



South Lanarkshire
Partnership
Stronger together

Working together to improve
the quality of life for all in
South Lanarkshire

Community Plan for South Lanarkshire 2017–2027



Annual Outcome
Improvement Report
2019–20



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Introduction to Community Planning in South Lanarkshire

Preface

This document is for the people who live and work in South Lanarkshire. It shows the progress of the South Lanarkshire Community Planning Partnership during 2019-20 and gives examples of the work that we are doing to make a difference and how this has impacted on local people and communities.

What are we?

All of our Community Planning Partners are working together to make South Lanarkshire a better place to live and work. We work with each other and with communities to provide the best possible services that local people want and need. Further information can be found on the Community Planning Partnership website www.southlanarkshirecommunityplanning.org

Who are we?

Our partnership includes a wide range of national and local organisations. Some of these organisations you will know well.

What are we trying to achieve?

Our aim is to work with communities to deliver better services targeted at reducing poverty and tackling inequalities and deprivation across South Lanarkshire.

How do I get involved?

There are many ways to get involved in your local community and influence the work of the partnership, for example, through volunteering, joining a local action group or making a participation request. More information can be found in the section "Working with Communities".



Overarching Aim

The main purpose of the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) is to reduce poverty, deprivation and inequality.

Tackling poverty, deprivation and inequalities is not a new area of work for the partners in South Lanarkshire. From the start, the Community Planning Partnership has recognised the challenges for people experiencing disadvantage, in particular closing the opportunity gap for those communities that are the most deprived. Partners have further strengthened their commitment to this work by agreeing a single objective in the Community Plan (2017-2027) which is to "tackle poverty, deprivation and inequality".

In delivering this objective, the work of the partnership is informed by national research carried out by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation see www.jrf.org.uk for more information. This is an independent social change organisation which is working to solve poverty. Partners work together on a range of actions under the following eight key themes.

- Inclusive Growth;
- Financial Inclusion;
- Supporting Parental Employment and Childcare;
- Improving Housing;
- Education, Skills and Development;
- Health Inequalities;
- Safeguarding from Risk or Harm; and
- Improving the Local Environment and Communities.

To complement this work, plans have also been developed to improve the prospects and outcomes for our residents in relation to Children and Young People, Health and Social Care, Community Safety and Sustainable Economic Growth. For more information see

www.southlanarkshirecommunityplanning.org/plans

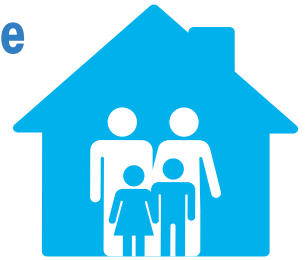


South Lanarkshire
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Children in low income families
(before housing costs)

South Lanarkshire
17.2%

Scotland 18.1%
(2018-19)



Percentage of working age residents
who are employment deprived

South Lanarkshire
9.7%

Scotland 9.3%
(2020)



South Lanarkshire 11.9% **Scotland 10.8%** **(2016)**

Percentage of residents who are income deprived

South Lanarkshire
12.8%

Scotland 12.1%
(2020)



South Lanarkshire 13.2% **Scotland 12.3%** **(2016)**

Community Plan Performance Highlights

There is a significant amount of work being undertaken by the partnership across South Lanarkshire to reduce poverty, deprivation and inequality. Community Planning Partnerships are required to show what will be different for communities at years one, three and ten of their improvement plan. This report and the linked documents consider how well the partnership has done in meeting the targets that were set for year three of the plan. The following gives examples of our performance where we have met the three year target in relation to some of the key areas of work that we are progressing.

Increase the number of domestic abuse incidents reported to the Police by **10%**

8.3% increase achieved at year 3



Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
3,303 (2017-18)	3,492 (2018-19)	3,601 (2019-20)

Working age people employed

**3 year target –
to be higher than the figure for Scotland**



South Lanarkshire / Scotland

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
74.7% 74.2% (2017)	76.4% 74.1% (2018)	76.6% 74.8% (2019)



Reduce the percentage of households in fuel poverty

3 year target – reduce fuel poverty levels

South Lanarkshire / Scotland

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
25% 31% (2014-16)	23% 27% (2015-17)	20% 25% (2016-18)

**Completed new
affordable homes**

284 (2019-20)



Home+ Programme

South Lanarkshire Council delivered

507 affordable homes

Registered Social Landlords delivered

835 affordable homes (from 2016-17)

Households with home access to the Internet

3 year target – increase

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
85% (2016)	81% (2017)	91% (2018)



**Care experienced young people
moving into work or further education**

3 year target – 90%

South Lanarkshire / Scotland

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
87.8% 76.4% (2016-17)	90% 80.4% (2017-18)	91.5% 82.2% (2018-19)



Community Plan Overall Performance at a glance

Status of priority measures



The following provides a summary of our performance against our priority measures. These are:-

- Children and families
- Community Safety
- Fair Work and Enterprise
- Health and Care
- Tackling Poverty, Deprivation and Inequality

The full Community Planning Partnership performance report can be accessed using the following link

www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/cp/downloads/file/265/community_plan_2017-2027_q4_2019-20_progress_report

Status	Description
Completed	The action to achieve the change has been completed
Green	On course to achieve the target or complete the action as planned/the timescale or target has been met as per expectations
Amber	There has been minor slippage against timescale or minor shortfall against target
Red	There has been major slippage against timescale or major shortfall against target
To be reported later	For some measures, the statistics are not yet available to allow us to say whether the target has been reached or not. These will be reported when available
Contextual	A small number of measures are included for "information only", to set performance information in context

Ensure the delivery of the Early Learning and Childcare Strategy
Reduce the proportion of working age residents who are employment deprived across South Lanarkshire and reduce the Gap between the 20% most deprived communities and South Lanarkshire
Improved financial wellbeing of low income families and vulnerable service users
Review provision and take up of food and crisis aid to identify gaps and opportunities for development/improvement. Ensure effective cross referral processes are in place between specialist advice and aid services
Communities are supported to fully participate in the development and delivery of Neighbourhood Plans

Least improved measures
Promote Credit Unions and monitor the number of adults involved
Put Women's Plans in place for pregnant women/new mothers substance misusing



Inclusive Growth

Why is this important?

Inclusive growth is ensuring economic growth benefits everyone and reduces inequalities, particularly income inequality. In order to address inequalities, improve standards of living and life choices for our communities, we support South Lanarkshire businesses to grow and create employment. In turn, we encourage our businesses to employ local people thereby giving something back to the communities within which these businesses are based. This support has ensured South Lanarkshire has maintained high business start-up and survival rates, positive destinations for young people, and increased levels of investment.

Support for Business How are we doing?

South Lanarkshire has almost 10,000 registered businesses employing over 88,000 people. Together, they generate a combined turnover (this means the total value of all sales of all businesses in South Lanarkshire) of over £13 billion. Since 2013, the number of businesses has grown by 15% and employment and turnover have grown by 3% and 8% respectively.

Nine out of ten of our businesses are small enterprises, but they contribute around 40% of our employment and 25% of total turnover. Since 2013, small businesses have created the largest number of jobs in the area, cumulatively creating over 3,000 and the biggest increase in turnover through £470 million of growth.

In addition, South Lanarkshire is home to 455 large businesses which account for around half of total turnover and employment. We have 250 internationally owned businesses. These include global consumer brands such as Coca Cola, Schweppes and Deep Heat as well as iconic Scottish brands such as Tunnock's and Burns Stewart Distillers. Large businesses employ over 14,000 people, up by 2,000 since 2013, with turnover over £4 billion, an increase of nearly 50% since 2013.



The COVID-19 pandemic represents an unprecedented challenge to our economy - locally, nationally and across every sector. For many, it will accelerate changes around home working, travelling and it will impact on our town centres. In many cases, those impacts will be felt by those most vulnerable within the labour market.

