1st staff are part of joined-up approach through Early Years Multi-Agency Support meetings helping to address vulnerabilities in pregnancy and preventing pre-birth child protection support.

*“ It's been really helpful, after our family meeting there has been a lot less tension, we have better communication, and we are working on talking things through. **Parent** ”*

*“ It was really good and felt that I was listened to and my worries understood. It allowed us to take some control and direction in the plan. **Mum** ”*

Creating a Parents Plan

Families are getting more integrated support at an earlier stage through the creation of a Parents Plan. This has been introduced across all of the Family Support Hubs since March last year and is part of the Early Years Multi-Agency Support activity. This support has meant that there has been a 67% reduction in the number of pre-birth investigations for unborn babies.

As a result, all the families involved have reported improvements in support for their children and their family and outcomes they are able to achieve. The success of this work has seen increasing number of families engaging with staff and benefiting from improved outcomes.

*“ It was just different. I can't explain it. It felt like we were working together and not just social work telling me how to be a mum. **Parent** ”*

Section four: Our plan and its progress

*“ I had referred to the parenting support pathway a few months ago and T has attended the You and Me course. She tells me it was groundbreaking for her, especially to meet other families who were experiencing the same issues with behaviour. She says this support was invaluable and she is really looking forward to attending the Incredible Years programme. **Health Visitor** ”*

Mellow Bumps

Sixteen parents completed the Mellow Bumps programme, which is having a positive impact on families' wellbeing and is helping to build stronger relationships with those who are less likely to access universal services. The programme is helping to develop social connections through meeting other mums-to-be and learning about infant development and how to support it. Feedback from participants has been positive, with all mums-to-be reporting feeling better about themselves and at least two thirds telling us the programme had helped identify their personal strengths and build positive bonds with their baby. Participants said that the group provided support and practical strategies to help them connect with their bumps.

*“ Being an older first-time mum, I felt embarrassed that people would judge me. The other members of the group helped me to relax and enjoy the end of my pregnancy. I attended the Happy Babies Group once my daughter was born. **Parent** ”*

*“ After attending the Mellow Bumps group and receiving support from the Hub, I am happy to say that my son is in my care and his name was removed from the Child Protection register three months after his birth. I now understand how my lifestyle, thoughts and feelings can impact on baby. **Parent** ”*

*“ I made friends with other group members and have since attended the Happy Babies group and will attend You and Your Child group. **Parent** ”*

Reducing the number of families who require crisis support

Pathfinders

The Pathfinders Programme is currently operating within six secondary schools with 14 Youth, Family and Community Learning Pathfinder staff in post. Pathfinders have been active in Cathkin High; Stonelaw High; Lanark Grammar; Calderside Academy; St Andrew's and St Bride's, and Carluke High.

The early and effective model has supported vulnerable young people and their families through a whole family approach and attachment theory principles, working with other agencies to help young people achieve their best possible life outcomes, learning achievements and supporting them to reach their full potential.

Home visits and parental engagement keep families connected to the wider community and are ensuring appropriate referrals to the project. Young people and families are actively involved in designing the right supports for them. Staff are developing trusting relationships, working in partnership with young people and families, to ensure that the work is meaningful and supports each individual young person and family appropriately.

In the past 12 months Pathfinders managed to involve 20% young people than planned providing even more young people with the support required to meet their identified needs.

Reduced inequality gap in child development

You and Your Child

In the last year 22 parents have benefitted from two You and Your Child groups. The groups are designed to help parents and carers support their children with their development in the early years.

Parents meet with workers on a weekly basis over 10 weeks and as a group cover different topics including group discussions, group tasks, play sessions and arts and crafts ideas. Parents told us the good variety of materials, informative sessions, interactive activities, and supportive staff helped them feel more knowledgeable about child development and be more patient and supportive towards their children as a result of the program. The sense of community and the opportunity to make new friends was also highlighted as a positive aspect of the experience.

Of the parents who completed the program, all reported improvements in knowledge and understanding of their child's needs and knowing what to expect from their child at each stage of their development.

*“ I have learned to take time to allow K to express herself, take her time and reflect at the end of the day. I'm happier being K's Mummy and more confident with day-to-day life. **Parent** ”*

*“ The support from the other parents/ carers was brilliant and helpful to chat and learn of everyone's different experiences. **Parent** ”*

NHS Early Years Workers support

Children and families benefitted from extra help from Early Years Workers from NHS Lanarkshire who worked within local health visiting teams. The staff worked in partnership with parents and carers to deliver parenting strategies across the community. Over the last year 94 children were supported and at least 64 children (68%) have shown improved outcomes in speech and language development, physical development that is, being able to run, hop and skip and in problem solving skills such as completing puzzles and shape games.

*“ My Health Visitor referred me onto the Early Years Worker as she was worried about my child not meeting child development standard. The worker has given really good advice about my daughter's development. We use tummy time, and she now has a bedtime routine and I bathe and read to her each night. She loves her books, and we are enjoying this. **Parent** ”*

*“ I've really seen progress in my wee boy. He had delayed speech. The worker brings lots of activities and there is always something new for him to do. The worker was at the house today and we did finger painting. He's starting to learn his colours and he is definitely making more sense; I can make out what he is saying now. He's come on leaps and bounds. **Parent** ”*

Section four: Our plan and its progress

Reducing the inequality gap in wellbeing outcomes for families, children and young people

The Supporting Families Programme

The Supporting Families project is providing flexible wraparound services for families to help remove barriers to social and economic inclusion. The project is supporting children and families from disadvantaged backgrounds and works to lessen the negative effect of child poverty. Families are referred by their primary school and are allocated a dedicated worker who provides support and guidance which helps families engage other organisations and services who can provide the right help, such as financial or employability support.

Children within the families have benefitted from services such as free after school childcare from South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture, and parents and carers are encouraged to attend free health and wellbeing opportunities to improve their physical and mental wellbeing. Some of the activities delivered through the project include walking, family cycle skill sessions, yoga, fitness classes and free access to swimming. The programme is available to families living in the Cambuslang, Rutherglen, Larkhall and Rigside areas of South Lanarkshire. Over the last year 23 families have benefitted from the school childcare provision.



Increasing the number of families taking up wider supports

Health care support for care experienced young people

As part of a continued commitment to improve healthcare support for care experienced young people, NHS Lanarkshire and Social Work's Young Person Service have been trying new ways to support young people who are leaving care. Two nurses have been recruited to ensure that young people are able to maintain positive relationships with supporting staff and benefit from consistent personalised support. Better and easier ways for young people to engage with services is helping to reduce the need for a crisis response and is improving their experience of self-efficacy and empowerment.

Over a hundred young people have benefitted from the support of the dedicated nurses. Of those young people who were involved, two thirds reported that their health needs were being met, and their wellbeing was improving as a result of the dedicated support.

Paths Away From Poverty

The Paths Away From Poverty project developed co-produced, person centred, needs led support plans with families, which included goals and aspirations in respect of support to work through barriers, difficulties and or complexities they were experiencing.

Families benefitted from a range of supports including regular one to one sessions for parents and carers, group sessions to develop peer networking and support opportunities and supported access to a range of essential services and amenities for example, GPs, housing providers, Family Support Hubs, DWP, clothing and food banks, Lanarkshire Carers. This navigation role was a key element of the practice model in helping families access financial wellbeing support, debt and budgeting advice and new applications for various benefits.

It also enabled increased access to GP and wider health services (for example, CAMHS and occupational therapy), more help on housing issues, such as rent arrears and a range of needs led support like food and clothing banks, respite from caring and counselling to support emotional wellbeing of carers.

All families reported a reduction in financial stress and other intended outcomes for example:

- ▶ Improved quality of living within the home as a result of better access to additional resources via local authority and housing services
- ▶ More open and trusting of staff as a result of changes which have taken place in their lives and their children's lives
- ▶ Parents are choosing to fully engage within their support and support from other sources for example, school or housing
- ▶ Improved health and wellbeing, as a result of stronger and more trusting relationships with NHS Lanarkshire, CAMHS and local GP surgeries
- ▶ Improved confidence and motivation of parents/carers who have ASN and being more open to engage with their local community
- ▶ More able to identify opportunities to connect with other community members, such as trusted neighbours or family members

*I can't think you enough for the support I have received from the service. It has been invaluable and allowed my confidence to grow as well as being able to sort my medication for my ADHD. **Parent***

*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***

Supporting leadership, workforce and culture

Reducing Neglect

The parents plan approach was introduced in March 2024. At this stage the average number of pre-birth investigations was 1.2 per week. It took a number of months for us to see a sustained shift but from December 2024 the shift below the baseline has been sustained for 14 weeks and the new average per week has reduced to 0.4, which is a 67% reduction in the number of pre-birth investigations initiated for unborn babies.

The Implementation of the Working with Neglect Practice Toolkit in South Lanarkshire has been in progress over the past 2 ½ years, with training being a part of the implementation.

Responding to Neglect training continues to be available within the Public Protection Learning and Development Programme, with three sessions delivered each year. Going forward the training will move from virtual Microsoft Teams to face-to-face delivery.

In total, 199 frontline staff and managers from social work, health, education and the third sector have completed the Responding to Neglect training.



Section four: Our plan and its progress

Family Recovery Everyone Everywhere

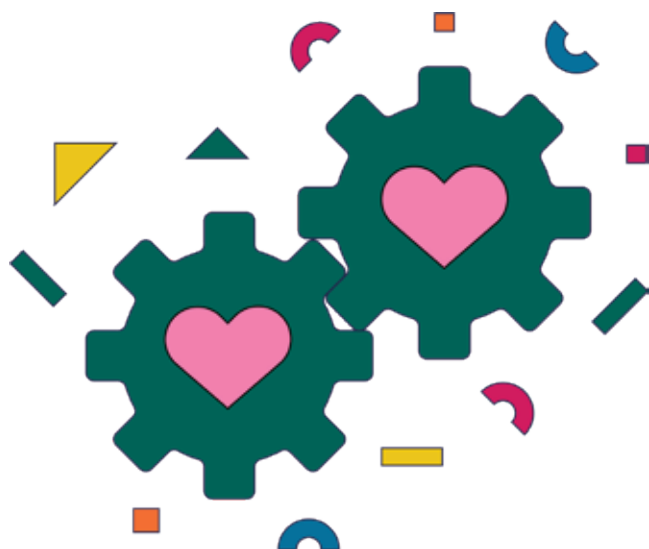
My Support Day and Liber8 deliver Family Recovery Everyone Everywhere (FREE) for families across South Lanarkshire affected by problematic alcohol or drug use. As a result, families are benefiting from counselling one-to-one support, group support, learning and development and events for the whole family.

The project supported 112 families over the last year and families enjoyed 'Family Saturdays' that included Children's Movie Time, Mindfulness, Build My Paper House, board games, quizzes, bingo, Catchphrase and arts and crafts. These interactive play sessions helped families develop positive family bonds and strengthen the relationship between children and parents.

In addition, 22 parents and carers were trained in CRAFT (Community Reinforcement and Family Training) helping to build the capacity of parents and carers to support each other through a peer-facilitated program for family members who have someone close to them with a substance use issue. It has helped families cope with the impact of addiction and helped increase the willingness of family members to access and benefit from treatment.

I enjoy making new friends and doing arts and crafts. Child

The feeling of being part of a family and being accepted knowing that you won't be judged. Parent



Regen:FX - GIVIT some STREET

The GIVIT Some Street project has helped to increase early intervention successful outcomes for young people and support more sustained recovery, by helping them move on from more intensive one to one support. Young people being supported have received help with their substance use, non-attendance at school or engagement with education, their offending behaviour or the impact of parents' substance use.

The support is available for young people up to 25 with problematic alcohol or substance use and who are less likely to engage with mainstream services. Young people report that because of the support they have reduced their use of drugs and/or alcohol, improved their overall wellbeing, increased their safety and improved their engagement in opportunities such as education and wider community.

Through the project young people created a powerful drama piece from their own experiences to raise awareness about contextual safeguarding and the dangers they face daily in their communities and among peers. The performance was delivered at the annual event of Scottish Association for the Study of Offending, including the Head of the Scottish Violence Reduction Unit, Chief Social Work Advisors, Professors of Criminology, former High Court Judges and the Assistant Chief Constable of Police Scotland. The performance and related question and answer session were well received by the audience and helped contribute to reducing stigma in a unique, innovative way.

Regen:FX - The GIVIT

GIVIT provided support to 188 young people aged 13-25 with problematic alcohol/substance who don't use mainstream services or struggle to maintain engagement with support services. The project has helped young people benefit from treatment and recovery initiatives and established a supportive peer recovery community to move the young people into sustainable outcomes. Young people complete an Outcome Star on a regular basis to help visualise how the project is helping them improve their attitude and behaviour around drugs and alcohol, wellbeing, personal safety, education and engagement in the wider community.

The project has also been able to identify unmet need and provide a practical response to address the issue for example, there has been a reported increase of young people experiencing problematic cocaine use and in response GIVIT developed and delivered cocaine workshops to young people to ensure they are highlighting risks, along with appropriate harm reduction information.

Furthermore, the project identified that young people who are in homeless accommodation or are at risk of being ejected from the family home are at higher risk of substance use and exploitation. To respond, the project recruited a youth homeless transition worker to work closely with providers of homeless accommodation and identify young people who are not engaging with services and support them to address problematic substance use. This work was so successful that Blue Triangle Housing Association nominated the project for a partnership award at the VASLAN Third Sector Awards 2024 where it was a finalist in the relevant category.

Burnhill Beauty Academy

The Burnhill Beauty School was created to provide additional opportunities for young people attending Rutherglen Universal Connections. The project has given six young people the chance to engage with beauty training, covering sessions of practical applications alongside theory work, testing their knowledge and skills and resulting in learners achieving vocational awards in Beauty Standards, Gel Nail Polish Application, and Nail Art.

As a result of increased confidence in their achievements, the young people are keen to build on their learning, and access invaluable work experience and further training opportunities.

They also want to develop entrepreneurial skills, set up their own enterprise and learn about starting a business. The group are planning to form their own constituted group called Burnhill Beauty Academy.

At the end of the course the group hosted a celebration event, to allow parents and carers to share in the success of the young people and see their young person gaining the award and getting public recognition.



Larkhall The Health and Wellbeing Group

The Wellbeing Group run by Larkhall Universal Connections and Larkhall Academy has helped young people explore a broad range of health and wellbeing topics designed to be responsive to their needs leading to positive outcomes.

Nine second year pupils were supported through team building, which helped establish a rapport meaning the young people were able to socialise, form relationships and foster a positive dynamic. The group participated in discussion and topic-based learning including resilience, personal care, relationships, confidence building and social media. Over time the participants felt comfortable to talk about issues that matter to them, opening up to their peers and being respectful to one another while sharing.

The young people were involved in completing an accredited award (Dynamic Youth) and celebrating the skills that they had gained in the process. The young people broke down barriers together, improving their confidence, self-esteem, social skills and communication. The group were initially very quiet and only socialising when necessary, but by the end of the group they were all working together, chatting, laughing and showing a real sense of teamwork.

Section four: Our plan and its progress

The Expressive Practices Programme

The Expressive Practices programme has helped high school pupils engage with a range of creative activities in an informal, safe and relaxed environment. The programme supports vulnerable young people who require additional support in terms of their health and wellbeing.

Young people have been given the opportunity to express themselves, explore themes that they believe are important for them and to tell their stories their way. The group actively help to shape the programme based on what worked for them and areas they would like to explore further. A weekly diary is maintained for the group, recording notable aspects of discussions and work produced by the young people and workers' observations.

Young people have identified their time with the group as incredibly valuable to their sense of wellbeing, relieving stress and anxiety. Through their feedback, several young people said that the group is a place where they feel comfortable, safe and able to be their true selves, supported, seen and heard and free from judgement. The young people helped make a successful bid to the YouthLink Scotland Youth Arts Open Fund for £15,000 to bring professional artists into the community to deliver a series of exciting workshops in visual arts, theatre, storytelling and film making. The young people will use the learning to develop their skills in the arts and to expand their confidence and vocalising their thoughts, emotions, beliefs and aspirations.



