



Council Building  
2 High Street  
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19/10/2021

Attached is a supplementary agenda for the **Perth and Kinross Community Planning Partnership Board** being held virtually on **Friday, 22 October 2021** at **10:00**.

If you have any queries please contact Committee Services on (01738) 475000 or email [Committee@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:Committee@pkc.gov.uk).

**BARBARA RENTON**  
**Interim Chief Executive**  
**PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL**

***Those attending the meeting are requested to ensure that all electronic equipment is in silent mode.***

P Graham, PKAVS (Co-Chair)  
Councillor M Lyle, Perth and Kinross Council (Co-Chair)  
Councillor P Barrett, Perth and Kinross Council  
Councillor A Parrot, Perth and Kinross Council  
M Cook, Perth College UHI  
E Fletcher, NHS Tayside  
M Watson, Jobcentre Plus/DWP  
G MacDougall, Skills Development Scotland  
M Cowie, Scottish Government  
B Renton, Perth and Kinross Council  
N Russell, Police Scotland  
S Wood, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service  
M Wright, Scottish Enterprise



**Community Planning Partnership Board**

**Friday, 22 October 2021**

**AGENDA**

***MEMBERS ARE REMINDED OF THEIR OBLIGATION TO DECLARE ANY FINANCIAL OR NON-FINANCIAL INTEREST WHICH THEY MAY HAVE IN ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COUNCILLORS' CODE OF CONDUCT.***

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|----------|--|----------------|
| <b>4</b> | <b>LOCAL OUTCOME IMPROVEMENT PLAN (LOIP) DEVELOPMENT UPDATE</b><br>Report by Head of Culture and Communities Services (copy herewith G/21/139)               | <b>5 - 12</b>  |
| <b>5</b> | <b>LOCAL CHILD POVERTY ACTION REPORT</b><br>Report by Depute Director (Communities) and Child Poverty Lead, Perth & Kinross Council (copy herewith G/21/140) | <b>13 - 56</b> |
| <b>7</b> | <b>COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPROVEMENT BOARD REPORT</b><br>Report by Chair of Community Planning Improvement Board (copy herewith G/21/138)                       | <b>57 - 92</b> |

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## Community Planning Partnership

### LOIP Development Update

Report from Head of Culture & Community Services, Perth & Kinross Council  
(Report No. G/21/139)

#### SUMMARY

This report summarises outputs from the CPP Short Life Working Group to develop SMART actions for the strategic priorities for the new Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) which were approved by Board in May/July 2021. Board is asked to: consider the proposed actions for each objective; identify additional actions that are still required; and approve 2 proposed localities where we will accelerate and strengthen joint working.

## 1. BACKGROUND

1.1 Following the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP) Conference in April 2021, a Short Life Working Group (SLWG) was established at the CPP Board meeting in May 2021, with three main objectives:

1. To prepare the draft LOIP and Action Plan
2. To identify a CPP Lead for each of the five strategic priorities -
  - Poverty (child, food, fuel)
  - Mental and physical wellbeing
  - Digital participation
  - Skills, learning and development
  - Employability
3. To review and clarify the relationship between other partnerships and the CPP Board

1.2 The SLWG met in June and agreed three actions to deliver the priorities:

**Action 1** – Convene workshops to identify existing activity and actions which

address each of the strategic priorities and consider the additional partnership actions necessary to achieve outcomes.

**Action 2** – Develop an approach which ensures that CPP members and partnerships receive appropriate levels of input, guidance and scrutiny from CPP Board if they wish to raise an issue.

**Action 3** – Identify a locality or localities in Perth and Kinross where we can implement new ways of working, which address one or more of the five strategic priorities.

## 2. SUMMARY OF PROGRESS

- 2.1 Action 1 is **partly complete**, with meetings held with key officers and partners over the summer to develop the proposed actions summarised below. However, most of the strategic priorities require further actions to be identified by CPP partners. There are proposals for Year 1 but none for Years 2 and 3 of the new LOIP. The Council's CPP Team has accordingly added some suggestions to the Year One proposals but more input from all CPP partners is required between now and mid-November to enable Board to consider a first draft of the LOIP at its December meeting. Actions should be SMART and capable of delivery in the 1/2/3 year timeframes required to make tangible progress, particularly against the backdrop of Covid recovery.
- 2.2 Given the increasing prominence of the climate emergency agenda, it is also recommended that Board reflects on how best to mainstream actions in the new LOIP which can mitigate against the inequalities caused by climate change. These include fuel poverty, transport poverty and food security. This issue was discussed by the SLWG at an earlier stage in the LOIP development process and now requires revisiting.
- 2.3 Action 2 is **complete**, following discussions with other Perth and Kinross based partnerships and with CPP Executive Officer Group (CPPEOG). Partnerships or working groups wishing to bring a strategic issue to the CPP Board will be asked to brief CPPEOG for a discussion in the first instance and CPPEOG will agree if the issue requires Board input. Issues escalated to Board level should be clear about the specific 'ask' of the Board: either a decision (for example to allocate joint resources) or to get strategic direction (for example on a new or emerging priority which requires Board advice/expertise).
- 2.4 Action 3 **requires decision** by Board and is set out in Section 5.

## 3. LOIP PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS - SLWG SESSIONS

- 3.1 Each of the SLWG workshop sessions followed a similar format where thematic leads outlined the work completed to date in addressing the inequality and the group discussed additional actions and the role the CPP could take. This information along with other evidence and the outputs of the CPP Conference in April have been used to identify suggested actions for each strategic priority, summarised in the tables below.