To support our businesses during this time, partners have delivered:

- 3,732 Coronavirus Business Support Grants;
- Approximately 300 hardship grants to newly self-employed who were unable to receive Government grants delivered by HMRC;
- Total value of grants approximately £42.5million to help sustain businesses through lockdown;
- 62 Pivotal Enterprise Resilience Fund grants to help safeguard some of the regions strategic employers;
- 56 Creative Industry and Tourism Hardship Grants supporting local employers; and
- Providing support through the Early Stage Growth Challenge Fund.

Next Steps

The partnership is developing a comprehensive economic recovery plan. At its core we will be ensuring we promote inclusive growth, enabling businesses to maintain their competitiveness, creating and safeguarding employment and ensuring we continue to maximise the opportunities presented by the emerging low carbon economy.

Further information

Business Support

<https://findbusinesssupport.gov.scot/>

Support for Businesses

www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/businesssupport

Business Gateway Support

www.bgateway.com/local-offices/lanarkshire/local-support



Financial Inclusion

Why is this important?

Financial wellbeing impacts on all aspects of our lives including our general health and wellbeing and on our quality of life. It can affect the choices and opportunities we have and our aim is to improve financial wellbeing for those who are struggling to get by or are financially vulnerable.

Our focus is on low income households through awareness and uptake of welfare benefits and entitlements; tackling debt and promoting Credit Union saving and affordable borrowing options; reducing costs including fuel bills; and supporting financial know-how from school onwards.

Maximising Income

How are we doing?

Midwives, Health Visitors and Family Nurses work with families to help identify any money worries and make referrals into money advice services. Between April 2019 and March 2020 there were 811 referrals to the Money Matters Telephone Advice Line for pregnant women and families with young children. 77.3% of families engaged with the service and as a result there has been substantial financial improvement for many families, with an average increase in household income of £2,569 per year. Good feedback has been received from parents around the supportive, personal contact by both services and the option of further assistance by Money Matters Advice Services.

This work is based on Midwives, Health Visitors and Family Nurses sensitively identifying families in need of financial support and working in partnership with the Telephone Advice Line, to receive expert money advice services either by phone, face to face contact or joint visits with health staff. Asking pregnant women and young families about money worries is now part of the job that Midwives, Health Visitors and Family Nurses do.



Kim's Story*

Kim lives on her own and is due her first baby. She also has mental health issues and has been referred by her midwife for support. She is not working and is already receiving some benefits including Universal Credit. Kim was advised of the benefits that she may be entitled to and got help to fill in the forms. She was told that she could apply for a Leisure Concession Card. Kim had most of the things that she needed for her baby however she needed some help to get her house and garden ready. The Community Payback Team were able to help with this and she was delighted with what they did. As a result of contacting the telephone advice line Kim received the following:-

- A baby box worth £160.00;
- Child Benefit of £21.05 per week;
- A Best Start grant of £600 (one off payment);
- Best Start Foods - £4.25 per week;
- Better off by £54.42 per week through Universal Credit;
- Applications for Maternity Allowance and Personal Independence Payment both pending; and
- Ongoing support from the Money Matters Team and Midwife and once the baby is born this will continue.

Kim continues to receive ongoing support from the Money Matters Team and her Midwife.

**Name has been changed*

Priority Next Steps

- Agree format for reporting information about the telephone advice line to partners regularly
- Disseminate the NHS Education for Scotland web print national prompts to Midwives, Health Visitors and Family Nurses
- Explore new ways of reaching families during the COVID-19 pandemic

Further information

Advice Line for Pregnant Women and Young Families

Email: telephoneadvice@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Phone: **01698 453154** or **01698 453180**

Opening hours:

Monday to Thursday 8.45am to 4.45pm;

Friday 8.45am to 4.15pm

(outwith these times you can leave a message)

Managing Your Money

www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/managing_your_money

Financial Inclusion within Maternity and Health Visiting Services

www.youtube.com/watch?v=bM7V9S3vKzs#action=share

Best Start Grant and Best Start Foods

www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/best_start

When Money is Tight Booklet

www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/money-is-tight

Citizen's Advice Scotland

www.cas.org.uk/

Community Payback Team

www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/community_payback



Supporting Parental Employment and Childcare

Why is this important?

The early years of a child's life are important in shaping the best outcomes for them and funding Early Learning and Childcare Services help provide the basis for positive future outcomes for children and families, including reducing poverty and improving chances of getting a job. We know that helping low income families towards, into and within work through the provision of affordable and accessible childcare has the greatest potential to impact on child poverty. We also know that children who receive high quality childcare, enter school with better language and social skills, providing a child with a good start to do well in school and in life.

In supporting parental employment, the partnership helps those in receipt of benefits to get a job and through learning new skills to progress further within their job. We know that barriers to increasing pay can be even greater for those with family responsibilities. Caring for children can often limit the number of hours people can work and the distance they can travel for work.

Increasing choice and the number of funded Nursery Places

How are we doing?

We are working to deliver a plan that provides more childcare options for families in line with the Scottish Government's commitment to increase the funded entitlement of Early Learning and Childcare for all 3-4 year olds and eligible 2 year olds from 600 hours a year to 1140 hours a year. Part of this plan has been to increase the number of staff such as Nursery Managers, Team Leaders and Early Years Workers. We have continued to develop opportunities for Modern Apprenticeships in Early

Learning and Childcare to develop our own future staff. Seven Modern Apprentices have successfully completed their qualification and a further 43 are still working towards this. 20 staff are fully qualified and have been employed in our nurseries. Training for both existing and new staff has also been a priority.

We are also building new/adapting existing buildings to support additional nursery class requirements. For example there will be a new nursery class in Canberra Primary School in East Kilbride. We have also increased the number of nurseries providing funded places from 70 to 102.

This means that we are able to increase the range of nursery places that we offer to suit families' needs. Examples of the part-time and full-time places that we can provide are: 8.00am - 12.35pm over 52 weeks, where children are provided with brunch; 1.00pm - 5.35pm where children are provided with afternoon tea; and 8.00am - 6.00pm over 52 weeks or 9am - 3pm term time where children are provided with a hot lunch.

We have been engaging with parents in the planning and development of our childcare provision and parents have told us that they enjoy giving feedback through Twitter and Facebook on surveys and for receiving information and getting support for home learning.

“Thanks to getting a place in nursery when my daughter was two, I was able to go to college and build my confidence and experience of being back in a workplace environment. I gained a qualification that led me to getting back into work after eight years. I have gained so much confidence and I'm proud to be a positive role model to my daughter. This has led to increased income and gives us more options as a family. We can now afford to try different activities with our daughter that were unaffordable before.”

South Lanarkshire Parent



How many funded hours will our children receive in 2020/21?

- 3-5 year olds
- 2-3 year olds

1140 hours

600 hours

1,176

50

17%

5,594

372

83%

“I was so pleased when my son was given full days in nursery. It has had a big impact on my ability to work and my son has made massive progress in all aspects of his development; something us working parents would struggle to achieve without help.”

South Lanarkshire Parent

“I would like to say how impressed I am with the flexibility of the hours to choose from. This has allowed me to get back to work for more hours than I had planned.”

South Lanarkshire Parent



Priority Next Steps

We are continuing to prepare for the full implementation of the 1140 hours commitment however we are working in changing circumstances. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Scottish Government has relaxed the current guidance for councils and childcare partners which means that the current entitlement has remained at 600 hours.

There are nine new nursery centres for the two to five years age range being developed. One in the Hamilton area; three in the East Kilbride and Strathaven area; three in the Cambuslang and Rutherglen area; and two in the Clydesdale area. One nursery will also support children with Additional Support Needs.



Further Information

Early Learning and Childcare

www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/early-learning-childcare



Improving Housing

Why is this important?

Providing good quality housing that meets people's differing needs now and in the future which they can afford, is vital to ensuring the health and wellbeing of communities across South Lanarkshire.