English for Speakers of Other Languages

The Youth Family and Community Learning ESOL Family Learning Project at St. Mary's Primary School in Larkhall supported families whose first language is not English to integrate effectively into the community and support their children's educational development. The project welcomed four families from Lithuania, Turkey, Moldova, and Zimbabwe to ESOL classes helping to meet the support and learning needs of parents

The sessions incorporated arts and crafts activities that helped improve emotional wellbeing and creative skills. The programme also included lessons on Scottish and British culture, contributing to the families' integration and helped them better understand their new environment. An important aspect of the programme was experiencing educational visits, giving the families the opportunity to explore their new country, strengthen bonds, and spend quality time together as families. Highlights included a visit to Stirling Castle and a memorable day at the Glasgow Science Centre, where participants particularly enjoyed the robotics workshop and the sea world documentary.

For the families, the classes became more than just a means of improving language skills, they also provided a safe and supportive space for sharing experiences, laughter, and building lasting friendships. Families reported improvements in confidence and self-esteem, social skills, mental health and emotional wellbeing and being more able to support their child's learning. In addition, parents have improved their employability skills through improved language skills.

One parent began working as a teaching assistant for students with additional support needs and another joined the family business at a local café. A third parent started a career in decorating, while one found a role at a dog hotel business. The children are thriving at school, and their teachers are pleased with their excellent progress.



*Thank you for making us feel that we are not alone in this country. **Parent***

*I love the group, it's fun having my mum with me makes me feel better. **Child***

*The children have asked for this class to be on every day, the children are thriving in school and making excellent progress in their social skills. **Head Teacher***

Section four: Our plan and its progress

Improving the health and wellbeing of children, young people and their families

As a partnership supporting children and young people's mental health is important to achieving positive outcomes. Our approach supports protecting mental health at an early age and delivering early support to ensure robust future mental wellbeing and resilience, as well as wider life outcomes.

Our work to improve the health and wellbeing for all children, young people and families in South Lanarkshire is led by the Health and Wellbeing Thematic Group and reinforced by taking a whole systems approach to supporting mental health and wellbeing.

This approach emphasises support that is:

- ▶ Empowering
- ▶ Offering the right support at the right time, and
- ▶ Ensuring a 'no wrong door' approach, so that children and young people tell their story only once

We have established or extended a number of community-based initiatives for our children and young people for example, Kooth, an online wellbeing and counselling support for children and young people, the Blues programme and the delivery of peer support programmes in schools through mental health and wellbeing workshops for families and staff.

The group takes a whole systems approach to supporting mental health and wellbeing and contributes to the work of the South Lanarkshire Attachment Strategy to provide better experiences of attachment for children and young people.

In addition, there has been an increase in capacity to deliver focused supports to the most vulnerable children and young people through the Trauma Recovery Service and additional practitioners to support those who are care experienced.

The supports offered through the work of the Thematic Group and any plans for new supports have been informed by the voice of children and young people at the heart of our planning.

The improvement work includes the following:

- ▶ Supporting maternal and infant mental health
- ▶ Improving support offered to children and young people at risk of self-harm and suicide
- ▶ Improving access to online mental health support
- ▶ Supporting the emotional wellbeing of staff
- ▶ Improve whole system approaches to mental health and wellbeing

Outcome - Every child and young person will be able to access support which helps improve their mental health and emotional wellbeing



Improved maternal and infant mental health

Supporting infant mental health

Work is ongoing to support health visitors and family nurses build their understanding of infant mental health issues and be in a position to provide the best support to families at this crucial stage. A training presentation has been created for staff that has helped raise the awareness of the importance of the voice of the infant and where children's rights contribute to Infant Mental Health practice.

Staff are also being supported to use an Infant Mental Health observational tool in their work with families, which has helped increase the awareness and understanding of infant mental health in general.

A survey asked health workers about listening to the voices of babies by observing them using the tool. The survey highlighted some areas for improvement in awareness, accessibility and usefulness of the tool and the Infant Mental Health pledge. It also found that three quarters of staff were using the observation tool in practice and had good awareness and understanding of infant mental health. Recommendations included enhancing training and improving collaboration with partners and establishing a clear feedback mechanism with families.

Most workers know how to help, but some need more training and teamwork. The plan is to teach everyone working with infants 0-3 to focus on listening more to infants so they get the best care possible.

Breastfeeding Friendly

Maternity, Health Visiting and Family Nurse Partnership staff have worked to achieve the Baby Friendly Gold Award to support more women to breastfeed. South Lanarkshire Council have signed up to make their main buildings Breastfeeding Friendly and are working towards a breastfeeding friendly bronze award. As part of this process, training and information have been offered to increase staff awareness of this commitment. The council's Early Learning and Childcare centres are participating in the breastfeeding friendly approach and 12 sites are already taking part.

The village of Carnwath is taking a 'whole town approach' with shops, cafés, and community venues throughout the village displaying the Breastfeeding Friendly Scotland award logo and 'Welcome to Mums who breastfeed.'

Overall, the work to make South Lanarkshire facilities and communities more breastfeeding friendly is helping to increase sustainability of breastfeeding up to at least eight weeks after birth, which has increased by almost four percent in the last year.



Section four: Our plan and its progress

Improved support offered to children and young people who may be at risk of self-harm and suicide

Implementation of Lifelines Lanarkshire (Multi-agency guidance for working with children and young people who may be at risk of self-harm)

Multi-agency guidance training was provided for staff to learn about Lifelines Lanarkshire and how to use the guidance to provide the best support to children and young people. In the last year, 191 staff from education, social work, health, police and the third sector attended the training.

A need was identified to focus the training on school counsellors due to the role they play in supporting pupils in schools. An adapted, online module of the training was provided and offered to the counsellors. In total 32 out of a possible 44 school counsellors took part (73%). Two thirds of staff reported increased knowledge, understanding and confidence in supporting children and young people on the issue of self-harm and suicide. Almost all staff highlighted an increase in confidence regarding using Lifelines Lanarkshire guidance materials.

Trauma informed approaches

Children and Young People and their families in South Lanarkshire have been able to see a trauma counsellor to help make sense of their experiences, manage their feelings better and have better relationships. Direct access to specialist trauma counsellors was provided by the local Family Support Hubs, where counsellors provided a range of therapeutic support.

The support is currently available for families receiving social work support within the Family Support Hubs who have experienced trauma that impacts on their role as parents. Families can find out about the therapy from workers within the hubs and referrals are made by staff supporting them. Around 340 sessions were delivered across the first year of the service, making significant differences in the lives of families supported. In addition to the positive impact on families, staff have reported feeling more trauma-informed and empowered to support children and families.

Staff in the Family Support Hubs have also been increasing their understanding and capacity to provide more trauma informed support to families using the facilities. This has included embedding reflective trauma informed practice in their work, creating opportunities for staff to improve their own wellbeing and develop awareness of themselves and their relationships in their work. The approach has involved one to one therapeutic supervision sessions and group reflective practice sessions for staff, as well as training delivered by specialist trainers.

Families report that they have found the support valuable and that it has helped them build trust with others, be more aware of the choices they had, have a better understanding of themselves and their story and have stronger relationships with their children and families.

“Because she has a relationship with me, she was far more open to us and our suggestions. So, when we asked her if she would engage in trauma therapy, she absolutely did... I just think it's an incredible thing to be able to offer.”
Counsellor

“I've had a few families who have all had Trauma Recovery Counselling and it's had a big impact on their life, but I just think it's given us something to offer that some families haven't ever had that before and it's so accessible, so easy for them to access that, and for us to put a referral in for them, which has been amazing.”
Staff member

Trauma support case study

A family was referred for trauma support due to their six-year-old daughter disclosing sexual abuse within the wider family setting. The family support worker concerned about mum's response to this, and potential issues with appropriately supporting the child's needs made the referral. Mum is a care experienced young person who has own history of complex trauma throughout childhood.

The assessment with the family support worker and the family showed that the child who had made the disclosure was receiving multiple supports through both school and social work, and there was no clear need for any further therapeutic intervention for her at the time. The disclosure had a detrimental impact on mum's mental wellbeing and her capacity to parent causing severe distress and triggering some of her own traumatic experiences as a child.

It was agreed that mum would benefit from some individual support to be better able to respond to and help her daughter around the disclosure.

Mum was offered 19 sessions of trauma-focussed counselling, with a focus on capacity to be able to manage her own responses and support her child in her recovery from this traumatic experience.

As a result of the support, mum reported that it had helped her address her own traumatic life experiences, build increased functioning and coping skills, build stronger relationships with her family and children and increase her self-esteem and feeling better about herself. Mum also said that she was better able to see and support the positive steps her daughter was making in her recovery.



Supporting children and young people with eating problems

Six members of staff took part in a pilot workshop to increase confidence in supporting children and young people with issues related to eating. The success of the initial training meant that the opportunity was offered to more staff and by the end of March this year 40 staff who had benefitted from the workshop reported increased confidence in recognising and responding to young people with an eating problem. The content of the workshop has been adapted following feedback from participants and will be rolled out further so more staff can benefit from the training.



Opportunities in reflective practice

Reflective practice in the form of confidential therapeutic supervision, group sessions and training events has been delivered across the Family Support Hubs. Staff have benefitted from drop-in sessions and all staff are invited to attend group sessions and training. Over 60 members of staff have also accessed training on resilience, self-care, active listening and anxiety management.

Staff who support children, young people and their families were given space to relax, get some support and talk about how they feel so they could recharge and carry on. Staff received support to learn about taking care of themselves and opportunities to learn more skills to be a better worker.

Section four: Our plan and its progress

Staff say:

“Talking my feelings through has been so beneficial and makes me feel less stressed within my role. We have little opportunity to talk through cases with someone who really listens and gives you space to think about just a particular case, so having this opportunity is invaluable.”

“The sessions mean you can slow down and think of things in a different way it helps me see things that maybe I hadn't before.”

“I think at times I have felt overwhelmed within my role and this time to pause and think about the task you are being asked to do can really help clarify your role and in turn make you feel less stressed.”

Improved whole system approaches to mental health and wellbeing

Counselling through schools

Over the last year 1745 young people aged between 10 and 18 benefitted from counselling support through the Counselling through Schools approach, which provides one-to-one counselling support within the child or young person's school environment. Pupils were given advice, support and suggestions for coping mechanisms and the counselling support has helped them to increase their understanding of their emotions.

Evaluations showed that 87% of children in primary school reported an improved outcome using the Stirling Wellbeing Scale of measurement. In secondary school 82% of young people reported improvements in their wellbeing.

Feedback from both primary and secondary schools showed that 87% of children and young people agreed that counselling has helped to improve their general mental health and wellbeing. Many children and young people liked that the counselling environment was a safe and judgement free space and appreciated that they were able to talk to someone and to be heard.

Increasing the awareness of help in the community

The last year has seen the launch of a new website (www.wellbeingsouthlan.co.uk) for children and young people, outlining information about key topics and helping increase access to national and local supports. The website was designed and built with children and young people helping to agree the content and style of the website. Since April 2024, the website was visited by 1962 children and young people, helping to provide new ways for children and young people to improve their emotional health and wellbeing.



Active Schools Leadership Programme



In August 2023, two Syrian Refugee children started school in Forth's primary seven class. Unable to speak any English the two boys sat with an iPad on Google Translate, trying to make sense of their new surroundings as best they could. Through the Active Schools Leadership Programme, the boys were supported to increase their participation in sport and they attended a Primary Seven Transition Festival, which helped to break down language barriers like no other activity, and the boys thrived in this environment.

This started the wheels in motion of some great partnership working and Active Schools, Forth Primary School, the South Lanarkshire Resettlement Team, Biggar Community Council and Biggar Rugby Club helped to fully integrate both boys and one of their brothers within the rugby club. They were provided with free memberships, rugby kit and volunteers were enlisted to transport the boys and parents to and from training and games. This gave the parents the opportunity to see where their boys were going and Biggar Community Council provided funding to transport both families to and from the club for periodic events. Both families attended the end of season awards in June 2025.

For their first 18 months in Scotland, they were fully engaged, at a time where they struggled with language barriers and getting used to a new culture. This project gave the boys the ability to settle in Scotland and meet new people in an environment outwith the primary school. The boys participated fully within rugby at Biggar RFC and in high school and the project supported an easier and better transition to Scotland for two refugee families at a challenging time.

Child and carer therapy

A dedicated counselling approach through child and carer therapy has helped children and young people come together with a parent or carer and explore issues and feelings safely. It has supported families who are struggling with behaviour challenges and has helped children and young people feel more understood by their parents and carers. Children and young people were offered a space with a counsellor where they came together with their parent or carer to try and sort out difficulties or problems they had. It worked really well and lots of children and young people said it helped them improve their relationships at home and they felt much better.

The sessions have helped children and young people manage their emotions and strengthen family relationships to deal with issues of trauma, grief and loss, abuse, neglect and developmental issues.

Families have said that the support has helped improve family relationships, improve parent/child bonds and attachment, increase health and wellbeing and increase the feeling of security for children. Forty families have benefitted from the sessions, which were offered to families involved in the support hubs.

The children and young people were asked for feedback and reported on what was good and useful, and what could be better for them. They reported that shorter sessions would be good, but more of them. They loved the homework tasks, breathing exercises they had to do together and the use of art to help express themselves. Some reported that they loved being able to tell their story.

All parents said that the support improved their mental health and wellbeing, and 78 percent said it improved their child's mental health and wellbeing.

Participants told us:

The counselling makes my relationship with my parents better

It has helped my relationships with other people better

I understand my feelings better

I cope with difficult situations better

I feel more confident

Section four: Our plan and its progress

Wellbeing Warriors

The Wellbeing Warriors are a group of young people who meet regularly to ensure every child has the right to be heard in matters affecting them and their mental health. They are working with South Lanarkshire Council to address topics around mental health and wellbeing that matter most to young people. The group was established, based on the principles of the seven rules of participation and as a result of their work have identified priorities to be covered by partners, which includes; male mental health, availability of support, exam stress, body image and understanding prejudice towards the LGBT community.

The group have organised a wellbeing conference for the last three years with support from staff from Education Resources and the most recent conference showcased what is happening within their schools. The young people have learned a range of skills in being part of the group, including practical skills, such as the use of online programmes to design leaflets and documents to support evaluation. For others this has been around building confidence to speak to other young people, or taking the opportunity to share and learn in relation to the mental health and wellbeing topics identified.

A survey of young people attending the conference highlighted 100% of the young people said they would recommend attending the conference to a friend.

Improved visibility and accessibility of community mental health supports and services

Online support for young people

The Kooth digital platform helps young people to access support and therapy through a peer community and professional support approach. South Lanarkshire children and young people actively engaged and making good use in all aspects of the platform. Between April 2024-March 2025, 678 young people accessed Kooth with 72% of them reporting that the platform content was a useful form of support.

“Your support was so helpful, you never judged me at all, which I appreciate so much, and you always checked in first thing. So overall, you were the best, and the most helpful person I’ve ever met.”
Young person

Improving access to community mental health supports

Voluntary Action South Lanarkshire (VASLan) has created a Mental Health and Wellbeing Network to increase working relationships between public and third sector organisations supporting children, young people and families’ mental health.

Key to this work has been organising quarterly network events. Three have been held so far, in August and November 2024, and February 2025, with a fourth planned for May 2025. Each event offers the opportunity for presentations, local spotlights, workshops, and networking opportunities aimed at enhancing service delivery and encouraging collaboration. Workshops during the events have been essential in identifying challenges with mental health and wellbeing support and services, such as limited funding, service gaps, access issues, and workforce struggles. Participants also suggested improvements like increasing awareness, strengthening family support, and encouraging more inclusive partnerships.



The Network has grown to include 91 organisations and 224 individual members, with a strong focus on the contribution made by third sector groups and organisations. So far, the Network has helped to raise the awareness of the range of services for children, young people, and families, encouraging collaboration across organisations, help to build sustainable partnership and advocate for community wellbeing. The Network has successfully raised the profile of mental health and wellbeing as a community priority, helping to ensure that the needs of children, young people, and families remain central in local strategy and decision-making in South Lanarkshire.

As a result, organisations are beginning to be better connected and more informed about available services, helping them to signpost families more effectively. The focus on collaboration and partnership has also begun to influence local planning discussions, laying the groundwork for more coordinated and accessible support in the future.

Staff professional learning and development to ensure their own and others' wellbeing established

Supporting staff

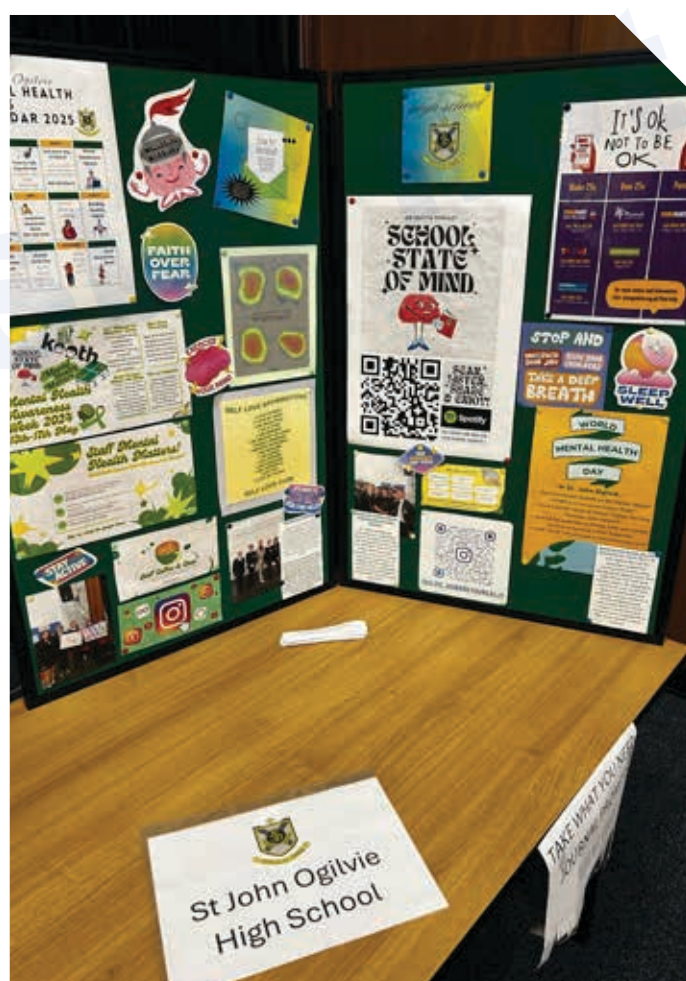
Fifteen staff from Social Work Resources took part in a half day anxiety awareness workshop which has helped increase their recognition and understanding of issues related to anxiety. The next step is to offer a School Staff Anxiety Workshop before March 2026.

Training for Let's Introduce Anxiety Management

Over 45 staff have been given the opportunity to benefit from training in anxiety management over the last 12 months and as a result a number of schools, family support hubs and the school nursing service have been able to offer this valuable support to children and young people. As part of support to staff, coaching has been provided which is helping to make sure there is a high quality of the Lets Introduce Anxiety Management (LIAM) across South Lanarkshire and that staff feel the help they provide is valued and recognised.

The NHS Lanarkshire Training in Psychological Skills Early Interventions for Children Team, who deliver the training and coaching to staff are planning to ensure that children and young people across South Lanarkshire don't miss out due to a lack of trained staff in their area and are actively working with schools, social work, educational psychology and other stakeholders to provide a consistent offer of LIAM across all areas.

The team has also delivered self-harm and suicide awareness training to staff as part of the approach to deliver commitments on the Lifelines Lanarkshire strategy and guidance. Over 110 staff have benefitted for this training, increasing their ability to help support children and young people in a range of settings across South Lanarkshire through improvements in confidence and knowledge.



Section four: Our plan and its progress

Addressing Stigma

The Stigma Free approach

The Stigma Free Lanarkshire campaign has been helping to bring partners together to work with young people and challenge mental health stigma and discrimination. Twenty-three workshops have been delivered to 413 people and has included the launch of the People's Stigma Network in November 2024. Stigma Free Lanarkshire has been working alongside two services within Regen:FX (The GIVIT and GoTo) to create anti-stigma messages and promote young people's mental health.

A focus group with the GoTo's project's Youth Advisory Panel gathered valuable insights on their experiences of stigma, especially in accessing GP services. The feedback is helping to shape GP training and other community initiatives to reduce stigma in the following ways for example, working with the young people to create more stigma free places in their lives, sharing young people's voices on social media and creating a podcast that is raising the awareness of and challenging stigma.

A peer support pilot in secondary schools was delivered from April 2024 - March 2025 and 127 young people have been trained as peer supporters in nine schools. Almost all the pupils involved (99%) said the training was useful in preparing them for their role as peer supporters.

The (In)Visible Me Event (part of Scottish Mental Health Arts Festival) provided the opportunity to address stigma through presentations and information stalls and six young people signed up to volunteer as part of the Stigma Free initiative. A 'Recovery Event' in November 2024 showcased the work of young Mental Health Ambassadors in schools and plans are in place for the next event in November this year.

"Hearing from schoolkids was amazing. Hearing how kid's mental health is improving through their eyes is so very inspiration. To know the next generation will be so much more comfortable talking about mental health."

Staff member

"As young people, mental health can be daunting and difficult to talk about but today broke down so many barriers."

Young person

"It helped me see the real-world importance. I heard the voices of people who were experiencing recovery, and the challenges they face."

Young person

It is planned that the anti-stigma movement across Lanarkshire will grow through work with schools, colleges and through the People's Stigma Network. Partners are committed to supporting the delivery of workshops and the inspirational Champions Programme and Volunteer Programme.





Keeping the Promise to our care experienced children, young people and families

In South Lanarkshire, we are committed to the overall vision of The Promise and are working on key aspects such as 'a good childhood,' the voice of care experienced children and young people and through our whole family approach.

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The work to deliver real and meaningful change, as aspired by The Promise, is led by the Keeping The Promise Thematic Group, who are staff from organisations that are working to provide better support for care experienced families for example, access to health support, providing an education that fully meets learners needs, promoting the importance of strong and consistent relationships (particularly brothers and sisters), improving access to advocacy support, the decriminalisation of care experienced young people, supporting young people with moving on from care and ensuring the right support is available for all families at the right time.

Our chief officer level Promise Board ensures a shared level of accountability set up to drive change and our Champions Board creates the opportunity for our care experienced children and young people to articulate their views and experiences with corporate parents including the Promise Board. This is already helping us shape and adapt practice to meet The Promise vision. Our dedicated Promise Participation Team works to elevate voice through creating opportunities for the participation of care experienced children and young people on the issues that matter to them.

The following information reflects the programme of improvement activity to support care experienced children, young people and families and builds on the important successes of the previous two-year children's services plan.

Section four: Our plan and its progress

Our priorities have been:

- ▶ The voice of children and young people in decision making
- ▶ Accessible mental health support
- ▶ Help with sustaining further and higher education opportunities and greater employability options
- ▶ Access to health care with dedicated nurses to support better health outcomes for young people 16 - 26
- ▶ Young people over 16 benefiting from improved and more consistent pathway planning especially in terms of housing
- ▶ Support with managing finances and money
- ▶ Brothers and sisters
- ▶ Youth voice in the youth justice system and our approach to contextual safeguarding

Outcome - Children and young people grow up loved, safe, respected and listened to

Voice is at the heart of all decision-making processes at all levels

Children and young people informing their plans

A new suite of planning documents has been designed by care experienced young people using trauma informed language. The paperwork is part of a national approach with colleagues from different local authorities coming together to review its suitability for use. As a result of using the new documents, staff report increased attendance at meetings, improved participation as well as a better understanding of the layout of the forms. What is great is that 100% of children and young people tell us that the new paperwork captures their voice, lived experience and supports improvements in their situation and they are more able to participate in key decision-making processes as a result.

Influencing Change

The Champions Board members have now met with Corporate Parents on a regular basis including council Chief Executive and other key decision makers. The 'Champions' have feedback that they collectively feel more included, consulted and more able to influence change at varying levels such as the Keeping The Promise Thematic Group, Housing Planning Group and informing health services.

'Mini Champs' groups have been established in all secondary schools and are supported by The Promise development team and care experienced teachers to ensure that the voices of care experienced pupils are heard and helps to inform their learning in school.



You said, we did

As part of the engagement visits between corporate parents and the Champions Board, a feedback loop has been established with the aim of ensuring that corporate parents are following through on their promises to South Lanarkshire's care experienced community. The young people implement and review the process, asking corporate parents for a follow up report on agreed actions, or a follow up visit.

The most recent example of this approach has been the Housing Futures initiative, which the Champions have helped design. The project is delivering supported tenancies for young people moving on from residential childcare establishments and the feedback loop has ensured accountability from corporate parents and improved relationship-based practice with key decision makers. This approach has resulted in 100% of young people who participated telling us they are happy with the results of the engagement with corporate parents.

Increased number of care experienced people accessing further and/or higher education opportunities and successful employment

Sustaining participation in employability programmes

Care Experienced young people are continuing to benefit from the support of the Aspire and Aspireworks programmes in their employability journeys, through established referral arrangements, schools, Skills Development Scotland and Social Work. All young people are supported by an individual key worker to complete an individual support plan which may involve a blend of one-to-one support, taster sessions, groupwork, health and wellbeing activities and work placements to help them move into employment, further education or training.

Over the last year 87% of care experienced young people progressed to a positive destination on completion of their employability programme.



Case Study - Aspire

A care experienced young person was referred to Aspire in their last six months of school. They had disengaged from school and were identified by their pupil support teacher as not being on track to achieve a positive destination. At an initial meeting, with the young person, school and Aspire worker, the young person expressed an interest in the beauty industry. College options were discussed, and the young person was keen to learn more about this industry through attending the Winter Leaver Programme. The young person was keen to start and was looking forward to this new opportunity.

The young person had a positive experience at the Winter Leaver Programme and made an excellent contribution to the class and her studies. They had a 98% attendance rate, which was a significant improvement on her school attendance. They decided to apply for a college course starting in January in Beauty Therapy and was successful. The young person was motivated throughout her time on the programme with increased confidence in their ability and meeting new people and has aspirations, to start their own business in the beauty industry in the future. They also hope to pass their driving test which will allow them to be mobile and go to customers houses.

They are very proud of their achievements and have said:

“ I feel that the support I got from my vocational development worker helped me greatly when I was struggling to attend classes at school. **Young Person** ”

“ When I started my beauty course after leaving school, I know that my Aspire worker will be in the college on a Monday and will help me if I have any problems. I also have their contact details if I require any help. **Young Person** ”

“ I also feel more relaxed within myself and have a better outlook on my life in the future. **Young Person** ”

Section four: Our plan and its progress

Case Study GradU8 Programme - Calvin is Building a Bright Future

The GradU8 programme offers senior phase pupils (S4-S6) an opportunity to study towards a vocational qualification. Calvin started the GradU8 Construction programme at Glasgow Kelvin College in August 2024 and completed it in March 2025. With support from his Aspire worker, Calvin applied for the Introduction to Construction course at South Lanarkshire College and now has an unconditional offer to start this August.

Calvin said:

“ I enjoyed my time on the Gradu8 Construction course at Kelvin College. I enjoyed meeting new people. This course has helped me make good choices about my future career in construction. ”



Supporting care experienced young people access college courses

Care experienced pupils thinking about accessing college courses are benefiting from early support before and at the application stage and are supported by one-to-one individualised support and coaching by a Guidance and Support Advisor. Advisors offer small group sessions and presentations to care experienced school pupils to highlight the support available to them and to improve the school to college transition experience and help pupils prepare for the next step in their education journey.

Pupils benefit from support that includes a tour of the college campus, fast tracked student funding applications, extended learning support, and a range of provision to support their health and wellbeing, such as counselling, mindfulness, yoga, and peer support through the Student Association.

Sustaining care experienced students in Further and Higher Education

Care experienced students are benefiting from a renewed focus through South Lanarkshire College's 'We Promise to Care' Plan. Through the plan the college has committed to a number of actions to improve the learner journey for care experienced students and to improve their learning outcomes. This support includes the development of a new system to improve tracking of students' progress and create a better awareness and an offer of early support for those students who are at risk of dropping out of a course. Skills Development Scotland also provide dedicated support in college to these students in partnership with the college. Students are offered student-led activities to promote health and wellbeing, providing 6-weekly support meetings to help students who are struggling and need additional support to help keep them on track and are offered dedicated peer support through the college's Student Association.

Successes are recognised at an end of year celebration event for students and this approach led to an 11% increase in successful outcomes for care experienced young people at the college.

Supporting care experienced pupils in schools

Designated senior managers in all schools are collaborating to design and use effective ways of monitoring and supporting the attainment of care experienced young people.

Staff in schools are able to see in real time how their schools are supporting care experienced children across a number of areas that are a priority for pupils learning.

These tools draw data from Education's SEEMiS information system that helps to show how individual pupils or groups of pupils are progressing in their learning targets. These tools can be used at school, learning community or across South Lanarkshire. The designated senior managers meet throughout the school session to focus on the key elements of progress for pupils and to share good practice.

A number of schools are now appointing care experience champions from within the staff group to provide advice and a support contact for care experienced children to develop strong pastoral links and work with dedicated teachers for care experienced children who work across all areas.

Making care experienced children and young people more visible in our schools is helping to support their learning, with increases in attainment at national five level from just over 33% to 70% and at Higher level from just over 26% to 39%. Attendance at secondary school has also shown a recent small improvement from 79.6% to 80%.



Reduced poverty amongst care experienced people

Managing money better

All care experienced young people are supported to budget for themselves through advocacy support, help from the Promise Team and from other corporate parents. Young people are offered dedicated support including using the available food larder, managing their savings and accessing welfare and benefit advice through the Money Matters Advice Service.

Young people have also benefitted from an initiative called 'Winter Wishes' which provided one-off cash awards to help with the additional cost of living demands between December and February and further help was provided for young people gaining their own tenancy.

Maximising Child Trusts Funds

Young people (over 16) have been supported 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.

Within three months of their 16th birthday, all care experienced young people are issued with a letter from the Share Foundation (via their social worker) informing them of their right to take charge of their Child Trust Fund and how to do it. A number of partners are supporting the process of making care experienced young people aware of the trust funds and junior ISAs and their benefits. These include social work staff, Family Connections Team, secondary schools, the Champions Board and the Community Engagement Team (via South Lanarkshire's Financial Inclusion Network). Social Workers provide support to the young people undertaking the process of claiming their trust fund.

Progress has been made in identifying groups of young people who could potentially 'slip through the net' and the Family Connections Team are involved in tracing and contacting those young people who no longer have any social work involvement but whose trust fund remains with the Share Foundation. Schools are also being asked to help trace young people with trust funds, who do not have current social work involvement.

Section four: Our plan and its progress

In addition, some young people have been supported to engage with the Stepladder Plus programme, which can earn them up to £1,500 (to be deposited in their trust fund) upon completion of all its stages. This programme is open to 15–17-year-olds and is run by the Share Foundation. So far, £14,750 has been earned by 14 young people, including 8 who have received the maximum amount. All the young people who have participated in the programme report that they are better informed about financial planning.

Making the most of benefits advice

All care experienced young people are supported to receive financial help in the form of awareness raising about benefit entitlement, financial education and budgeting. The Money Matters Advice Service meet with young people in the Throughcare Hub on a regular basis and offer drop-in sessions or dedicated appointments when needed. As a result, care experienced young people are building their confidence with managing their money and budgeting and beginning to access additional entitlements.

Improved lifelong support for care experienced people

Supporting families to stay together

As part of our approach to supporting families to stay together where possible and develop a strong sense of belonging, regular meetings take place with staff from the Promise Team, residential services and the Family Connections Team. The group have been analysing available research and information about current practice to support brothers and sisters stay in contact when they are placed in different care arrangements.