South Lanarkshire Council works closely with local people within communities and a range of other partners to improve the supply and condition of housing in South Lanarkshire and reduce levels of fuel poverty. We make sure that existing council homes are maintained to the required standards and new homes meet modern standards in relation to ease of access, space and energy efficiency.

As well as providing good quality affordable homes for rent that are suitable to people's needs, we also work with housing partners to deliver a range of other services aimed at improving the lives of people in South Lanarkshire.

An area of particular focus is working with people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, including those most vulnerable within the community. Our aim is to provide advice, information and assistance to help prevent homelessness.



Millon Street, Carluke Development

Prevent and reduce the impact of homelessness

How are we doing?

There are many reasons why people find themselves at risk of homelessness. Identifying those who are at risk at the earliest stage is key to helping prevent homelessness occurring and to reducing the impact of homelessness. The council and its partners work together to provide a range of advice, information, assistance and support to people who are homeless or are at risk of homelessness through the delivery of services including: Housing Options; Mediation; Rent Deposit Support; and Money Advice Services.

In South Lanarkshire, there is a long and well established track record of partnership working aimed at preventing and reducing homelessness. Over the last 20 years, key Community Planning Partners and other partners, such as Housing Associations, Women's Aid Lanarkshire, YPeople and the Third Sector have a shared commitment to work together to identify and implement new ways of addressing homelessness.

During this time significant progress has been made, however homelessness remains an issue and an ongoing challenge, both here in South Lanarkshire and across Scotland.

In 2019, the council, working closely with key partners developed the first South Lanarkshire Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan (RRTP) 2019-24. 'Rapid Rehousing' is defined as a housing-led approach for people experiencing homelessness, with a focus on making sure they reach a settled home as quickly as possible, whilst limiting the amount of time spent in temporary accommodation.

Our aim is that 'Homelessness in South Lanarkshire is significantly reduced, with homeless households moving to a settled home as quickly as possible'.

2019-20 saw the first full year of the implementation of the plan. During the year a wide range of work has been undertaken by services and partner organisations to help address homelessness and improve the lives of some of the most vulnerable people within our communities.



Key achievements include:-

- The council and its Housing Association partners continued to work together to meet the needs of homeless households in South Lanarkshire. In 2019-20, the council let 51.4% of its vacant properties to homeless households while Housing Association partners collectively let 36.9%. This is an improvement on the previous year when the council let 49.2% and Housing Associations let 29.4%.
- 26 homeless households living in temporary tenancies were able to be permanently housed within the properties, avoiding the need for further moves.
- Continued development of the Integrated Housing Options model, by increasing resources dedicated to early detection of housing risk factors and interventions to help prevent homelessness. This has led to an increase in the Housing Options caseload from 753 cases during 2017-18 to 933 in 2019-20.
- Two new approaches were established to assist homelessness prevention by providing financial assistance to council tenants and tenants in the private rented sector.
- Expansion of the South Lanarkshire Rent Deposit Scheme to facilitate an increase in the number of homeless households whose housing needs are met in the private rented sector and deliver support to sustain private sector tenancies.
- The HomeStart team was established to provide support and assistance to all new tenants, including those who may be at most risk of homelessness. Since full roll out in September 2019, the HomeStart team have assisted 649 new tenants and provided 247 starter packs.

Priority Next Steps

Following a review of the first year of the implementation of the RRTP and the progress made, priorities for year two have been identified and agreed with partners.

Year two of the RRTP will continue to build on the successful outcomes achieved during year one and the good work that has been progressed by the council and its partners.

Further information

South Lanarkshire Local Housing Strategy 2017-22
www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/housing-strategy

South Lanarkshire Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan 2019-2024
www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/RRTP

Quotes from tenants whose temporary tenancy was made permanent

“I was over the moon”

South Lanarkshire Tenant

“My son has autism so I was pleased to receive the temporary accommodation as a permanent offer so my son did not have to move again”

South Lanarkshire Tenant



Education, Skills and Development

Why is this important?

The world around us is changing. Such is the pace and scale of change that even our idea of work and skills will be very different in future years. An added challenge is the economic and social impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Delivering bespoke support to young people, most at risk of poverty and experiencing inequality is a key priority. As a partnership we work closely to ensure targeted support is in place, particularly at the key transition stage from school to the world of work to ensure young people achieve and sustain a positive destination post school. Closing the inequalities gap between the least deprived and most deprived communities is essential. Research shows that being unemployed when young can impact on society for decades. Youth unemployment leads to a higher likelihood of long-term impacts in later life such as lower pay, higher unemployment and reduced life chances.

We offer a range of youth employability programmes, with support available for young people who need help moving on from school to training, college or a job. Our focus is on ensuring that those young people who live in our most deprived areas have the same opportunities to progress into further education and work as those from the least deprived areas.

Aspire Programme

How are we doing?

South Lanarkshire continues to have a strong 'Opportunities for All' partnership group which works together to ensure that all school leavers are supported into learning or employment and when this can't happen that other supports are put in place to meet the needs of the young person, through a bespoke programme including referrals to other key agencies such as mental health and addiction services.

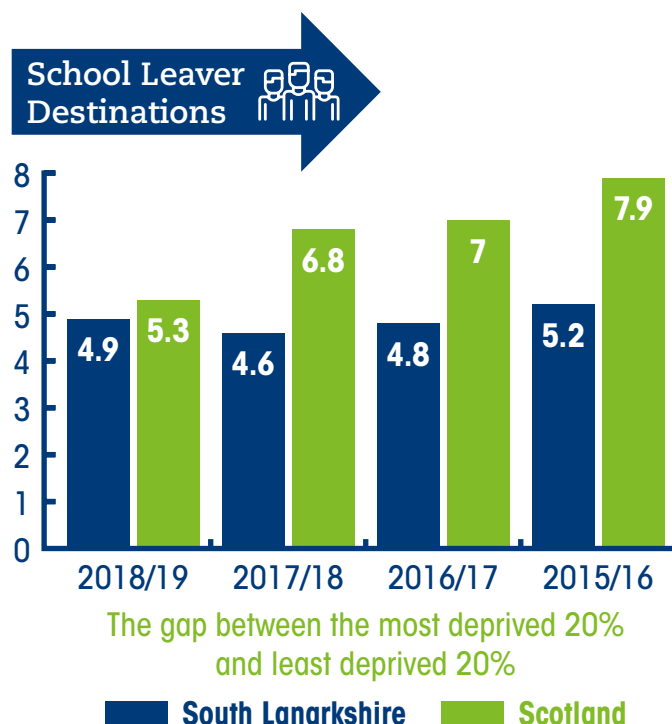
One of the areas of targeted support is for Care Experienced young people.

There is a Care Experienced employability tracking group, where key partners work together to track and support all Care Experienced young people. During 2019, a pilot programme to support Care Experienced young people into employment within the council took place. This had positive outcomes and will be rolled out across the wider partnership. The recent external inspection of services for children in need of care and protection highlighted the work and outcomes of this group and the ASPIRE services as an example of good practice.

Aspire, Youth Employability Service, continues to offer bespoke support and aftercare to young people who are identified as being unable to achieve or sustain a positive post school destination. It also supports all school leavers until their 19th birthday and 26th birthday for Care Experienced young people.

591 young people were supported last year and 75.2% of these young people moved to a positive destination. Any young people who did not achieve a positive destination were offered ongoing support or assisted to make referrals to the key partner agencies for support to meet their specific needs.

The work of the ASPIRE Team has impacted on the national outcome of closing the poverty gap. ASPIRE provision has been particularly targeted to young people from the 20% most deprived areas and the rural areas over the last three years and we are starting to see some strong progress with closing the gap in terms of school leavers destinations.