Discussions have taken place with young people to gather their views on how they have been supported to maintain relationships with their brothers and sisters in South Lanarkshire and consultation and a follow up survey with the Champions Board has been carried out with 21 survey responses returned.

South Lanarkshire's Commitment Statement to Brothers and Sisters has been finalised and is being made available to relevant children and young people as part of the commitment to The Promise.

Other work to support the relationship between brothers and sisters has included contributing to the national Brothers and Sisters Mapping Review Group, which is hosted by Promise Scotland. Staff from the Family Connections Team have been reviewing the Sibling Separation Report and Process for Together or Apart Assessments and as a result the development of Relationship Mapping Tools and a range of meetings (such as Child Protection and the Adoption Panel) now include specific questions relating to brothers and sisters to inform how decisions are made.



Improved support into long term housing for care experienced people

Supporting young people in their home

The Futures Initiative, a housing focussed partnership between the council and Barnardos has successfully supported six young people into four fully furnished training flats, with two young people moving onto their own permanent settled tenancy. A further four young people have been supported by outreach services to begin preparation for their next step to independent living. The flats are furnished to a high standard and equipped with everything that young people need to begin their journey towards living in the community. This project is an essential component in keeping The Promise to our young people and to continue the support that they have received from their time living in children's houses.

When moving on from the training flats, young people are offered continued wrap around support from Barnardos and the council to help them settle smoothly and safely into their own tenancies. Support only comes to an end when a young person feels that they are ready and decides that they no longer require support. Young people are actively involved in their strengths-based care plans, which is helping to create a more trusting and effective relationship with support staff and is helping to increase the confidence of the young people and give them a sense of empowerment to take control of areas that will improve their everyday lives.

In addition to the intensive Outreach Housing Support from Barnardos, which is supporting independent living skills to set up a home, manage the tenancy and developing local community connections, a dedicated Housing Officer is working with the Throughcare and Aftercare Team and Barnardos to assist with tenancy and property matters. Wider support from Employability and Education in relation to requirements identified by young people is also available when needed.

Children and young people have been involved in helping inform this work and the Champions Board had a say on the interior design of the flats and the process on how the flats are allocated. As a result of this successful approach, the four current flats are now being expanded to eight and staff are working on an additional National Lottery application to support the longer-term sustainability of the project.

Developing a Throughcare Housing Protocol

Housing and Social work have been working closely with the Champions Board young people to develop and implement a Throughcare Protocol, which was launched in January 2024. The protocol means that young people moving into their first tenancy get the right support they require at the right time. Forty-four new throughcare housing applications were received over the last year and 43 young people progressed to their chosen housing option. The protocol is now well established, and this work ensures that 100% of young people who need one have a Person-Centred Pathway Plan in place to support their housing needs.

Improved the mental health and emotional wellbeing of care experienced people

Online support for young people's mental health

The early work to put in place a Mental Health Pathway for young people leaving care concluded at the end of March 2024 and this is now being supported by the school nursing team. Over the last year the team have continued to work with partners to ensure that the emotional wellbeing needs of care experienced young people are being met effectively and in a way that suits them best.

As part of a continued commitment to improve healthcare support for care experienced young people, NHS Lanarkshire and Social Work's Young Person Service have been trying new ways to support young people who are leaving care. Seventy-nine young people between the ages of six and 27 have been supported over the last year.

Young people benefitted from information and guidance around a number of topics including housing, financial inclusion, employment as well as health issues and reported that this support had been helpful and supportive for them. The drop in facility at the Throughcare Hub was used frequently, allowing young people to access services when they needed it most.

Section four: Our plan and its progress

Young people quotes:

“Very helpful. I know I can contact them if I have any problems. It’s good to have the same nurse all the time”

“The service is different as I built relationships with the nurses which means I feel more comfortable I feel I can be more honest with how I am feeling”

“I think it’s brilliant the nurses have helped me manage my health appointments and are helping me to become more independent”

Reducing the criminalisation of care experienced young people

Care experienced young people and offending

The ASK project, an 18 month Promise Partnership initiative driven by South Lanarkshire Council, Community Volunteers Enabling You (COVEY), and the University of the West of Scotland is supporting care and justice experienced young people connect together. The project was co-produced with young leaders and peer researchers and helped achieve positive outcomes for the young people involved, including increased confidence and leadership skills and better communication, and problem-solving skills.

Young leaders have facilitated sessions for more than 60 care-experienced young people and corporate parents at the 2025 Care Day celebration event. Peer researchers were involved in developing skills with young leaders, developing resources that can be used as a road map for embedding contextual safeguarding and capacity building of staff.

Regarding development of our overall approach to contextual safeguarding we have also been learning with and from other local authorities and sharing insights from young leaders and peer research. We have developed draft guidance for contextual safeguarding and embedding the approach within child protection process and have established a contextual safeguarding panel, which led to a multi-agency networking event in January 2025 with the University of the West of Scotland, Police, youth workers and other staff from across the children’s services partnership. Following this, a practitioner networking group was established to support frontline staff and enhance relationships with local services and promote joint working to improve approach to safety, support and wellbeing for children and young people at risk of harm outside the home.

Moving forward, a project report is due in July 2025 and will highlight the findings and learning from the project. Peer researchers will use the data from engagement with young people and practitioners to develop a definition of what safety is for young people in South Lanarkshire and posters will be produced for display further visualising young people’s voices. The learning from the project will be shared at seminars, contextual safeguarding guidance will be developed and focus groups with young people will inform what we do next.

“Why not enable young people to explore their own needs and make their own decisions? With the ASK approach care-experienced young people identify their own absent skills and interests, planning a programme around this. This gives them a sense of ownership and control. All along, they engage because they want to – and that’s at the heart. We put power back in the hands of those who have had power taken from them! Former ASK Young Leader”

Section five: Our commitment to improvement

South Lanarkshire Children Services Partnership is committed to supporting all our children and young people get the best possible start in life. This commitment is underpinned by our approach to the self-evaluation and continuous improvement of the services we provide for all children with a focus on those children in need of care and protection.

Our approach to continuous improvement is informed by national policy and local scrutiny of practice, both internal and external and is an integral part of our partnership governance structure. Using the national '3 Step Improvement Framework' and Model for Improvement helps to inform what improvement activity is implemented as part of the plan.

All of our improvement activity starts small, testing ideas to see what works before any larger changes are made to services or systems and we are delighted that a number of improvement projects have resulted in more strategic changes, allowing us to work together with children, young people and families for even better outcomes.

Within our governance structure, the Continuous Improvement Group maintains the overview of quality assurance activity and works with partners to analyse data, observe practice and listen to the voice of children, young people and their families, to identify where and how we can do better.

This work, further supported by external scrutiny and the views of staff, enables the Partnership to have a shared focus, informed by an understanding of the systems, culture and practice which require change for improvement. Our commitment to the UNCRC requirements supports how we listen to the views of children, young people and families and ensures that they are visible in our improvement work.

Our locally developed Quality Assurance, Improvement and Learning Framework helps guide our work and encourages best practice. By applying this framework to what we do, we can map our progress and refine our approaches 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.

All our quality assurance and learning activity effectively contributes to the development and review of the Community Plan, Children's Services Plan, Corporate Parenting, The Promise and Child Protection Procedures.

The principles behind our approach to improvement

- ▶ Joint working, sharing knowledge and resources to deliver additional value through the activity of the three thematic groups
- ▶ Commitment to an evidence-based approach which is focussed on the best possible outcomes for children, young people and families
- ▶ Meaningful involvement of children, young people and families
- ▶ A robust understanding of how national policy can support a more holistic, preventative approach
- ▶ Robust accountability and governance across all of working groups and through strong scrutiny and the production of accessible annual reports



Section six: What's next?

The Getting It Right for South Lanarkshire's Children's Services Partnership continues to share our collective vision.

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

Each of our Thematic Groups has reflected on their progress around the areas for improvement over the last year and agreed what needs to change (if anything) for the final year of our current plan.

The analysis considers data gathered, outcomes achieved so far, problems solved, tasks completed, availability of resources and above all the views of children, young people and families. The following areas of work are the areas we will prioritise over the next 12 months:

Whole Family Approach Thematic Group

Every family that needs support gets the right family support at the right time for as long as it is needed

Reduced number of families requiring crisis intervention

Reduced number of families requiring crisis intervention

Reduced inequality gap in child development

Reduced inequality gap in wellbeing outcomes for families' children and young people

Improved whole family approaches to child healthy weight

Increased number of families taking up wider supports

Share the learning from the Child Poverty Accelerator Fund Paths Away From Poverty project

Health and Wellbeing Thematic Group

Every child and young person will be able to access support which helps improve their mental health and emotional wellbeing

Improved maternal and infant mental health

Improved support offered to children and young people who may be at risk of suicide and self-harm

Improved whole system approaches to mental health and wellbeing

Improved visibility and accessibility of community mental health supports and services

Staff professional learning and development to ensure their own and others' wellbeing established

Achieve Breastfeeding Friendly council status

Improve the partnership's knowledge of the wellbeing of children and young people through a survey carried out by the end of 2025

Keeping The Promise Thematic Group

Children and young people grow up loved, safe, respected and listened to

Voice is at the heart of all decision-making processes at all levels

Increased number of care experienced people accessing further and/or higher education opportunities

Improving the Employability Promise

Reduced poverty amongst care experienced people

Improved lifelong support for care experienced people

Improved support into long term housing for care experienced people

Improved mental health and emotional wellbeing of care experienced people

Improved moving on transition to adult services for care experienced young people

Improved support offered to Kinship Care families

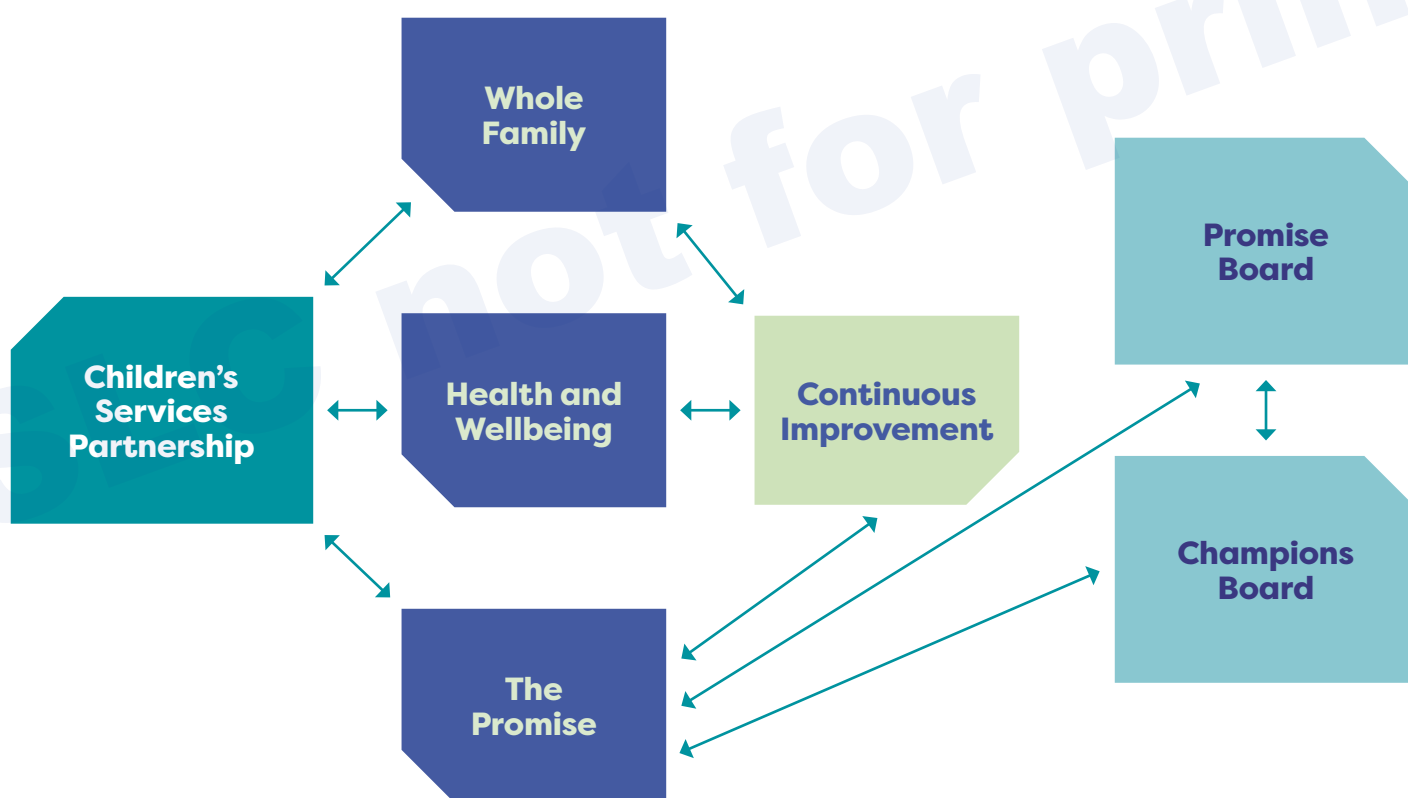
Section seven: Wider Partnerships

Our children's services partners are: our children, young people and families, South Lanarkshire Council, South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership, NHS Lanarkshire, South Lanarkshire Child Protection Committee, Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA), Police Scotland, Skills Development Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture and Voluntary Action South Lanarkshire (VASLan) on behalf of our vibrant and valuable third sector organisations.

Our partnership governance structure is designed to make the most of available resources and is well placed to drive forward the agreed priorities.

The structure shown below highlights our children's services structure, and the relationship with other key structures that is, Community Planning Partnership, Child Protection Committee, Community Learning and Development Partnership and the Drug and Alcohol Partnership, where we share common priorities in achieving best outcomes for children, young people and families.

Getting It Right for South Lanarkshire's Children Governance Structure 2023-26



We are committed to using our combined resources effectively to deliver services promoting wellbeing, preventing adversity and offering the right help at the right time to those who need it.

Key Contacts

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Community Planning Partnership Board Executive Summary

Date of Meeting:	9 December 2025
Subject:	Welfare Services Support for Households (to 31 March 2025)
Report by:	Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources), South Lanarkshire Council
Contact for Further Information:	Craig Fergusson, Head of Finance (Transactions), South Lanarkshire Council Tel: 01698 454951 Email: craig.fergusson@southlanarkshire.gov.uk
Purpose of the Report:	♦ Provide the Partnership Board with an update on the support that has been provided to households in South Lanarkshire up to 31 March 2025 from a range of Council services and organisations.
Community Planning Delivery Partners:	All partners
Key Recommendations/Decisions/Action Required from Partners:	The Board is asked to approve the following recommendation: (1) that the welfare support provided by a wide range of services and organisations in helping households manage their financial position be noted.
Risks/Challenges:	The Council and other partner organisations cannot fully mitigate the worst effects of the cost-of-living crisis on households. However, additional funding from national governments would allow support levels to be increased.
Links to Community Plan Ambitions/Principles:	All ambitions/principles.
Summary of Report:	The report outlines the range of financial and welfare support provided by council services and partner organisations to support households in South Lanarkshire during 2024/2025. This support is explained by the provision of key performance data and includes comparison with the previous year. The report also details statistics that are indicators of poverty levels in South Lanarkshire.

Report

Report to:	Partnership Board
Date of Meeting:	9 December 2025
Report by:	Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

Subject:	Welfare Services Support for Households (to 31 March 2025)
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to: -

- ♦ provide the Board with an update on the support that has been provided to households in South Lanarkshire to 31 March 2025 by a range of Council services and organisations

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the welfare support provided by a wide range of services and organisations in helping households manage their financial position be noted.

3. Background

3.1. The report focuses on how Council services (Money Matters Advice Services, Benefits and Revenues, Housing, Community Participation and Education), Citizens Advice Bureaus, Scottish Social Security Agency and NHS Lanarkshire continue to respond to the increased need to provide vital welfare support to many households in South Lanarkshire.

4. Service/Organisation Update

4.1. School Meal Debt

4.1.1. In November 2024, the joint working group in Community and Enterprise Resources and Education Resources issued to schools the updated guidance on the management of school meal debt and have been implementing the guidance since then. The new guidance is aligned to the published COSLA Good Practice Principles for School Meal Debt Management and was prepared in conjunction with the Money Matters Advice Service and the Benefits and Revenues Service.

4.1.2. Grant funding was received during 2024/2025 to support councils to write off school meal debt. The Council received £0.224 million as part of this award.

4.1.3. The grant funding was used to write off £0.191 million of school meal debt in line with the guidance and this relates to the school meal debt of 4,101 children. Work continues in line with the guidance to support families in hardship, and the introduction of school meals for eligible children who are in receipt of Scottish Child Payment from February 2025 provides further support to families.

- 4.1.4. The working group regularly review school meal debt and provision is made for further write off for families in financial hardship should this be required.
- 4.1.5. The Council continues to provide a school meal for all children who require one, even if they are unable to pay on the day.

4.2. Benefits and Revenues Service

- 4.2.1. Support for households who have fallen into arrears or are experiencing difficulty with payment of Council Tax, continues to centre on the award of Council Tax Reduction (CTR). There are currently 30,535 active claims for CTR in South Lanarkshire. The actual value of awards for 2024/2025 was £23.613 million, 1% higher than the actual for 2023/2024.
- 4.2.2. There continued to be significant demand for grants from the Scottish Welfare Fund (SWF) in 2024/2025. Although applications received were 5% less than the previous year, they were still 20% higher than pre-covid levels. Grants to a value of £2.297 million were awarded this year with an award rate of 56% (same as the previous year).
- 4.2.3. In 2024/2025, the service made payments to low-income households of £3.476 million covering School Clothing Grants (£1.968 million) and Free School Meal (FSM) payments for holidays (£1.508 million).

4.3. Money Matters Advice Service

- 4.3.1. In 2024/2025, the Money Matters Advice Service (MMAS) is continuing to support the residents of South Lanarkshire to maximise their income, provide emergency support and address issues of over-indebtedness.
- 4.3.2. In 2024/2025 the service has dealt with 12,404 unique new clients in relation to 41,399 issues. The final financial gains for the period are provided below:

Type of Gain	2024/2025
Total welfare/benefit financial gain	£24.86 million
Total debt write-off	£2.28 million
Total Financial Gain	£27.15 million

- 4.3.3. In 2024/2025 the Community Wellbeing Team made the following referrals for energy top up vouchers and foodbank vouchers:

Type of Referral	2024/2025
Energy Top Up Voucher Referrals	4,840
Foodbank Referrals	2,333

- 4.3.4. Importantly, 98% of all clients who receive foodbank and fuel bank referrals receive the support on the same day that they contact the service.
- 4.3.5. This year the energy top up vouchers that MMAS has been supplying have been through its partnership with the Fuel Bank Foundation, a UK Fuel Crisis charity. The financial value of these energy top up vouchers for South Lanarkshire residents in 2024/2025 was £214,426.
- 4.3.6. Other support that the Community Wellbeing Team has been making available to support South Lanarkshire residents, who are in food and fuel crisis, has been through the Cash First Scheme in partnership with the Citizens Advice Bureaux. Providing £50

vouchers, this scheme was launched in October 2023 and is expected to continue until autumn 2025.

Cash First	2024/2025 Vouchers	Value
Vouchers Issued	4,840	£242,000

- 4.3.7. 97% of all eligible applicants receive their cash voucher on the same day they apply.
- 4.3.8. The scheme has been extended to assist residents who are going through managed migration onto Universal Credit. This is to support these residents as the process can leave people with a gap of up to 5 weeks between the last payment of their legacy benefits and their first payment of Universal Credit. Awards under this project do not impact on a resident's entitlement under the main Cash First Scheme.
- 4.3.9. MMAS also launched a Winter Fuel Payment/Pension Credit take-up campaign in response to the UK Government's decision to make Winter Fuel Payment and the new Scottish Pension Age Winter Heating Payment a means tested benefit.
- 4.3.10. The take-up campaign was launched in collaboration with all four of South Lanarkshire's Citizen Advice Bureaux and saw over 400 posters and over 8,000 leaflets distributed across South Lanarkshire, through libraries, GP surgeries, housing offices and at multiple community events and hubs.
- 4.3.11. MMAS has also been working with SGN, a British gas distribution company and was awarded £0.056m for 12 months, to employ an additional temporary Energy Adviser. The Adviser will provide a wide range of support including provision of energy advice, distribution of 150 carbon monoxide alarms, provision of top up vouchers and the distribution of 5,000 fuel poverty leaflets.

4.4. Food Aid

- 4.4.1. Figures provided by South Lanarkshire's eight local foodbanks for 2024/2025 show that 46,038 households were referred for emergency food aid during the past year. This is a 7.5% reduction in comparison with the number of households referred during 2023/2024.
- 4.4.2. 85,890 people were fed through emergency food parcels provided by foodbanks during 2024/2025, which is only slightly down (-1%) compared on the number being fed through parcels during 2023/2024.
- 4.4.3. The figure of 85,890 includes 58,381 adults who were fed through emergency food parcels during 2024/2025, a 4% reduction compared to the number recorded during 2023/2024.
- 4.4.4. 27,509 children were fed through emergency food parcels distributed by local food banks during 2024/2025, a 7% increase on the number recorded during 2023/2024. The 2024/2025 figure for the number of children being fed through emergency food parcels (27,509), is the highest ever recorded in South Lanarkshire.
- 4.4.5. Household referrals to foodbanks have dropped by a greater extent compared to the number of people being fed through emergency food parcels. Figures indicate that the number of children being fed through parcels has increased (+7%), while the number adults receiving parcels has fallen (-4%).

- 4.4.6. South Lanarkshire's foodbanks continue to look at alternative to food parcels and cash first approaches to meet demand, with 448 vouchers to buy fresh fruit and vegetables issued to households/users. Help to clients with issues such as fuel/ energy poverty and digital access also continued to be provided by the local food banks with 1,344 fuel vouchers issued during 2024/2025 and 489 free phone SIM cards also supplied during 2024/2025.
- 4.4.7. While some foodbanks have noted a decrease in funding and donations there have been many positive reports including one foodbank observing an increase in regular users gaining and maintaining employment. Another foodbank has also been undertaking an initiative called 'The Core' – designed to help their users who regularly find themselves in crisis. The Core teaches individuals to identify, assess and address their core wellbeing needs more effectively and provides training in any areas identified for support e.g. budgeting, cooking, mental health.

4.5. Tackling Poverty and Inequality Support

- 4.5.1. Challenge Poverty Week is annually in October. In October 2024, awareness raising took place around the services and support for residents, including over 50 organisations attending the annual networking event and webinars/workshops held throughout the week with partners.
- 4.5.2. The Winter Wishes programme worked with four local foodbanks, as well as The Promise' care experienced young people, to provide over 1,000 presents for children living in poverty in South Lanarkshire.
- 4.5.3. Another successful Welly Swap was undertaken with libraries allowing families and individuals to access free boots for winter with dignity.
- 4.5.4. The Financial Inclusion Network launched its monthly newsletter which has seen training opportunities for staff, job opportunities and information sharing. This is in addition to the 3 poverty sub-groups (Living Wage group, Fuel Poverty Group and Digital Inclusion group) which all now have individual terms of references, new chairs and ongoing action plans.
- 4.5.5. The ['Money is Not the Only Problem'](#) booklet was updated and shared across organisations and venues in South Lanarkshire.

4.6. Care Experienced Children and Young People

- 4.6.1. The Promise Board had identified the need for funding in early winter to ensure that care experienced young people were provided with additional support in the winter months to help with the rising cost of living. The Winter Wishes programme has been delivered in South Lanarkshire for the past 3 years.

In 2024, 300 young people in receipt of aftercare received a payment of £200 towards food/fuel vouchers.

The fund had been used for a range of purposes detailed below:

- ◆ The food larder in the Continuing and Aftercare Care Hub was enhanced from November to March 2025;
- ◆ A weekly warm hub drop in soup/sandwich was created for all young people throughout the winter months;
- ◆ Weekly healthy food shop and food planning was delivered over the 6-month period, encouraging cooking and budgeting;
- ◆ Warm clothing was available via vouchers;

- ◆ Increased sessions delivered for The Champions and care experienced young people across winter months;
- ◆ Christmas food parcels/Christmas dinner;
- ◆ Christmas parties for the younger population of children who reside in foster care; and
- ◆ Kinship Care Network Christmas party.

4.6.2. A report on the delivery of the winter wishes programme was presented to the Promise Board in March 2025. There is a proposal to set aside £0.040m from the 2024/2025 underspend to continue winter wishes in 2025/2026.

4.6.3. In 2024, 167 young people in receipt of aftercare and living alone received a payment of £200 towards food/fuel vouchers. In addition, 16 young people received £100 crisis support for those who were returning from custody and external provisions.

4.7. Housing

4.7.1. The number of council tenants on Universal Credit (UC) in March 2025 was 12,834 (which is 51% of all tenants) and is 23% higher than the position as of March 2024 and is because of the Department for Work and Pensions Managed Migration Programme. The number of tenants on UC who are in arrears decreased by 244 from 5,938 (57%) in April to 5,694 (44%) in March 2025. This is in comparison to 31% of all tenants in arrears.

4.7.2. For tenants on UC, the total amount of arrears owed decreased by £266,835 from April 2024 (£3,356,774) to March 2025 (£3,089,939). The continuing economic climate continues to financially impact on many of our tenants, directly affecting their ability to pay rent.

4.7.3. The DWP Managed Migration Programme (Move to UC) continues to roll out in South Lanarkshire. All legacy benefits including Employment Support Allowance (ESA) are now receiving managed migration notices. The migration notice sets out a deadline date to claim UC which is 3 months from the date the letter was sent out. Move to UC continues to present challenges for many SLC tenants who continue to seek advice and support from several agencies to help them make a successful claim.

4.7.4. In line with the latest UC delivery plan all migration notices to customers in receipt of the legacy benefits will be brought forward to the end of September 2025. This will give vulnerable claimants additional time and support to make a successful claim before ESA ends in March 2026.

4.7.5. There remains many Council tenants who are still in receipt of ESA who will be moved to UC through the managed migration programme which will undoubtedly impact on levels of rent arrears.

4.7.6. The Rent Income Support Team continue to work with local area teams to support Council tenants who have received migration notices. The team provide advice to these customers to help them understand these changes and offer support through the transition to UC. In addition to this, the team continue to work closely with the DWP and refer or signpost onto partner agencies to ensure customers receive the appropriate advice and support they need to maintain their rent payments.

4.7.7. In addition, Housing Services continues to support all Council tenants with rent arrears, this can include providing financial assistance through its successful Tenancy Sustainment Fund, to sustain tenancies and prevent homelessness. The Resource

continues to promote the supports available to tenants through the Council's social media platforms and in the Housing news.

- 4.7.8 The Council has declared a housing emergency, and the Homelessness Service continues to face significant pressure to provide permanent accommodation and support to households experiencing homelessness, especially as the number of homeless applications rises both nationally and locally. Households experiencing homelessness remain vulnerable to financial insecurity and hardship, particularly in the current economic climate. To address these challenges and other issues associated with homelessness, housing support is offered to those with an assessed need. The support and advice provided is tailored to meet individual's needs, helping them move into permanent and settled accommodation and supporting tenancy sustainment.

4.8. Cost of the School Day

- 4.8.1. Following the publication of Cost of the School Day (CoSD) Guidance for schools and Early Years establishments, approved by the Education Resources Committee in March 2024, Cost of the School Day continues to be a key development for schools and the Curriculum Quality Improvement Service (CQIS) within Education Resources.
- 4.8.2. Schools have been directed to consult the guidance and supporting materials on the Staff Learning Centre within the council's Glow site. Here schools can find a word document version of the guidance along with audits, questionnaires and examples of best practice from various South Lanarkshire schools.
- 4.8.3. A professional development session on 'Poverty Awareness and the Cost of the School Day' has been added to the continuous professional development (CPD) 'offer' to Newly Qualified Teachers in both the primary and secondary sectors and delivered each school year. The central Lead Officer for Supporting Families has also presented to senior leaders involved in the Primary Locality Attendance Project about the connection between attendance and the Cost of the School Day.
- 4.8.4. South Lanarkshire Council continue to be recognised at a national level for their approach to the Cost of the School Day with the Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG) using examples from our schools in their 'Ideas Bank'. These are featured on the CPAG website:

[Equity in South Lanarkshire | CPAG](#)

[Cost of the School Day calendar, created by learners | CPAG](#)

[Talking directly to politicians about cost barriers at school | CPAG](#)

[Communicating commitment to equity | CPAG](#)

- 4.8.5. A target for the Strategic Equity Fund was for 100% of our schools to move from 'Position Statement' on Cost of the School Day to Policy. This target has been met. All our schools now have a Policy on the Cost of the School Day. These policies should be on school websites and shared with families.
- 4.8.6. The initial plan for CQIS was to audit a sample of schools and compare their financial demands of families from April – June 2024 with April – June 2025. Following receipt of the first audit it was recognised however, that by simply repeating the same audit we would not have received valid comparable data. This was due to various factors including, for example, schools who had residential trips in April 2024, but the following year those trips were held out with the audit period.

4.8.7. It is recognised that using these results it would initially appear as a decrease in costs, when in fact, the cost had simply been moved costs to another period across the school year. To combat this the Lead Officer, along with the Attainment Advisor from Education Scotland, will engage in professional dialogue with the schools involved and discuss how to further reduce costs to their families.

4.8.8. To gather more valid data on what is happening in our schools, a parental survey has been produced and presented to Head Teachers in April 2025 and then put out to all families in South Lanarkshire in May 2025. This survey will provide more information on the areas where parents feel they require support with costs in schools as well as highlighting where schools are supporting their families well.

4.9. Citizens Advice Bureau

4.9.1. Benefits remain the top area of advice provided by the Citizens Advice Bureaus (CABs). Energy and finance and charitable support remain the second and third biggest areas of advice, with referrals for emergency food and fuel making up most of the enquiries.

4.9.2. The value of benefits awarded for the 12 months to 31 March 2025 totalled £5.591m with £1.227m of debt written off for clients. The number of clients seeking benefit advice has increased by 5% year on year.

4.9.3. The CABs have increased the outreach advice offering over the past year, increasing our accessible advice offering, which is available in local, community venues. This ensures CABs reach the most vulnerable who would not access our main offices.

4.10. Social Security Scotland

4.10.1. Social Security Scotland is now delivering 15 different benefits. The latest benefit to launch was Pension Age Disability Payment (replacement for Attendance Allowance) which launched in South Lanarkshire in April 2025.

4.10.2. Anyone applying for Scottish benefits can access direct support from the Local Delivery team. The service is now fully operational in all 32 Scottish local authorities, and support is being delivered to clients in various ways; home visits, outreach venues within the local area and by phone or video.

4.10.3. The Local Delivery team provides person-to-person support from trained staff. The team has a base in Brandon Gate, Hamilton. Client Support Advisers work from outreach venues, client's homes and a blend of office/home working. Current outreach venues are in Hamilton, Larkhall, East Kilbride, Cambuslang and Lanark.

4.10.4. Social Security Scotland provides a range of data in relation to the benefits paid to South Lanarkshire on its website. Since being introduced 21,410 applications for Adult Disability payment have been approved. In total £62,012,940 has been paid (up to 31 January 2025). Up to 31 December 2024, 19,690 children in South Lanarkshire benefitted from Scottish Child Payment. A total of £62,006,462 has been paid. To 31 March 2025 there has been 3,470 authorised new applications for Child Disability Payment. A total of £80,624,890 has been paid. Further statistics can be found on the Social Security Scotland website.

4.11. NHS Lanarkshire

4.11.1 Midwives, Health Visitors, Family Nurses and First Steps work with families to help identify any money worries and make referrals to Money Matters Advice Services. In the period April 2024 – March 2025, there were 181 referrals from these key staff

groups, leading to a client financial gain of £74,944.84. When including the self-referrals, the numbers rise to 588 referrals and a total financial gain of £295,630.95.