*Dawn's Story

Dawn is 19 years of age, and is accommodated in one of South Lanarkshire Children's Houses. She has agreed to share her journey to help other young people; her ambition was to work with older people in a care setting. To help Dawn get into work, a range of supports were put in place. She had a dedicated Key Worker and received a training allowance during a trial placement. With this support, she completed 14 weeks of training at a South Lanarkshire Council Day Care Unit for which she was paid £150 per week. Having completed her training, Dawn was successful in getting a job as a Modern Apprentice in Social Care with the council's Day Care Services and is now paid the living wage. When she first started she had some difficulties, however, her employers were aware of her complex journey and worked with Dawn to get through some initial difficulties. Dawn will receive ongoing Aftercare Support for as long as required.

**Name has been changed*

Alexander's Story

Alexander was referred to Aspire when he left school. He wanted to try to become a mechanic, but he didn't know where to start. He got help to draw up an action plan that included exploring work experience and getting ready for work. His ASPIRE worker secured him work experience in a local garage and Alexander attended three days per week for 6 weeks, he worked hard and flourished at the placement. During the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown, Alexander with support from his ASPIRE worker successfully applied to New College Lanarkshire for a course in Light Vehicle Maintenance.



The provision of vocational learning opportunities during the senior phase, is one of the key developments to support young people into employment. In 2019-20 we provided 1,273 vocational learning opportunities for our young people; this is substantially more than the 812 offered the previous year. The vocational opportunities are provided through a number of different models of learning in the Senior Phase including, Gradu8, Training for Trades and Foundation Apprenticeships.

Learning opportunities

provided to

1,273

young people



Modern Apprentices

provided to

2,601

young people



Gradu8

(college based learning for work):

845

young people



Careers advice

21,362 sessions with

11,312 school pupils



92.6% of 16-19-year olds participating in **Education, Employment and Training/Personal Development** (Scotland 91.5%)

Priority Next Steps

- Revise the Opportunities for All action plan to take full account of the immediate and long term impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- We will continue to expand our partnership working, one example is the move to a more locality based tracking and support system for all school leavers.
- The outcomes for the Gradu8 programme have been positive and this coming year we are expanding the types of vocational learning as well as the capacity of provision and plan to offer 1,000 Gradu8 vocational learning opportunities for pupils returning in August 2020.

Further information

www.facebook.com/mybrighterfutureslc

My Brighter Future Youth Employability Brochure 2020-21

www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/my-brighter-future-brochure

Health Inequalities

Why is this important?

Health inequalities remains one of the highest priorities for all Community Planning Partners. Many factors combine together to affect the health of individuals and communities. Factors such as where we live, our genes, income, education, gender, relationships with others such as family and friends and access to health services all have considerable impacts on health and whether people are healthy or not.

The partnership is committed to actions such as improving health in the early years of life, reducing the impact of substance misuse, promotion of good mental health and supporting carers. An area of focus is physical inactivity, which is one of the leading causes of early death in Scotland. Evidence shows that even small increases in activity can help to prevent and treat long-term illness and improve the quality of our life.

How are we doing?

Working with South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP), South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture (SLLC) develop and deliver a variety of physical activity, health and wellbeing programmes for South Lanarkshire residents. These include the long term conditions programme 'Active Health'; Physical Activity Prescription referrals; and a free adult weight management programme known as 'Weigh to Go'. The 'Physical Activity Prescription' (PAP) referral process enables doctors, nurses, physiotherapists, etc. to refer patients who would benefit both physically and mentally from being more physically active. During 2019-20, mental health has been the number one reason for referral, with residents living in the most deprived areas making up 52% of all referrals.

Success stories Weigh to Go customers at Eastfield Lifestyles

Marion has lost over 4 stone since starting the classes in May 2018. Marion said "I was referred to the classes by my GP through the physical activity prescription, I will be honest after my initial phone call it took me a few weeks to build up the courage to attend and once I made it to the class I haven't looked back. I now have the confidence to attend other classes like aquafit and aqua Zumba. Having Paul encourage us every week has really helped me stay focused and my aim is to continue to lose weight for my son's wedding next year."

Jean is 78 years old and has lost 2.5 stone since starting in April 2019. Jean said "I come to the classes because I like the exercise, the camaraderie of the class and having Paul motivating us every week really helps. I am working towards my granddaughter's wedding this year so I will be continuing to go to the classes and having a weekly focus really helps me."

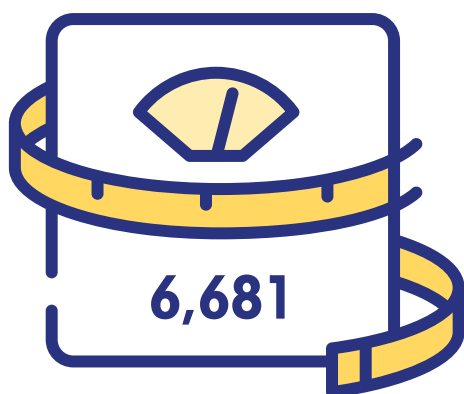
Ada is 79 years old and has maintained and kept a healthy weight through attending the classes. She has a number of health problems but manages to make the class every week thanks to Jean and is the life and soul of the class. Ada says "I love coming to the class, everyone is so supportive and Paul makes the classes motivating and I respect his honesty but I also really like the exercises and his music! I am looking forward to try and conquer my fear of swimming and explore kickboxing!"



Health Programme Stats 2019-20

Total usage from all 4 locations:

Weigh to Go



Active Health



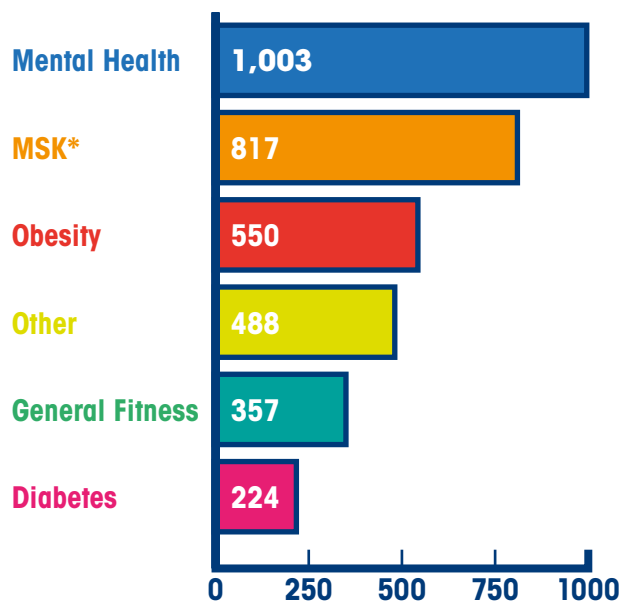
Priority Next Steps

SLLC and South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership will continue to develop this work to improve the health of people through being more physically active.

*Musculoskeletal conditions which affect muscles, bones and joints

Physical Activity Prescriptions (PAP) Stats 2019-20

Reasons for Referral



Physical Activity
Prescriptions (PAP)



Further information

Sport and physical activity -
South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture
www.slleisureandculture.co.uk/spa

Weigh to Go
www.slleisureandculture.co.uk/w2g

Safeguarding from Risk or Harm

Why is this important?

Public protection involves working with both victims and offenders to reduce the risk of harm from abuse, exploitation and neglect to children, adults and the public. Public protection needs agencies in South Lanarkshire to work together to raise awareness and understanding, and co-ordinate an effective response that provides people at risk with the support needed to reduce the risk in their lives. In South Lanarkshire, this work is overseen by a dedicated Public Protection Team which promotes effective partnership working between the Adult and Child Protection Committees, Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) and the Gender Based Violence Partnership. One area of focus is preventing young people from engaging in drug misuse. We are working together to prevent drug misuse through educating young people, particularly secondary school pupils to prevent future drug experimentation and use. This work aligns with the Scottish Government's strategy, Rights, Respect and Recovery. www.gov.scot/publications/rights-respect-recovery/.