4.11.2. From April 2024 to March 2025, 28 South Lanarkshire families received support from the Family Support and Financial Inclusion - Royal Hospital for Children initiative with a total financial gain of £149,092.72. In addition, families were supported with debt management to the amount of £229,654.79.

4.11.3. A GP Community Link Worker (CLW) programme is currently in place across NHS Lanarkshire as part of the Primary Care Improvement Plan (PCIP). They offer non-clinical support to patients, enabling them to set goals and overcome barriers, in order to take greater control of their health and well-being. As financial insecurity and poverty can have a significant negative impact on health, NHS Lanarkshire provide a Financial Wellbeing Advisor (FWA) service as part of the GP CLW programme in April 2021. This is delivered in all localities by CABs and Money Matters Advice Service. From April 2024 until the end March 2025, CLW's made 2,115 referrals via this pathway leading to a client financial gain of £1,029,371.29.

4.12. Universal Credit

4.12.1 There has been an increase of 13.5% in the number of people who received UC from March 2024 to March 2025, due to managed migration. The latest provisional figure available for the number of households receiving UC (November 2024) shows 43.0% were receiving a child element in their payment, an increase of 23.8% (in numbers) since November 2023.

4.12.2 There has been a 20.2% increase in the number of households taking advantage of the Scottish Choices more frequent payment option over the period November 2023 to November 2024.

4.12.3 The number of people having sanctions imposed by the DWP decreased from 610 in November 2023 to 562 in November 2024.

5. Summary and Outlook

5.1. Council services and other partner organisations provide valuable support to households as demand for support remains high across the services and organisations presented.

5.2. The Council and organisations will continue to provide support into 2025/2026 to households from the wide range of services and budgets available.

6. Employee Implications

6.1. Services continue to operate within existing resources.

7. Financial Implications

7.1. The supports outlined in the report are met from existing budgets.

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 in this report.

9. Other Implications

9.1. While the Council and organisations are providing a broad range of support throughout 2025/2026 with a significant level of financial resources, the actions outlined in the report are not expected to be sufficient to fully mitigate the worst effects of the cost-of-living crisis experienced by many households in South Lanarkshire. This reflects the

scale and depth of the crisis and the need for significant input from other sectors such as governments and the energy sector.

10. Integrated Impact Assessment and Consultation Requirements

- 10.1. 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.
- 10.2. Ongoing dialogue will continue with trade unions, community groups, the DWP, CABs, national and local forums, neighbouring local authorities and the NHS.

Jackie Taylor

Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)
South Lanarkshire Council

18 November 2025

Contact for Further Information

If you would like further information, please contact:

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Community Planning Partnership Board Executive Summary

Date of Meeting:	9 December 2025
Subject:	Community Planning Partnership Governance Update
Report by:	Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council
Contact for Further Information:	Aileen Murray, Community Planning Adviser, South Lanarkshire Council Tel: 0303 123 1017 Email: aileen.murray@southlanarkshire.gov.uk
Purpose:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to provide the Partnership Board with an update on the Community Planning Partnership Board membership.
Delivery Partners:	All partners
Key Recommendations/ Decisions/Action Required from Partners:	<p>The Board is asked to approve the following recommendations:-</p> <p>(1) that the updated Community Planning Partnership Board membership be noted;</p> <p>(2) that the updated Governance Framework and Partner Commitments document at Appendix 1 be noted.</p>
Risks/Challenges:	There are no risks/challenges associated with this report.
Links to Community Plan Ambitions/Principles:	All ambitions/principles.
Summary of Report:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 4 provides an update on the review of the CPP Board membership.



Report

Report to:	Partnership Board
Date of Meeting:	9 December 2025
Report by:	Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council

Subject:	Community Planning Partnership Governance Update
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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 (CPP) Board membership.

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the updated Community Planning Partnership Board membership be noted; and
- (2) that the updated Governance Framework and Partner Commitments 2025 document at Appendix 1 be noted.

3. Background

- 3.1. Following the approval of the revised Community Planning structures, in September 2023, the Board approved an updated Governance Framework; and reviewed their membership to ensure that representation better reflected the new structures and the Community Plan.
- 3.2. A further updated Governance Framework was approved by the Board at its meeting on 18 June 2025 and it was agreed that all remaining statutory partners, as set out in the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, be invited to join the Community Planning Partnership.
- 3.3. This report provides an update on the CPP Board membership, and the resulting changes made to the Governance Framework and Partner Commitments 2025 document.

4. Community Planning Partnership Board Membership Review

4.1. Following the successful application to become a Marmot Place, the Board agreed at its meeting on 18 June 2025, to further strengthen its membership. All remaining statutory partners, as set out in the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, were invited to participate as listed below:

- Historic Environment Scotland
- NatureScot
- The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)
- SportScotland
- VisitScotland

4.2. Introductory meetings and inductions were arranged by the Community Planning Team with representatives from the organisations listed at 4.1. above. Following these discussions, we are pleased to welcome, NatureScot, SportScotland and VisitScotland as members of the Community Planning Partnership and the CPP Leadership Board.

4.3. Links have been made with representatives from Historic Environment Scotland and SEPA and discussions continue on how best to work together moving forward.

4.4. Appendix 2 provides an updated list of all statutory partners set out in the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 and states if they are current members; and also includes non-statutory members.

5. Current Progress

5.1. Governance arrangements update

The updated Governance Framework and Partnership Commitments document attached at Appendix 1 includes minor changes to sections 2 and 6 to reflect the new members of the Community Planning Partnership.

5.2. The Board is asked to note that this document will continue to be monitored and updated to reflect changes as the Board develops its approach to the Marmot Place Programme and delivery of its statutory plans, the Community Plan and the associated Partnership Board Plans, namely, the Children's Services Plan, the local Child Poverty Action Report, the South Lanarkshire Integration Joint Board Strategic Commissioning Plan, and the Community Learning and Development Plan.

6. Employee Implications

6.1. There are no employee implications associated with the content of this report.

7. Financial Implications

7.1. There are no financial implications associated with the content of this report.

8. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

8.1. The Community Planning Partnership completed a Strategic Environmental Assessment in 2023. The resulting mitigation/adaptation actions have been integrated into partnership planning and delivery.

9. Other Implications

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

10. Integrated Impact Assessment and Consultation Requirements

10.1. There are no Integrated Impact Assessment implications associated with the recommendations set out in this report.

Paul Manning
Chief Executive
South Lanarkshire Council

18 November 2025

Contact for Further Information

If you would like further information, please contact:-

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Governance Framework and Partner Commitments 2025



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1. Introduction

This document sets out the Community Planning governance arrangements for South Lanarkshire. It outlines the statutory duties of partners, how the partnership operates, the role and remit of partners, partners commitments and a summary of the structures within the partnership.

2. Scope of responsibility (as defined by the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015)

Community Planning is about how public bodies work together and with the local community to plan for, resource and provide or secure the provision of services which improve local outcomes with a view to reducing inequalities.

The statutory framework for Community Planning is set out in Part 2 of the [Community Empowerment \(Scotland\) Act 2015](#). The organisations who have a legal duty to participate in Community Planning and a summary of their responsibilities are as follows:-

Sections 13(1) and 13(2) of the Act, sets out the legal duties placed on five partners to facilitate Community Planning in South Lanarkshire; and to take reasonable steps to ensure that the partnership carries out its functions as set out in the Act, efficiently and effectively. These are:-

- Local Authority for the area, South Lanarkshire Council;
- NHS Lanarkshire;
- Police Service of Scotland;
- Scottish Enterprise; and
- Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

In addition to the above, Schedule 1 of the Act sets out a list of all organisations that have a statutory duty to participate in Community Planning in South Lanarkshire. Those participating include:-

- Historic Environment Scotland;
- NatureScot;
- Scottish Environment Protection Agency;
- Skills Development Scotland;
- South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership;
- SportScotland;
- Strathclyde Passenger Transport; and
- VisitScotland.

The Community Planning Partnership (CPP) must prepare and publish a Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP) setting out the local outcomes which the CPP will prioritise for improvement. In South Lanarkshire, this plan is called the Community Plan.

Tackling inequalities is a specific focus; and there is a requirement to produce 'locality plans' (known in South Lanarkshire as [Neighbourhood Plans](#)) at a more local level for areas experiencing particular disadvantage. All partners must take account of these plans in carrying out their functions and must contribute appropriate resources to improve the priority outcomes.

Participation with communities lies at the heart of Community Planning. CPPs must support community bodies to participate in all parts of the process, in the development, design and delivery of plans and in review, revision and reporting of progress.

3. The purpose of the Community Planning Partnership

The [Community Plan 2022-2032](#) sets out the strategic direction of the partnership, its vision, values and ambitions for the next 10 years.

The partnership has set the framework for strong partnership governance by having a clear vision and principles:-

Vision: “To improve the lives and prospects of everyone in South Lanarkshire”

This means ensuring that our communities are at the heart of Community Planning in South Lanarkshire and doing the right things, in the right way, for the right people, at the right time, in an inclusive, open, honest and accountable manner.

The partnership’s **shared principles**, shown in the diagram below, set out how we plan to work better together:-

Diagram 1 – South Lanarkshire Community Planning Partnership Shared Principles



4. Partner Commitments

The partnership is a joint working arrangement where partners are otherwise independent organisations/representative of local communities. Partner commitments to Community Planning in South Lanarkshire are set out at Appendix 1.

5. The structure of Community Planning in South Lanarkshire

The governance structure set out at Diagram 2 was agreed in March 2023 to deliver Community Planning in South Lanarkshire. This structure will be kept under review and will evolve as the Community Plan and the work of the Partnership develops to ensure that it aligns with the delivery of our legal duties, local needs and priorities. Further information about these partnership groups can be found in sections 6 to 8 below.

Diagram 2 – South Lanarkshire Community Planning Partnership Structure



6. The South Lanarkshire Community Planning Partnership Board

- 6.1. The remit of the Board is to provide collective strategic leadership, direction, governance and oversight of partnership activity. Planning, resourcing and sourcing services which improve local outcomes in South Lanarkshire, with a focus on reducing inequalities.

The core membership, role and remit of the Community Planning Partnership Strategic Board is determined by the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. This will be referred to as “the Act” from here onwards.

6.2. Membership of the Strategic Board

In addition to the eight statutory partners participating (see item 2 above), the following are also members of the Community Planning Partnership.



For more information on the organisations and their representatives who attend the Board see:

[Meet the South Lanarkshire Community Planning Partnership Board](#)

The Scottish Government is also represented through a ‘[Place Director](#)’. Their role is to: understand, promote and support how public services work together and with communities; and improve wellbeing and outcomes on local and national priorities.

The Board is chaired by a councillor, the Leader of South Lanarkshire Council. If the Chair is absent from the meeting, then a Chair for that meeting will be appointed by those members present. The Board will review its membership periodically and any proposed changes must be approved by the Board.

6.3. Role and Remit

The remit and the role of the Board is as follows:-

- To set the strategic direction for the partnership through the preparation, agreement and publication of the statutory Community Plan (Part 2, Section 6 of the Act);
- To maintain a strategic overview of prevention and early intervention activity which is targeted at reducing inequalities of outcome which result from socio-economic disadvantage (Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act Part 2, Section 5);

- To take reasonable steps to ensure the effective engagement and involvement of the wider community (Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act Part 2, Section 4(3,6,9));
- To provide strategic, collaborative leadership, creating the necessary conditions to deliver whole systems change and improvement to deliver the ambitions of the Community Plan;
- To enable the deployment of combined funding arrangements and resources to achieve its agreed outcomes;
- To promote and demonstrate commitment to partnership working at Strategic Board level, across the Partnership, in own partner organisations, and within communities;
- To agree strategic outcomes and a performance monitoring framework which sets out the contribution of partners and enables a robust assessment of progress and impact in the delivery of these outcomes;
- To ensure statutory planning requirements are met in relation to the development, review, reporting and publication of the Community Plan and Neighbourhood Plans;
- To ensure effective governance and accountability arrangements are in place across the Partnership;
- To achieve Best Value through collaborative leadership: identifying Best Value partnership solutions to achieve better outcomes for local communities; identifying opportunities to invest in and commit to shared services; and integrated management of resources, where appropriate; and
- To advocate and lobby nationally, within the partnership, own organisation and community matters which support the delivery of the Community Plan ambitions.

6.4. Operational arrangements

6.4.1. Frequency of meetings

There will be four board meetings each year and two development sessions.

6.4.2. Decision Making Process

The CPP Board is the main decision-making body within the partnership. Thematic Partnerships, Community Planning Outcomes Leads Group and the Progress Group advise and inform the CPP Board. Local decisions on priorities are made by the Community Partnership and Neighbourhood Planning Groups.

It is the duty of the Chair to ensure that decision-making is clear, open, transparent and founded on consensus. All members are required to demonstrate commitment to and a willingness to work together and share resources.

In order to comply with the statutory requirements, Terms of Reference and Standing Orders (or equivalent) of partner organisations, the following general process for decision-making by the Board will be followed:-

- Decisions made by the Board will be implemented by partners only after individual partners' governance requirements have been met; it is the responsibility of each partner to ensure this;
- Partner organisations will make every effort to ensure that their decision-making processes support partnership working and the work of the CPP;
- Where decisions need to be approved by individual partner organisations, the Board should first agree a course of action which should then be approved by the individual partners; and
- Where one of the partners acts as a lead partner on behalf of the CPP, the CPP must agree the course of action that the partner can take.

6.4.3. General Conduct at Meetings

Conduct should correspond to the partnership's [shared principles](#). Members should also abide by any Code of Conduct applicable within their own organisation.

6.4.4. Notice of Meetings and Papers

The advance annual calendar of Board meetings and development sessions is submitted to the Board for approval in autumn of each year. The arrangements for Board meetings are as follows:-

- **Notice of meeting** - At least five clear days' notice in writing (via email) will be given of meetings, including time and method, and a list of all agenda items; and
- **Agenda and papers** - Electronic copies of papers will normally be issued by email with the agenda. Paper copies are available on request. On occasion, it may be necessary to issue papers with less than 5 days' notice, however, this will be kept to a minimum.

Topics/draft agendas and other relevant information for the Board development sessions will be submitted to the Board in advance for approval.

6.4.5. Openness and Transparency

The agenda, reports and draft minute of the previous meeting will be available online at least five clear days before the date of the meeting (the exception being any items that are considered confidential). These can be viewed on the Community Planning website at: https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/cp/info/1/what_is_community_planning. Alternatively, they can also be accessed by emailing the Community Planning Team at: contact@southlanarkshirecommunityplanning.org.

All Board meetings are open to the public via a live video stream of the meeting. The Chair, however, may decide that an item of business is confidential. In this case, the recording will be stopped after all items on the agenda have been considered so that the confidential item(s) can be considered by the Board in private. Meetings can be viewed on South Lanarkshire Council's YouTube channel: [SL Committees - YouTube](#).

6.4.6. Performance Management and Scrutiny

A new performance framework is currently being developed for the Community Plan. The plans of Thematic Partnership Boards should be aligned to the ambitions and priorities set out in the Community Plan. Thematic Boards should report draft plans and provide annual performance reports to the CPP Board as part of scrutiny arrangements. To ensure compliance with statutory requirements, the Board will receive key annual reports as outlined in sections 7 and 8.

Community Planning partners are encouraged to embed the relevant outcomes, indicators and actions arising from the Community Plan and thematic action plans into their own organisational business plans.

6.4.7. Reporting

The CPP Board will receive and review reports from Community Partnerships, Community Planning Partners and Thematic Partnerships. Each partner will also undertake to report to their own Management Board/Committee on key decisions. Representatives will be expected to speak on behalf of their organisation and to be of sufficient seniority to be able to agree and commit their organisation to a course of action in line with the role, remit and decision-making arrangements of the Board. Community Representatives are expected to speak on behalf of their partnership and report on key decisions to them.

6.4.8. Joint Budget Arrangements

Details of the Partnership's Budget and Expenditure are reported at every meeting. This provides partners with an opportunity to seek clarification on the budget and sums spent during the relevant period.