Drug Education Workshops

How are we doing?

The Drug Education Workshop provides information and raises awareness amongst 11 to 15 year olds of the dangers, effects, and consequences of drug use. It provides young people with knowledge relating to drugs and New Psychoactive Substances (NPS). Through attending this workshop pupils have an increased knowledge of the dangers and consequences of drug misuse, including health, safety, and the wider social and criminal consequences.

Last year we said that we would assess the 2018-19 workshops. Feedback from the workshop survey shows that a growing number of pupils have stated they have an increased awareness of controlled drugs and are less likely to take drugs after attending a session. The survey also showed that pupils were more likely to report any concerns around drugs to an adult. During 2019-20, participation levels rose by 16% with 1,156 pupils participating in the workshops across four schools.

We also said that we would deliver workshops in areas where pupils are assessed to be at higher risk of taking drugs and we identified five secondary schools where there is a general high NPS occurrence of drug related crime and drug related deaths.



Priority Next Steps

- To continue to ensure the initiative is delivered in areas where pupils are assessed to be at higher risk. Five more secondary schools in South Lanarkshire have been identified for workshops during the 2020-21 school year and there is ongoing discussion with those schools to secure participation.

Further information

Police Scotland: Keep your child safe from substance misuse

www.scotland.police.uk/keep-safe/young-people/supporting-children-and-young-people/keep-your-childsafe-from-substance-misuse

Talk to Frank

www.talktofrank.com

Young Scot: Choices for Life

<https://young.scot/campaigns/national/choices-for-life>

Know the Score

<https://knowthescore.info>

7% increase in **drug crime** over the last 5 years:



South Lanarkshire 64.94 crimes

Scotland 65.32 crimes

Increase in **drug related deaths**:

South Lanarkshire 18%

(72 deaths)

Scotland 27%

(1,187 deaths)

(2019)



“I didn’t really know how dangerous drugs can be.”

South Lanarkshire participant

“It made me think a lot and I definitely wouldn’t want to try them.”

South Lanarkshire participant

Increased numbers of **drug-related new patient hospital admissions**:

South Lanarkshire 94 to 103

Scotland 85 to 90

(2019)

Rate per 100,000 population



Improving the Local Environment and Communities

Why is this important?

The quality of the environment in which we live and our ability to take part in community life and influence what happens in our communities is key to addressing inequalities and tackling poverty. Within this theme we are working in partnership to build community participation and involvement and produce local plans to address poor outcomes; become more sustainable; tackle digital exclusion; and improve transport to ensure people can access the services and opportunities they require.

Neighbourhood Planning How are we doing?

Neighbourhood Planning activity commonly known as Our Place, Our Plan is now well established in the three test areas and there is much to celebrate in terms of increased community engagement, participation and local decision making. These areas are: Hillhouse, Udston and Burnbank; Strutherhill and Birkenshaw, Larkhall; and Springhall and Whitlawburn, Rutherglen. Following on from the success of the work that has been done in the first Neighbourhood Planning areas, this has now been rolled out to three new areas: Burnhill, Rutherglen; Fairhill, Hamilton; and Halfway, Cambuslang. Local plans have also been developed by the communities in Blantyre, Larkhall and Westwood, East Kilbride. If you live in one of these areas and would like more information/want to get involved in improving outcomes for your area and the people who live there please phone 0303 123 1017 or email us at communities@southlanarkshire.gov.uk.

This work aims to reduce the inequalities that exist in our most disadvantaged communities and improve outcomes for residents. Key to this is supporting communities to drive the process and work alongside other organisations and service providers. Together they build a shared understanding of local needs and priorities and respond to these making the most of our shared resources.

From the start, local people have been involved in shaping the engagement process, determining the content of a survey, what the plan should look like and identifying the best ways to involve as many people in their community to take part.

Each 10 year plan sets out the actions that are important to the community. Local community action groups (supported by service providers) oversee the delivery of their plans. Communities have also created working groups which focus on one key area of their plan such as community safety. These groups meet regularly and drive improvement to deliver the actions in their plan. Work is also being undertaken to ensure that more people in the community are involved in delivering the actions in the plan.

Having regular conversations with communities and building relationships is a very important part of this work. We achieve this by:-

- Placing communities at the centre of Neighbourhood Planning;
- Maximising opportunities to promote local decision making and setting priority actions;
- Mobilising the interests of people and communities around local shared priorities and actions;
- Building the trust, confidence and on the strengths of local people so that they are driving forward the changes and improvements they want to see;
- Creating local structures such as community groups to support the delivery of the neighbourhood plans; and
- Strengthening and building on relationships between communities and service providers.

“I joined the local OPOP Community Group firstly out of curiosity to see what it was all about expecting it to be full of the stuffy old guard complaining about the youngsters of the area and their lack of respect. I was surprised that the meeting was made up of ordinary members of the public, police officers, youth workers, council officials and others sitting as one, around the table for one aim.... the good of the community”

Davy, OPOP Member

“I would urge anyone who has any issues good or bad to come along to the OPOP meetings and get the issues out there so it can be addressed sooner rather than later with the help of every agency available”

South Lanarkshire participant

Further information

Neighbourhood Plans

www.southlanarkshirecommunityplanning.org/plans

“As a voluntary organisation OPOP introduced us to partners who were also working in the Burnbank and Hillhouse areas. We were able to coordinate our services to provide a more comprehensive approach and improve the resources and opportunities for young people”

Joanne, Terminal 1



“Halfway Community Council were delighted to hear that South Lanarkshire Council’s Community Engagement Team are targeting Cambuslang East as a new Neighbourhood Planning initiative. We are very happy to support grass roots community consultation and to work in partnership with SLC and other local groups and charities to ensure those plans and much needed positive interventions bring around sustained changes in local neighbourhoods to make our places a better place.”

**Lisa
(Halfway Community Council)**



Community Participation and Engagement

Why is this important?

Our work as a partnership is intended to improve outcomes for people who live in South Lanarkshire and there is much evidence that when people are involved in decisions about services which affect them, outcomes are improved. As a partnership, we want to find ways to speak to communities and encourage them to take action themselves and to have an influence on service delivery in their locality.

The Community Empowerment Act 2015 (www.gov.scot/publications/community-empowerment-scotland-act-summary/) means that legally the partnership has to place communities at the centre of its process, and work alongside them to produce locality plans which we call Neighbourhood Plans in areas which face the greatest inequalities. In South Lanarkshire we are ambitious to extend this beyond the legal requirements and listen to



and involve communities in a real and meaningful way. The Act also sets out other requirements for public bodies such as Community Asset Transfers and Participation Requests.

During the year, many consultation and engagement activities were carried out by partners with communities in the South Lanarkshire area. The following sections highlight some areas of this work.



Having Community Conversations that Matter!

How are we doing?

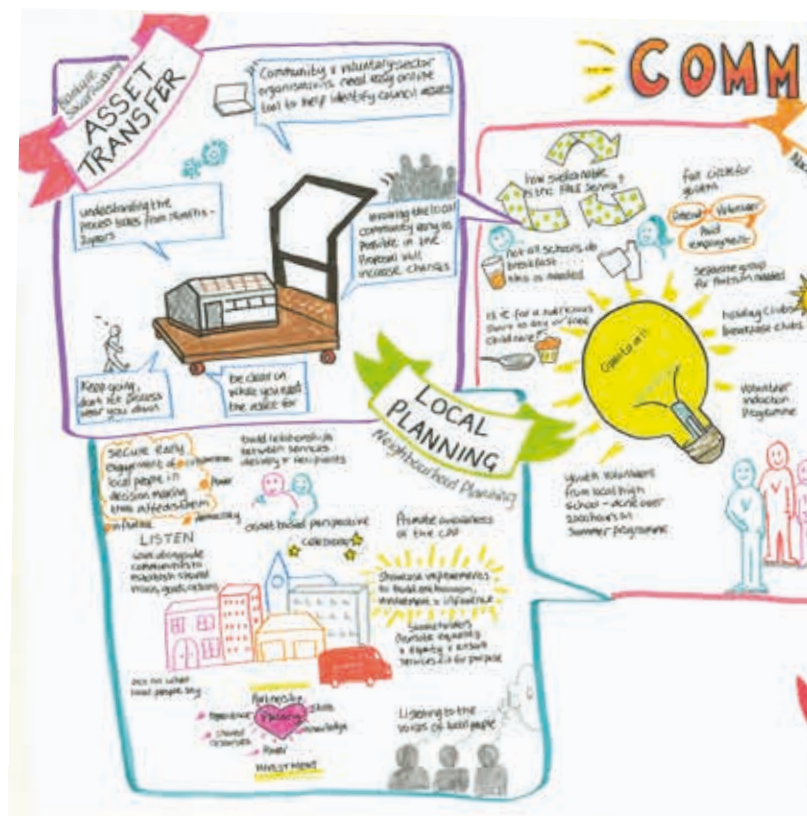
In December 2019, senior officers of the Community Planning Partnership Board and 100 people representing 47 community organisations attended an event to talk about how we can better connect communities and get people involved in the things that matter most to them by having community conversations that matter.

During the event, people from local community groups shared with everyone the work that they were doing in the places that matter most to them; and talked about how their work supports/improves their local community.

These talks included the work of Blantyre Soccer Academy and their experience of taking over a council building through the Asset Transfer process; the Community Planning Partnership's work with communities to produce local plans which contain a set of agreed actions to improve local communities and commonly known as 'Our Place, Our Plan'; the work that the Machan Trust does with families and children who live in poverty; how the people of Coalburn get involved in improving their community; the work that the Hamilton Churches Drop-in Centre is doing to support homeless people; how the Cambuslang Community Council led on Town Centre Planning; and how the Autism Resources Co-ordination Hub (ARCH) supports the Health and Social Care Partnerships' Building and Celebrating Communities work.

These were followed by a discussion on having community conversations that matter. The community participation diagram provides a record of the many rich conversations that people had on the day in relation to: the Asset Transfer process; Local Planning; Neighbourhood Planning; Innovation in Poverty; Involving People; Sustainability; and Building and Celebrating Communities. Some of the key messages were as follows:-

- Have clear boundaries of where the council/community responsibilities lie;
- Provide clear and transparent information;
- Conversations must be tied to real resources;
- Real commitment to inclusion (age, gender, disability, race);
- Real commitment to engagement;
- Recognise barriers to residents' participation and act on them;
- Work with people already working in the community;
- Engagement should be properly resourced and supported by staff; and
- Officers should have more face to face conversations with a wider range of stakeholders.





Based on the feedback from the event, actions have been developed around the following themes:-

- Secure early engagement of local people in decision making that affects them;
- The community should be invited to be part of the Community Planning Partnership;
- Make the Community Asset Transfer process easier to understand;
- Use a variety of communication methods; and
- Invest in volunteer training.

Further information

Community Planning Conference

www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/cp/info/5/community_engagement_and_consultation

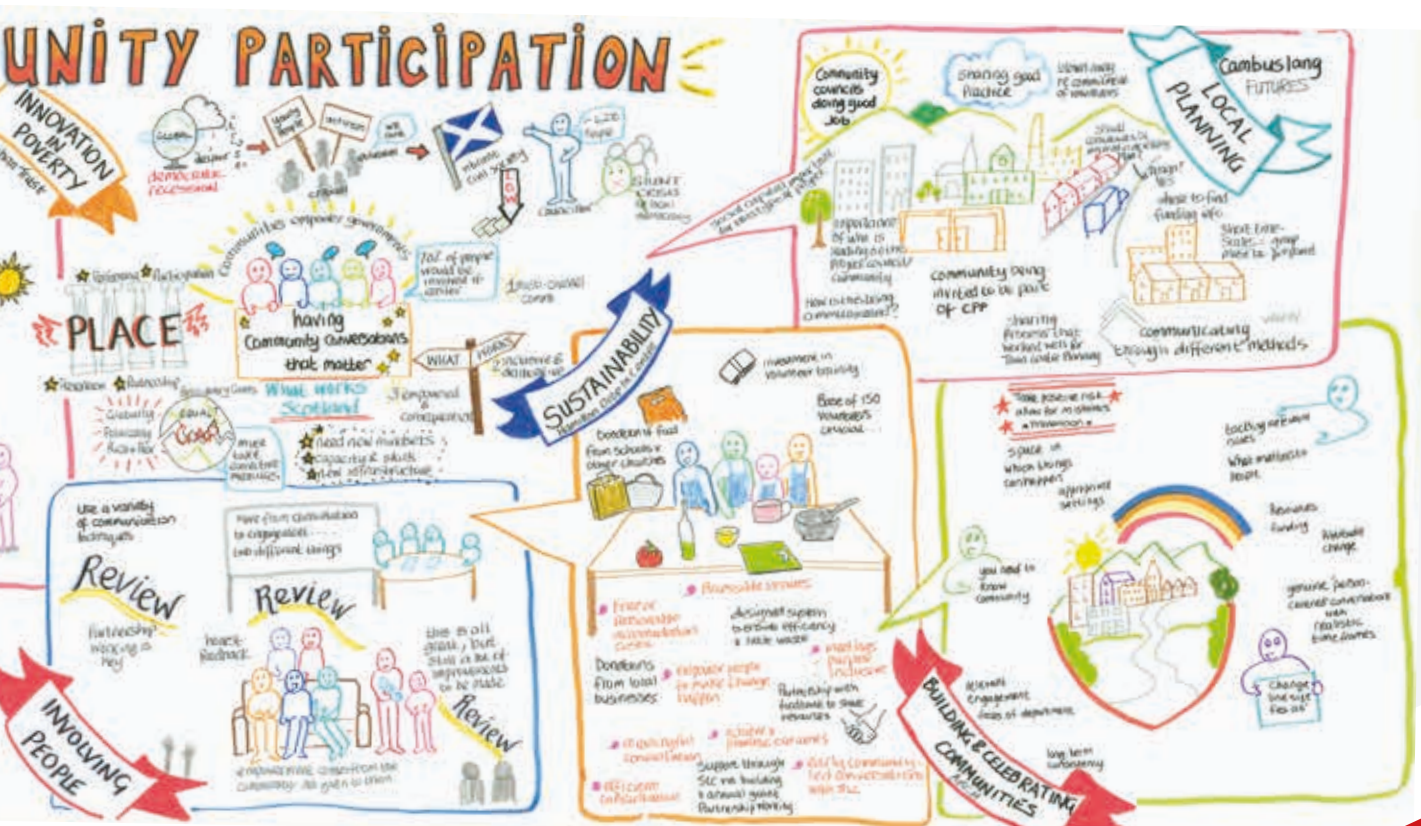
“Nice to see lots of committed people in the same room sharing the same goals”

“Enjoyed the conference and learned a lot about various groups”

“Enjoyed the opening presentation – food for thought!”

Priority Next Steps

- Feedback from the event will be used to inform a new Participation and Engagement Strategy
- We will start the process of implementing the actions that were set out in the action plan



Participatory Budgeting

How are we doing?

Participatory Budgeting (often known as PB) is a way for people to be involved in deciding about how money is spent in their local area. During the year, communities involved in Neighbourhood Planning took part in PB exercises to decide which local projects they wanted to see delivered in their community.

Community Decision Making Days have been held in Neighbourhood Planning areas since 2018 and we have seen a large increase in the number of local people taking part in 2019.

Our Place, Our Plan "Pop Up" events were held in the areas of Hillhouse, Udston and Burnbank; Strutherhill and Birkenshaw; and Springhall and Whitlawburn. The purpose of these events was to increase awareness and involvement in Neighbourhood Planning and to engage local people in prioritising their actions for year 2 of the Neighbourhood Plans.