Annual contributions are made by South Lanarkshire Council, NHS Lanarkshire and Police Scotland. The budget is hosted by South Lanarkshire Council and is managed by the Community Planning Team. The budget supports targeted areas of the work of the partnership to be progressed such as: the development of Community Partnerships and Neighbourhood Planning areas; the Lived Experience Fund; Improvement Projects; maintaining the Community Planning website; and hosting Community Planning events.

6.4.9. Managing Risk

A Community Planning Partnership Risk Register and Risk Control Plan is maintained to formally record, assess and support the management of strategic risks for the Partnership. The Risk Register comprises of detailed risk description cards which are maintained by the Community Planning Progress Group who carry out an annual review of risks. The Risk Control Plan contains actions for the partnership to mitigate known risks. Updates on risks/progress on the delivery of the Risk Control Plan are reported regularly to the Board.

6.4.10. Meeting substitutes

Partners may nominate a substitute to attend a meeting in their absence. Substitute members should be fully briefed and be of sufficient seniority from within their respective organisations.

6.4.11. New Board Members:

Every new Board member will receive a copy of the Community Planning Induction document which sets out information about the partnership, its structure, the role of Board Members and other local governance arrangements. In addition, the Community Planning Team will offer a personal induction meeting. This includes additional guidance which has been published by the Improvement Service regarding the role of a CPP Board Member which is detailed as follows:-

- [Improvement Service CPP Board Member Guidance - Overview of Community Planning](#)
- [Improvement Service CPP Board Member Guidance - How to be an effective CPP Board and Member](#)
- [Improvement Service CPP Board Member Guidance - Checklist for CPP Board Members](#)

7. Community Planning Action Groups

7.1. The Board has oversight of statutory partnership strategies and initiatives which focus on improving outcomes for those communities that experience the poorest outcomes.

Partnership delivery strategies include: Children's Services including Keeping the Promise; Health and Social Care; and Community Learning and Development.

7.2. Thematic Partnerships

There are three Thematic Partnerships which have a statutory duty to prepare and deliver partnership plans which improve outcomes in priority areas. The duration of these plans and other planning requirements including decision-making arrangements are set out in the relevant legislation/policies. A summary has been provided below:-

The [Children's Services Partnership](#) recognises that all children and young people in South Lanarkshire require the right support at the right time, to be safeguarded and supported to

reach their full potential and thrive within their communities. The priorities of this partnership are:-

- **Whole Family Approach:** every family gets the right family support at the right time for as long as needed;
- **Mental Health and Wellbeing:** every child and young person will be able to access local community services which support and improve their mental health and wellbeing: and
- **Keeping the Promise:** children and young people grow up loved, safe, respected and listened to. This includes the Champions Board and the Promise Board.

Key plans of this partnership are the Children's Service Plan and the Local Child Poverty Action Report. It should be noted that the governance arrangements and approvals for these plans are the responsibility of South Lanarkshire Council and NHS Lanarkshire.

The vision of South Lanarkshire Integration Joint Board (IJB) is for all our communities to live longer and healthier lives, supported by the right care, in the right place and at the right time. The IJB is responsible for developing and leading the strategy for Health and Social Care through its [Strategic Commissioning Plan](#). Five strategic goals underpin the work of the IJB with [South Lanarkshire University Health and Social Care Partnership](#) which operationally takes forward their implementation. These are:-

- **Nurture:** supporting children to reach their developmental milestones;
- **Flow:** shifting the balance of care from acute to community services including reducing delayed discharges;
- **Recovery:** reducing harm from substance use and reduce drug related deaths;
- **Access:** improving the accessibility and range of primary care services; and
- **Protect:** strengthening public protection arrangements to help keep vulnerable children and adults safe from harm.

The Alcohol and Drugs Partnership also sits within this structure.

The [Community Learning and Development Partnership](#) comprises a range of organisations including statutory, third sector, and further and higher education organisations, who work together with communities to deliver a range of positive learning and development outcomes. Collectively, they offer a variety of learning opportunities across a range of settings and the focus of their work is on areas experiencing the poorest outcomes. Underpinning this work are the competencies and values of Community Learning and Development (CLD) as set out by the CLD Standards Council, in the spirit of collective action, partnership, and collaborative practice. The Community Learning and Development 3-Year Strategic Action Plan strengthens the work of this Partnership, and governance and approvals are the responsibility of South Lanarkshire Council's Education Service/Committee. The Youth Partnership and English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) also sits within this structure. Both the ESOL Strategy and the Youth Partnership are being considered to ensure synergy within the national policy context.

These partnerships report annually to the Community Planning Partnership Board.

7.3. Community-led Partnerships and Groups

Community Partnerships

The purpose of these partnerships is to strengthen local democracy through local decision making and to align with local Neighbourhood Planning activity. They aim to ensure that their community is represented, fully engaged and has a voice in community planning decision-making processes. The partnerships are led by people living in the community.

The membership of these groups varies, however, it typically includes representatives from Neighbourhood Planning Groups, local Community Councils and other key local community groups.

The partnership acts as an intermediary between Neighbourhood Planning Groups/local activity which is focussed on reducing inequalities and improving outcomes and the Community Planning Partnership Board, strengthening links between communities in the local area and the work of the partnership. The Chairs of these groups are members of the Community Planning Partnership Board. Partnerships identify local priorities and provide a quarterly progress update on progress/highlight local challenges to the Board. Whilst each partnership sets its own Terms of Reference, the broad remit is as follows:-

Remit

- To provide an opportunity to network across communities;
- To resolve local problems through the identification of challenges requiring joint solutions;
- To be a consultative group for new service delivery proposals from partners;
- To oversee the work to produce Neighbourhood Planning Annual Reports as required by the Community Empowerment Act;
- To provide an update on work ongoing in each Neighbourhood Planning locality;
- To consider progress of the delivery of Neighbourhood Plans;
- To link into the wider community engagement and volunteering agenda; and
- To have an awareness of wider Community Planning work through updates and communicate their activity and partnership activity within their local communities.

Four Community Partnerships have been established in South Lanarkshire and cover the following areas:-

- Cambuslang and Rutherglen;
- Clydesdale;
- East Kilbride and Strathaven; and
- Hamilton, Blantyre, Bothwell, Larkhall, Stonehouse and Uddingston.

Neighbourhood Planning Groups

Neighbourhood Planning Groups are led by communities. These groups work with people living in the area to plan and deliver on local priorities. The Community Planning Partnership is required to work with these communities to reduce inequalities and improve outcomes as required by the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. Groups annually review and report on their priorities to their community and to the Board.

The Neighbourhood Planning Groups in South Lanarkshire are as follows:-

- Blantyre;
- Burnhill;
- Cambuslang East Ward;
- East Kilbride South;
- Fernhill;
- Hamilton South Ward;
- Hillhouse, Udston and Burnbank;
- Springhall and Whitlawburn;
- Strutherhill and Birkenshaw; and
- Whitehill.

7.4. Community Planning Delivery Groups

The following groups support the delivery of the Community Plan and the Marmot Place Programme:-

Outcomes Leads Group

The Outcomes Leads Group lead on the implementation of the Community Plan and the Marmot Place Programme, and provide guidance to partners (including community partners) in the development of outcome-based planning. Senior Officers from across the partnership are members of this group. They are currently leading the development and implementation of the Marmot Place programme and meet every four weeks. The work of this group is reported regularly to the Board through the Marmot Place Update report.

Community Planning Progress Group

The Community Planning Progress Group ensures that the actions contained within the Community Plan are delivered and that progress is monitored and reported. Their remit also includes undertaking work as directed by the Board; overseeing the work of the partnership project delivery groups; Community Planning Risk Management and ensuring that effective community participation is at the heart of Community Planning. The group also provides support to the Outcome Leads Group with the development and implementation of the Marmot Place Programme. The work of the group is progressed through various workstreams. The group meets every six weeks and they are supported by short-term working groups (where required). The work of this group is reported regularly to the Board through various updates.

Tackling Poverty Groups

Within the partnership, there are groups which focus on making improvements in areas where there is persistent inequality. More information about the groups and their work can be accessed using the links below. The work of these groups will be reported to the Board annually.

[Financial Inclusion Network](#)

[Digital Inclusion Group](#)

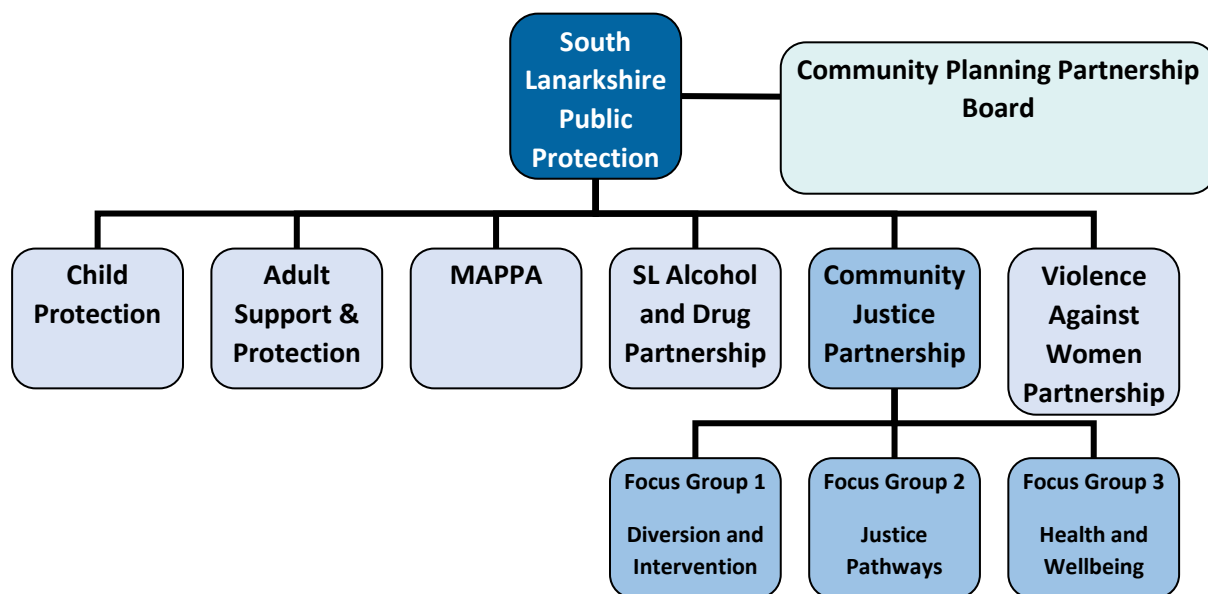
[Fuel Poverty Group](#)

[Living Wage Campaign Group](#)

7.5. Other structures – Public Protection

South Lanarkshire Chief Officers Group

Chief Officers of the partnership are responsible for ensuring that their organisations, individually and collectively, work to protect adults, children and young people as effectively as possible. They also have responsibility for maximising the involvement of those agencies not under their direct control. They are responsible for the leadership, direction and scrutiny of their respective protection services and their Child and Adult Protection Committees. Chief Officers are responsible for overseeing the commissioning of all adult and child protection services and are accountable for this work and its effectiveness. They are individually responsible for promoting adult and child protection across all areas of their individual services and agencies, thus ensuring a holistic approach to public protection in its widest context. In addition, the group has oversight of the work of the Community Justice Partnership and the Gender Based Violence Partnership (see diagram below). The Board are kept informed of the work of these committees and partnerships through annual progress reports.



8. Partnership Support

Policy and partnership support for the South Lanarkshire Community Planning Partnership is co-ordinated by the Community Engagement Team, South Lanarkshire Council. This includes the Community Planning Development Officer who is employed by the Board.

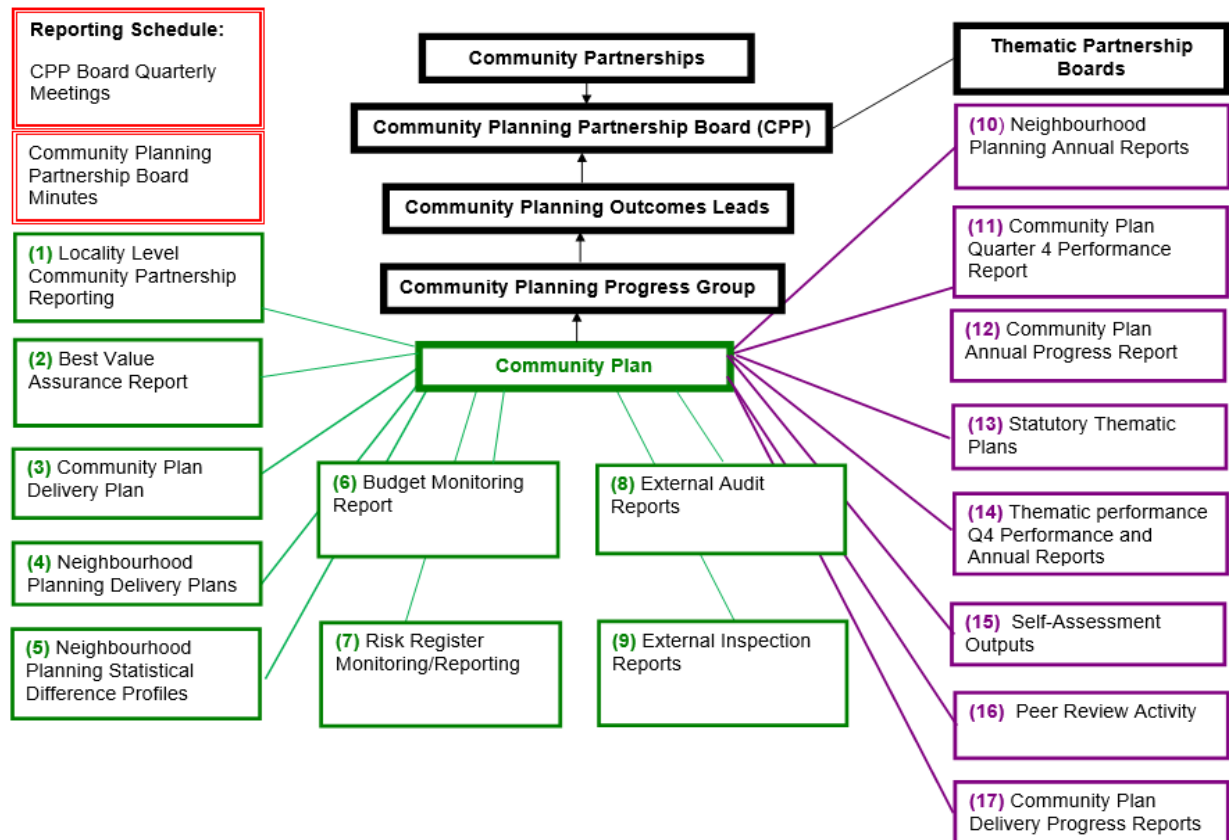
The key partnership support functions include:-

- Partnership and policy support across all partnership structures;
- Preparing partnership strategies and plans;
- Performance Management and Reporting;
- Programme Management of Community Plan and Marmot Place Programme delivery;
- Preparing the agenda and reports for meetings of the Board, in consultation with partners;
- Research and information;
- Performance monitoring and reporting;
- Community participation and engagement;
- Communications;
- Local Community Planning including Neighbourhood Planning and Community Partnerships;
- Communications;
- Data sharing;
- Implementing requests from the Board, for example, co-ordinating the activity of short-life working groups;
- Highlighting emerging strategic issues to the Board;
- Ensuring that the linkages and connections between and across the partnerships are effective and fit for purpose;
- Partnership governance arrangements;
- Organising Board development sessions and Community Planning events; and
- Providing guidance and support to the Progress Group and Outcome Leads Group, as well as to individual partnership groups, the Age Friendly South Lanarkshire Programme, officers working in the partnership and with communities.

9. How the partnership monitors and evaluates the effectiveness of its governance arrangements

The partnership regularly monitors and evaluates the effectiveness of its governance arrangements. The key sources of assurance that inform this process are shown in the diagram below:-

Diagram 3 – South Lanarkshire Community Planning Partnership Assurance Framework



10. Review of Governance arrangements and Partner Commitments

This document will be reviewed annually, and any amendments must be considered and approved by the Board.