£40,000 was made available for PB and has enabled the development and delivery of the following projects which will begin to address some of the early actions within the local plans. Community and volunteer investment, partnership support and in-kind contributions has meant that much more has been achieved than was expected.

Projects approved for delivery by local communities include:-

- A Homework Club for young people to come straight from school and have a healthy meal and complete any homework while accessing the internet and IT equipment;
- A residential weekend for a number of young people to experience outdoor education and take part in activities they wouldn't normally have the chance to;
- Running costs for a family group;
- A shopping bus picking residents up from their houses and taking them to the local supermarket and bringing them back home as bus service times aren't suitable;
- A community sports facility;
- A youth project funded a qualified Youth Worker to run activities for young people in the area;
- Community and seasonal events;
- Equipment for dance classes;
- Development of outdoor learning space for the whole community to enjoy learning new skills and socialising outdoors;
- Chance to Shine is a health and wellbeing project delivered in the Springhall and Whitlawburn area which offers individuals the opportunity to access a range of free treatments and complimentary therapies;
- A family learning programme hosted by the Youth Family and Community Learning staff is being offered to pupils from Loch and St Anthony's Primary Schools in Rutherglen and is aimed at encouraging children and adult family members to play and learn together. Activities focus on literacy, health and wellbeing and arts and crafts;
- Running costs for a parent and toddler group;
- Community clean ups and backcourt improvements;
- Production of a community safety card; and
- Start-up costs for a community café and hubs.

The Our Place Our Plan Stakeholder Groups and Working Groups continue to work together to take forward their Neighbourhood Plans and develop areas for action. Activities in development include a Community Shed in the Strutherhill and Birkenshaw areas of Larkhall; Friday night drop-in activity where local youth service providers work together with young people to ensure that services and support are targeted and meet the needs of young people; and aimed at improving the physical environment including action to address fly tipping, litter dropping and making the best use of open spaces.

Development of Outdoor Space

OPOP funds were requested by Supporting Our Community (SOC) to develop a community garden and outdoor learning space in the grounds of their premises in Hillhouse. SOC are a community based organisation who support people experiencing isolation, loneliness and mental ill health. They understand the value of the physical environment and the benefits of people being able to enjoy the outdoors in the company of others. The open space will provide a place for leisure, learning community growing and play to be enjoyed by the group and wider community.

Shopping Bus

The shopping bus in Larkhall is a joint venture between Larkhall and District Volunteer Group (LDVG) and the Our Place Our Plan Strutherhill and Birkenshaw Community Group (OPOP).

The shopping bus was created after an OPOP consultation which highlighted travel as a priority issue for the community. The initial bus service runs to Asda and the Retail Park every Wednesday, picking residents up from their doors and dropping them off again.

The bus has now received a certificate from Age Scotland to celebrate partnership working and the delivery of a project aimed at reducing social isolation.

Sandra McCrory from LDVG said: "We will be looking to enhance the service over the next few months, with an increase in the number of shops we go to as well as looking at other areas where we will be able to pick people up. The aim of this funding is to reduce single-occupancy car journeys by encouraging people to travel together. The LDVG and the OPOP Community Group will use this time to secure further funding and sponsorship for this much valued service".



How can you get involved?

For details on how communities can be involved and who to contact for further information please email: communities@southlanarkshire.gov.uk or phone: **0303 123 1017**

"Thank you so much for this amazing experience - for the opportunity to be involved in Our Place Our Plan I have loved being part of this process. I didn't realise I could help make changes happen in my neighbourhood"

**Springhall and Whitlawburn
OPOP member**

"I enjoy working alongside the others in helping shape my area. It's where my young kids will grow up and hopefully get the maximum benefits from our decisions. Get involved in decision making in your own community"

Strutherhill Resident

"I am delighted to be a part of Our Place Our Plan, working in partnership to bring about real positive change in the Burnhill community. Once other residents see some changes happening I hope more people will get involved"

**Lizzie, Resident,
Local Volunteer and member of
Our Place Our Plan Stakeholders Group**

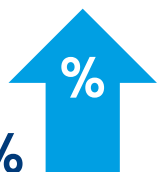
**Percentage increase in
the number of people taking part in
Participatory Budgeting events:**

Strutherhill and Birkenshaw – 56%

Hillhouse, Udston and Burnbank – 50%

Springhall and Whitlawburn – 23%

(as compared to 2018-19 attendance rates)



Further information

For more information on what Participatory Budgeting is and how it works see:

www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/get-involved-budget

Volunteering

Why is this important?

Thousands of people across South Lanarkshire choose to volunteer their time, energy and skills to help others. These unmeasurable acts of kindness and commitment from volunteers shape the landscape of our local communities. Volunteering supports existing services and offers much needed additional services, knitting communities together and providing wellbeing for all.

How are we doing?

As the Third Sector Interface (TSI) for South Lanarkshire, VASLan is committed to supporting volunteering in South Lanarkshire by improving engagement with volunteers; promoting good practice in volunteer management; and involving voluntary organisations in consultations, events, partnerships and collaborations that help shape local and national volunteering policy.

Working with partners within the East Kilbride Volunteering Collaborative, funding was secured for a Development Officer role to develop a Volunteering Passport Scheme. The scheme will revolutionise recruitment and training opportunities for member organisations sharing resources and knowledge whilst offering Volunteer Passport holders a central repository to find volunteering opportunities and store or share their data.

We have continued to support volunteers throughout their volunteering journey whilst also engaging with an unprecedented amount of people who offered help and support in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The reshaping of our in-house system and automated processes offered us the flexibility to quickly register approximately 1,600 potential volunteers, capture the detail of support they offered and effectively communicate volunteering opportunities on behalf of community response groups to potential volunteers.

Saltire Awards are Scottish Government endorsed certificates recognising and rewarding the commitment, contribution and volunteering achievements of young people aged 12–25 years old. VASLan strongly advocates the benefits of volunteering for young people and our work in partnership with the Scottish Government, Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) and other

TSI colleagues has transformed the National Saltire Awards scheme, streamlining certificate approval and distribution and encouraging more voluntary organisations to recognise the achievements of young people within a consistent framework across Scotland.

The following are some of the highlights of 2019-20:-

- 3 Third Sector Organisations achieved a Volunteer Friendly Award with a further 4 working towards this standard;
- 168 volunteering opportunities advertised monthly on behalf of the Third Sector;
- 571 new volunteers were registered;
- 1,587 community response volunteers registered and managed;
- 1,066 volunteering placements were arranged;
- 738 Saltire certificates were issued to young people;
- 544 young people registered for a Saltire award; and
- 55,447 hours worth of Saltire certificates were claimed.

Please Note: Saltire figures are affected by COVID-19 school closures.

“Thank you for the information about volunteering and I have applied via the Chest, Heart and Stroke Scotland website as you suggested.”

“I just wanted to say a big 'thank you' to you and your colleagues who are working so hard behind the scenes. You're doing a great job - keep up the good work.”



Lewis Watt

Sensational seven-year-old beats veteran volunteers to land award

Kind-hearted Lewis Watt won Voluntary Action South Lanarkshire's (VASLan's) Outstanding Contribution to Volunteering Award – despite being only seven years old!

From litter picks to setting up tables and chairs at events, Lewis is regularly found assisting as a member of Blantyre Community Committee.

His near-celebrity status locally even extends to the pet-owning community.

Lewis said: "I was worried about the cats and dogs coming to Blantyre Gala Day because it was so hot, and thought we should put water and food out for them."

Blantyre Community Committee Secretary Paul Veverka said: "Lewis is our youngest committee member but age is irrelevant considering his effort, dedication and commitment."

"He has such infectious motivation and enthusiasm, and is a rising star who helps make all our public events run more smoothly."

Lewis revealed helping others is in his DNA. He said: "My grandma was a volunteer and my Daddy started DJing when he was a wee boy at Terminal One youth events, and he still volunteers at Radio Lanarkshire."

Lewis also helps his Dad at the radio station by checking mics and sound levels and even helping him interview guests.

VASLan's Third Sector Awards recognise those who go the extra mile to help others.

Gordon Bennie, Chief Executive of VASLan, said: "Lewis's thoughtfulness and caring nature stood out amid tough and worthy competition, and his contribution to community-life has been incredible."

Val de Souza, Chief Officer for South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership, key partners of VASLan, said: "Lewis is an example of the spirit in our communities that we are committed to cultivating through our Building and Celebrating Communities programme. His inspirational efforts bode well for a bright future."



Community Asset Transfer

Why is this important?

Local councils, the Scottish Government and other public authorities, own or rent lots of land and buildings, like schools, hospitals, parks and forests. The Community Empowerment Act gives community organisations a right to ask to take over control of land or a building. If the community organisation's plan is better for people, they will be allowed to buy, rent or have the use of it. This is called Community Asset Transfer. The Act sets out specific criteria that needs to be met by community organisations. The ownership or control of community assets is a powerful tool for communities to drive change and achieve their own goals.

How are we doing?

In 2019-20 South Lanarkshire Council (SLC) was the only Community Planning Partner that dealt with Community Asset Transfer requests. The council worked with 19 organisations who were at various stages of the process and one organisation, Larkhall Christians Together went onto achieve a full asset transfer for the Lighthouse facility in Larkhall. Other organisations are continuing to work towards their own aims with the support of council staff to do so.

How can you get involved?

Community organisations are welcomed and encouraged to consider Community Asset Transfer for their communities. Organisations can view South Lanarkshire Council assets at www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/corporate-asset-management and requests can be made at communityassets@southlanarkshire.gov.uk. Scottish Government guidance can be viewed at www.gov.scot/policies/community-empowerment/asset-transfer/

Lease Extension of The Lighthouse

Larkhall Christians Together (LCT) is a Scottish Registered Charity and is a collection of all of the churches in the Larkhall area.

In 2017, LCT took on a 1 year trial lease from South Lanarkshire Council for the former public toilets and small office/community space when another voluntary organisation was unable to continue. The building became known as the Lighthouse and the aim of the project was to: promote, enable and develop activities to improve the health and wellbeing of local people; provide information relating to the local area; and to help engage more people in community life. Going from success to success, LCT extended the lease for a further 2 years and continued to develop the facility as a successful community space, meeting space, gallery and much needed public toilet!

In the first full year of operation (2018), there were 6,079 visits to the Lighthouse. 1,172 of these were for the purpose of attending organised activities and events and 4,907 were to get information, use the Listening Service or make use of the toilet facilities. LCT applied for a full 10 year lease of the facility and the lease extension was approved on 5 February 2020. It should also be noted that the Lighthouse has been central to the support of the Larkhall community during the COVID-19 pandemic as a key referral and food distribution point and as an invaluable resource to the Larkhall Rainbow Group who were established from a range of local community organisations to respond to the crisis. At the time the lease was extended Nancy Barr of LCT said "The opening of the Lighthouse has been appreciated by both local people and visitors from further afield and we are pleased to be able to continue to provide services that support life in our community. We are delighted to have an extended lease through the Community Asset Transfer process".



Larkhall Community Group

Participation Requests

How are we doing?

Participation requests are a formal way for community bodies to request to be involved in decisions and put forward their ideas on how services could be changed to improve outcomes for the community. Requests can be made to a range of public bodies including South Lanarkshire Council, NHS Lanarkshire, Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, etc.

During 2019-20 none of the Community Planning Partners received a participation request.

To make a participation request, your group must meet some requirements including having a membership open to your community and working for community benefit. Your first step should be getting in touch with the public body you would like to work with for assistance in getting started.

This can identify if they are the right public body to contact and they can also help you to get advice and information about any existing consultations or decision making processes that you could be involved in without needing to make a formal participation request.

Further information

Participation Requests.

www.gov.scot/policies/community-empowerment/participation-requests/



COVID-19 Pandemic Community Response



As per the saying “saving the best for last” we cannot conclude a report on the year without highlighting the fantastic work of our communities in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The local community response to the pandemic in South Lanarkshire was phenomenal and the speed at which communities came together to support local people was commendable. In addition to this we were inundated with kind offers of help. An incredible, 1,587 people living in South Lanarkshire volunteered to help. Many local businesses offered their workforce, services, vehicles, equipment and donations of food and money to help with the response to the pandemic.

Community responders have worked tirelessly to ensure that the people living in their communities received the support that they needed. Many of the smaller rural communities were able to respond to the needs of their community and the community responders in the larger towns supported the work of the Community Wellbeing Helpline. This helpline was created to support the people of South Lanarkshire through the pandemic lockdown. South Lanarkshire Council’s Community Engagement Team and VASLan (the Third Sector Interface), worked together to support community and third sector partnerships and link those needing assistance from the Wellbeing Helpline with the help available in their community. Examples of the

support provided by local community responders includes the delivery of food parcels, collection and delivery of prescriptions and a friendly phone call. Other examples in support of this work includes council drivers becoming food delivery drivers and Scottish Fire and Rescues’ Community Action Team delivering prescriptions.

Local networks have been established in each of the four main South Lanarkshire areas: Clydesdale; Cambuslang/Rutherglen; East Kilbride and Hamilton/Blantyre/Larkhall. These networks include council community development staff; staff from VASLan, and a range of local voluntary and community sector organisations. The make-up of each partnership differs according to the area, but includes food banks, CABs, Community Anchor Organisations and other groups such as churches and other voluntary organisations. These partnerships are also supported by smaller neighbourhood partnerships involving organisations and groups which work within smaller communities or towns within South Lanarkshire. This has helped to make sure people’s needs are met holistically, including appropriate employment and financial advice and support with other areas of life such as mental wellbeing and feeling connected.

There have been many benefits from this work, in developing stronger links with community groups, increasing the number of volunteers within the area, and creating locality partnerships and networks where organisations are working together to address local need. Communities have mobilised themselves to take action to address the needs within them and the response to the pandemic has highlighted the many strengths within our communities.





Further information

Work of the local food banks

www.southlanarkshirereview.scot/news/article/599/working-together-to-deliver-food-and-supplies-across-south-lanarkshire

Work of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

www.southlanarkshirereview.scot/news/article/605/a-first-class-response-from-scottish-fire-and-rescue

COVID how to get help

www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/covid19-help

Priority Next Steps

- Consult with local community responders to record learning and good practice from the pandemic response
- Support newly formed organisations to become constituted and make applications to register as charitable organisations
- Continue to support existing Third Sector Organisations who are adapting how they deliver their services to meet the changing needs of their communities.

Funding

£1,129,250

of funding secured by community organisations
(1st round of funding)



Community Support

3,696

requests for food parcels, mostly passed to local groups



205

requests for help with shopping

126

support with utilities

39

hearing aid batteries

1,380

prescription uplifts

1,716

sanitary provision

1,064

other requests (befriending, pet food, etc).

Karen's Story

At the beginning of the pandemic myself and my dad both received shielding letters from the Scottish Government, however when we text the number on the letter we were told we weren't on the list so I called the Wellbeing Line. We got through to a lovely team and after I explained our situation they were able to get the local foodbank to deliver groceries to us every week. I also needed my prescription collected and one of the team gave me their direct number so that I could text when it needed collected and this was all delivered through local volunteers. Without this service I really don't know what we would have done, they really go above and beyond to help. I wish there was a hundred people like them at the end of a phone who could help people. I would like to say a huge thank you to a very special team.



Links to the National Performance Framework and UN Sustainable Development Goals



Community Planning Partnership Structure



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

Phone: 0303 123 1015 Email: equalities@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk

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