11. Glossary of terms

Community Plan – This is the overarching strategy of the South Lanarkshire Community Planning Partnership. It is also known as a Local Outcomes Improvement Plan as set out in Section 6 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.

Place Director – A Place Director represents the Scottish Government in local authority and Community Planning Partnership areas. More information can be found on the Scottish Government's website: [Place Directors: factsheet - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/place-directors-factsheet/pages/1-2.aspx)

Neighbourhood Plans – These are plans which set out local priorities for action in communities that experience poorer outcomes than the rest of South Lanarkshire. They are also known as Locality Plans as set out in Section 9 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.

South Lanarkshire Community Planning Partnership Partner Commitments

The Partnership is a joint working arrangement where the partners are otherwise independent bodies who commit to working collaboratively through:-

- Ensuring the strategic and operational commitment of their organisation to the community planning process as required to comply with the legal duties as set out in the [Community Empowerment \(Scotland\) Act 2015](#); and to the delivery of the principles for effective community planning as set out in the [statutory Community Planning Guidance](#). These are: community participation and co-production; tackling inequalities; shared leadership; governance and accountability; understanding of local communities' needs; circumstances and opportunities; focus on key priorities; focus on prevention; resourcing improvement; and effective performance management;
- Upholding and demonstrating the standards of behaviour as set out in the Seven Principles of Public Life ([also known as the Nolan principles](#)) (see Appendix 2).
- Attending each Partnership Board meeting and, if this is not possible, a named substitute of sufficient seniority should deputise;
- Appointing a representative(s) with appropriate authority to contribute to and seek to implement decisions made by the Partnership. In respect of the Partnership Board, this will be a Chair or person of Chief Executive status/equivalent or their senior nominated person;
- At all times, act in the best interests of the partnership, setting aside any personal interests;
- Working in a way that demonstrates the values of openness, respect, parity between partners and which achieves progress through reaching consensus and positively promotes shared decision-making;
- Providing clarification as appropriate when contributing to final decision-making, whether views expressed are as an individual or on behalf of their respective organisation;
- Ensuring that partnership working, is co-ordinated and inclusive, especially in relation to accepting shared responsibility for agreed actions;
- Leading or supporting work to deliver the agreed ambitions and outcomes;
- Facilitating the sharing of information and resources to support the delivery of community planning activities;
- Promoting the work of the partnership within their organisation;
- Ensuring any agreed Community Planning budget and resource requirements are included as part of your organisation's annual budget and resource planning process;
- Supporting capacity building initiatives aimed at strengthening the knowledge and skills of partner representatives and communities in respect of Community Planning;
- Co-operating and participating in performance monitoring and reporting frameworks that meet the requirements of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act; and
- Contributing to the promotion, development and maintenance of strong links with wider partners, community organisations and communities.

The Seven Principles of Public Life

The Seven Principles of Public Life (also known as the Nolan Principles) apply to anyone who works as a public office holder. This includes all those who are elected or appointed to public office, nationally and locally, and all people appointed to work in the Civil Service, local government, the Police, courts and probation services, non-departmental public bodies, and in the health, education, social and care services. All public office holders are both servants of the public and stewards of public resources. The principles also apply to all those in other sectors delivering public services.

Selflessness

Board members should act solely in terms of the public interest.

Integrity

Board members must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships.

Objectivity

Board members must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.

Accountability

Board members are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this.

Openness

Board members should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing.

Honesty

Board members should be truthful.

Leadership

Board members should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour and treat others with respect. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs.

**List of Statutory and Non-Statutory Organisations/Groups
represented on the Community Planning Partnership Board**

Organisation/Group	Statutory/Non-Statutory	Board Member?
Community Partnerships	Non-Statutory	Yes
Federation of Small Businesses	Non-Statutory	Yes
Historic Environment Scotland	Statutory duty to participate	No*
NHS Lanarkshire	Statutory duty to facilitate	Yes
Police Service of Scotland	Statutory duty to facilitate	Yes
Scottish Enterprise	Statutory duty to facilitate	Yes
Scottish Fire and Rescue Service	Statutory duty to facilitate	Yes
Scottish Natural Heritage (now known as NatureScot)	Statutory duty to participate	Yes
Seniors Together	Non-Statutory	Yes
Skills Development Scotland	Statutory duty to participate	Yes
South Lanarkshire College	Statutory duty to participate	Yes
South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership	Statutory duty to participate	Yes
South Lanarkshire Council	Statutory duty to facilitate	Yes
South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture	Non-Statutory	Yes
Strathclyde Passenger Transport	Statutory duty to participate	Yes
The Scottish Environmental Protection Agency	Statutory duty to participate	No*
The Scottish Sports Council (now known as SportScotland)	Statutory duty to participate	Yes
University of the West of Scotland	Non-Statutory	Yes
VASLan (Third Sector Interface)	Non-Statutory	Yes
VisitScotland	Statutory duty to participate	Yes

*Note: Whilst Historic Environmental Scotland and The Scottish Environmental Protection Agency are not currently members of the CPP Leadership Board, they are engaging with the Community Planning Partnership.



South Lanarkshire
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Community Planning Board Bulletin

9 December 2025

www.southlanarkshirecommunityplanning.org



contact@southlanarkshirecommunityplanning.org

Overview and contents

Welcome to the CPP Board Bulletin, providing you with updates on key partnership activity relating to policy, strategy and service delivery.

December 2025 Update Contents

- Challenge Poverty Week Update (Slides 3-4); and
- Community Engagement and Participation Strategy 2020-2025 Review Update (Slides 5-7).

Challenge Poverty Week Update

Challenge Poverty Week is an annual national event and took place from 6 to 10 October 2005. The following activities and events took place:-

- The Community Planning website hosted a calendar of events taking place in each area throughout the week. This was created with partners and included webinars, workshops and training opportunities.
- Launch of the Community Planning Partnership's Lived Experience Fund 2025.
- The council's Community Engagement Team Officers carried out Period Positive events throughout the week in partnership with health colleagues at different venues.
- Community Networking Event 2025:
 - Over 40 stall holders (community groups/local organisations/partners);
 - 15 workshops were delivered; and
 - Attended by public, community groups, councillors and employees.
- Neighbourhood Planning Stakeholder Group's launched their Community Safety Card; and
- Evaluation of the week and lessons learned carried out by the Community Engagement Team.



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Officer contact detail: Further Information

Dana Brady, Poverty and Inequalities Officer

communities@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Community Engagement and Participation Strategy Update

Background:

- The current South Lanarkshire Community Engagement and Participation Strategy 2020/2025 was developed in line with the requirement within the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 which requires CPPs and community planning partners both to engage with those community bodies which are likely to be able to contribute to community planning.
- In 2019, the Board identified the need to develop a Participation and Empowerment Strategy when reviewing the Partnership Risk Register and a short-life Writing Group was formed to progress this work.
- A draft vision, aims and principles were developed for consultation and this was carried out with local groups and the wider community during late December 2019/early January 2020.
- Feedback was analysed by the Writing Group and this was used to shape and develop this strategy. This was submitted and approved by the CPP Board on 9 September 2020 and can be viewed here: [CEPS 2020-2025](#).

Community Engagement and Participation Strategy Update

Next Steps:

- Consultation is being undertaken during 2025/26 to develop an updated strategy;
- We asked at the Community Network Event on 10 October 2025 ‘what should engaging with a community look like?’;
- This feedback will be included within the discussions at the Community Engagement and Participation Strategy Workshop which is proposed to take place in early 2026; and
- Further updates will be provided to the CPP Board as the review progresses.



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Officer contact detail: Further Information

Jen Kerr, Community Engagement Manager

jennifer.kerr1@southlanarkshire.gov.uk



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Community Planning Partnership Board Executive Summary

Date of meeting:	9 December 2025
Subject:	South Lanarkshire Register of Information
Report by:	Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council
Contact for Further Information:	Jen Kerr, Community Engagement Manager, South Lanarkshire Council Tel: 0303 123 1017 Email: jennifer.kerr@southlanarkshire.gov.uk
Purpose of the Report:	♦ to provide the Partnership Board with a summary of the information circulated to Community Planning Partners.
Community Planning Delivery Partners:	All partners
Key Recommendations/ Decisions/Action Required from Partners:	The Board is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):- (1) that the content of the report be noted.
Risks/Challenges:	There are no risks or challenges associated with this report.
Links to Community Plan Ambitions/Principles:	♦ All ambitions/principles
Summary of Report:	♦ Details of information circulated to Community Planning Partners which gives partners an opportunity to seek clarification or an update on any matters contained therein

Report

Report to:	Partnership Board
Date of Meeting:	9 December 2025
Report by:	Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council

Subject:	South Lanarkshire Register of Information
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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 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 – 23 August to 13 November 2025

4.1. Appendix 1 provides a summary of the information circulated from 23 August to 13 November 2025.

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 Implications

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 issues in terms of risk associated with this report.

9. Integrated Impact Assessment and Consultation Requirements

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

Paul Manning
Chief Executive
South Lanarkshire Council

18 November 2025

Contact for Further Information

If you would like further information, please contact:-

Jen Kerr, Community Engagement Manager, South Lanarkshire Council

Tel: 0303 123 1017

Email: Jennifer.Kerr1@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Register of Information circulated to the Partnership

23 August to 13 November 2025

Date	Subject	Received From	Summary	Action taken
04/09/25	Annual Participation Measure 2025 Publication	Skills Development Scotland	Publication of Skills Development Scotland's Annual Participation Measure 2025 which details the participation levels of 16–19-year-olds in South Lanarkshire.	Circulated to the Community Planning Partnership Board for information.
09/09/25	Experience and perceptions of engaging with SEPA: public, communities and stakeholder survey	SEPA	SEPA are seeking views and experience of contacting and engaging with their services so they can be customer focused, accessible and inclusive to all they engage and work with, and those who need to use their services. The feedback from this survey will shape how they work with people, communities and organisations across Scotland, including the development of their customer service, accessibility strategy, and Equality Outcomes. The survey closed on 1 October 2025.	Circulated to the Community Planning Progress Group for information.
18/09/25	South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture (SLLC) Community and School Halls Consultation 2025/26	SLLC	SLLC are seeking feedback on the use and capacity of their indoor lettable community and school spaces, along with a proposed pricing structure designed to better reflect the operational costs needed to sustain them. The consultation closed on 26 October 2025.	Circulated to the Community Planning Progress Group for information.
25/09/25	What is the point? Report	Next Chapter Scotland	Publication of the 'What is the Point?' report from the Amplifying Voices study conducted by interviewing 300 people from across Scotland about their experiences of the Criminal Justice System, undertaken by Next Chapter Scotland. This study aimed to: Understand, more fully, the impact of criminal justice involvement; Amplify the voices of people affected by criminal convictions;	Circulated to the Community Planning Progress Group and Outcomes Leads Group for information.

Date	Subject	Received From	Summary	Action taken
			and Push for practical changes to improve lives and communities.	
02/10/25	Missing People Evaluation	Police Scotland	<p>Police Scotland are inviting colleagues with involvement with missing people in Scotland to take part in their evaluation throughout October 2025.</p> <p>The evaluation aims to assess the level, quality and consistency of engagement between Police Scotland, partner agencies and missing people and their friends/families across Scotland, to help improve the service provided.</p>	Circulated to the Outcomes Leads Group for information.
06/10/25	Collaboration for Health Equity in Scotland (CHES) Briefing	Public Health Scotland	Publication of the updated CHES Briefing by Public Health Scotland.	Circulated to the Community Planning Progress Group and Outcomes Leads Group for information.
06/10/25	Spotlight Session 5 Climate Change	Scottish Community Planning Network (SCPN)	Circulation of the Spotlight Session 5 presentation slides which focussed on Climate Change at the SCPN meeting held on 30 September 2025.	Circulated to the Community Planning Progress Group for information.
14/10/25	Scottish Mental Health Arts Festival 2025	NHS Lanarkshire	Circulation of the brochure for the Scottish Mental Health Arts Festival 2025 which is taking place from 20 October to 9 November 2025 and celebrating the theme of 'Comfort and Disturb'.	Circulated to the Community Planning Progress Group and Outcomes Leads Group for information.
20/10/25	Spotlight Session 5 Climate Change and Community Planning Session Summary	Scottish Community Planning Network (SCPN)	Circulation of Spotlight Session 5 Climate Change and Community Planning - From Theory to Practice Session Summary from the SCPN meeting held on 30 September 2025.	Circulated to the Community Planning Progress Group and Outcomes Leads Group for information.
20/10/25	An Overview of the Social Determinants of Health in Scotland: The Collaboration for Health Equity in Scotland	Institute of Health Equity	Publication of the second report on ' An Overview of the Social Determinants of Health in Scotland: The Collaboration for Health Equity in Scotland ' by the Institute of Health Equity.	Circulated to the Community Planning Progress Group and Outcomes Leads Group for information.
22/10/25	CashBack for	CashBack for	Information from CashBack for Communities	Circulated to the Community

Date	Subject	Received From	Summary	Action taken
	Communities Delivery in Your Local Area	Communities	highlighting the funded projects being carried out within local authority areas. This is a Scottish Government programme supporting young people from all 32 local authorities and takes funds recovered from the proceeds of crime and invests them to deliver free activities and programmes for young people: Activities in the Area	Planning Progress Group for information.
28/10/25	The New Story of Child Poverty in Scotland	Save the Children	Launch of the Save the Children and Joseph Rowntree Foundation guide and supporting material regarding 'The new story of child poverty in Scotland; which can help people to tell a story that connects with the public, builds support for change and drives action from decision-makers: https://www.savethechildren.org.uk/new-story-child-poverty-scotland	Circulated to the Community Planning Progress Group and Outcomes Leads Group for information.
30/10/25	Suicide Prevention Scotland Community-Led Action Research 2025-2026	Scottish Community Planning Network	Suicide Prevention Scotland have announced a new round of their community-led research programme building on the success of the programme delivered during 2024-2025. Guidance provided includes details on the application process and key criteria to be submitted by 5 November 2025.	Circulated to the Community Planning Progress Group and Outcomes Leads Group for information.
30/10/25	Mental Health Events	NHS Lanarkshire	Circulation of Mental Health Events including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Scottish Mental Health Arts Festival 2025 brochure (as detailed above); • Premiere of a short film called 'Faded Frames' which is produced by a local screenwriter/film-maker which took place on 7 November 2025 at Fairhill Library, Hamilton; and • The Celebrating Recovery Annual Event which took place on 12 November 2025 at Alona Hotel, Strathclyde Country Park, Motherwell. 	Circulated to the Community Planning Progress Group for information.
30/10/25	'Junkie' Documentary Film	SACRO (Scottish Community Justice organisation)	Screening of the documentary film 'Junkie' which has been arranged by SACRO's Connect Service to challenge stigma and generate conversation. The screening took place on 7 November 2025 at	Circulated to the Community Planning Progress Group for information.

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			Ballerup Hall, Civic Centre, East Kilbride. Trailer: https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=GXolpdHHOQo	
03/11/25	Regional Skills Assessment Reports	Skills Development Scotland	Circulation of the October 2025 Regional Skills Assessment Reports for the Glasgow City Region and Lanarkshire areas. The reports provide a robust and consistent evidence base to support strategic skills investment planning.	Circulated to the Community Planning Partnership Board for information.
03/11/25	Creating Safer Communities Conference	South Lanarkshire Council (SLC)	Invitation circulated by Children and Justice Services, SLC to the Creating Safer Communities Conference being held on 17 November 2025 which is focussing on addressing the issues related to knife crime.	Circulated to the Community Planning Progress Group for information.
03/11/25	Collaborative Working in Scottish Local Government Report	Improvement Service	Publication of the Improvement Service's ' Collaborative Working in Scottish Local Government ' Report. This report highlights the collaborative projects which are now operational or in development across Scotland.	Circulated to the Community Planning Progress Group and Outcomes Leads Group for information.