3.2 However, most of the strategic priorities are currently light on detailed actions to deliver them. Board is asked to consider how this can be improved in light of these key questions -

1. What are the first actions we can take in 2022/23 to start to deliver the five strategic priorities?
2. Are these actions 'business as usual' or do they need joined up CPP activity to deliver them? (BAU should be contained within wider strategies and plans)
3. Is there already an existing partnership which should lead on delivering the actions or do we need something new?

### 3.3 Poverty

Proposed Actions	Year 1 Focus – Possibilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver the Local Child Poverty Action Plan</li> <li>• Develop entitlement cards to allow those in most need to access services</li> <li>• Create and facilitate a community led Foodshare network</li> <li>• Support and invest in tackling Holiday Hunger</li> <li>• Support local energy purchase schemes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify specific partnership actions from the Economic Wellbeing Strategy to maximise income from employment and benefits</li> <li>• Join up Holiday Hunger and Foodshare initiatives to offer consistent support to vulnerable families</li> <li>• Research community co-operatives elsewhere in UK and consider a fuel purchase pilot in a rural community</li> <li>• Research entitlement cards to determine if they reduce or increase the stigma of poverty</li> </ul>

### 3.4 Mental and Physical Wellbeing

Proposed Actions	Year 1 Focus – Possibilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review Active Perth &amp; Kinross Strategy, with a focus on removing barriers to participation</li> <li>• Provide physical activities for specific groups</li> <li>• Create Mental Wellbeing Hubs</li> <li>• Improve access to early intervention services</li> <li>• Invest in preventative community initiatives such as social prescribing</li> <li>• Introduce Participatory Budgeting approaches to service commissioning</li> <li>• Encourage participation in sport by promoting locality sports hubs</li> <li>• Promote activities that encourage people to be physically active</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify which schoolchildren are excluded from extra-curricular sport because of the cost of kit, travel etc and determine what can be done to remove these barriers</li> <li>• Identify key groups and consult / deliver preferred activities</li> <li>• Work with CPK to create Mental Wellbeing Hubs in local libraries, initially by expanding the Books on Prescription service</li> <li>• Identify service budgets with potential to be used in Participatory Budgeting approach</li> <li>• Promote the offer from local sports hubs and groups to targeted groups</li> <li>• Promote and deliver projects such as stride for life</li> </ul>

### 3.5 Digital Participation

<b>Proposed Actions</b>	<b>Year 1 Focus – Possibilities</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publish data guide to help understanding of tablet and smart phone usage</li> <li>• Increase recycling and reuse of devices</li> <li>• Publish databases of support for those digitally excluded</li> <li>• Support installation of public wi-fi in community facilities</li> <li>• Provide digital devices to target groups</li> <li>• Provide digital skills, courses and other support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commission research to develop an evidence base on barriers to digital participation in Perth and Kinross to inform future investments and initiatives</li> <li>• Undertake a CPP-wide campaign to encourage recycling of devices for low-income households</li> <li>• Support Adult Learning Partnership to develop new digital courses and training</li> <li>• Further develop digital hubs in libraries</li> <li>• Build the digital capacity of community groups</li> </ul>

### 3.6 Skills, Learning, Development & Employability

<b>Proposed Actions</b>	<b>Year 1 Focus – Possibilities</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Realise benefits of capital investments (e.g., training, placements and employability)</li> <li>• Adopt Community Wealth Building approach to investments</li> <li>• Support young people to have positive destinations</li> <li>• Provide additional training and support for volunteers</li> <li>• Enhance provision of digital skills for life support</li> <li>• Ensure learning pathways are in place across Adult Learning Provision</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with the business sector to deliver training in sectors where we have known skills/labour shortages</li> <li>• Review our Social Benefit commitments in all capital building projects and take action where there are not enough jobs going to local people or to support local supply chains</li> <li>• Develop a joint CPP Modern Apprentice/Graduate Trainee Scheme to replace individual initiatives</li> <li>• Develop working relationships and progression pathways between Adult Learning providers, mapped against the Employability Pipeline</li> </ul>

### 3.7 Enabling Actions

As part of the earlier work to identify the five strategic priorities, a series of enabling actions were also identified, focusing on ways of working that needed to be adopted or mainstreamed in order to further enhance partnership working across Perth and Kinross.

<b>Proposed Actions</b>	<b>Year 1 Focus – Possibilities</b>
Implement participative processes to ensure community input	Support thematic partnerships to establish a pragmatic approach to community input, e.g., focus groups or sounding boards
Implement a multi-disciplinary approach to tackling the five strategic priorities at a locality level	Identify localities and plan for implementation of new ways of working



<b>Proposed Actions</b>	<b>Year 1 Focus – Possibilities</b>
Commission joint training and CPD for CPP staff in relation to each strategic priority	Work with thematic partnerships to agree training needs / aspirations and develop a jointly resourced programme for delivery across CPP
Provide clear and consistent communications around key service provision	Work with thematic partnerships to develop appropriate communications plans where necessary
Review and rationalise service provision where appropriate	Support thematic partnerships to map and better understand the breadth of service provision under each priority

3.8 Board is also asked to consider how it will respond to the climate emergency. There are new and emerging duties on public sector bodies to help mitigate the impact of climate change on our communities and the upcoming UN Climate Change conference COP26 in Glasgow will increase both the focus and people's awareness of the issue.

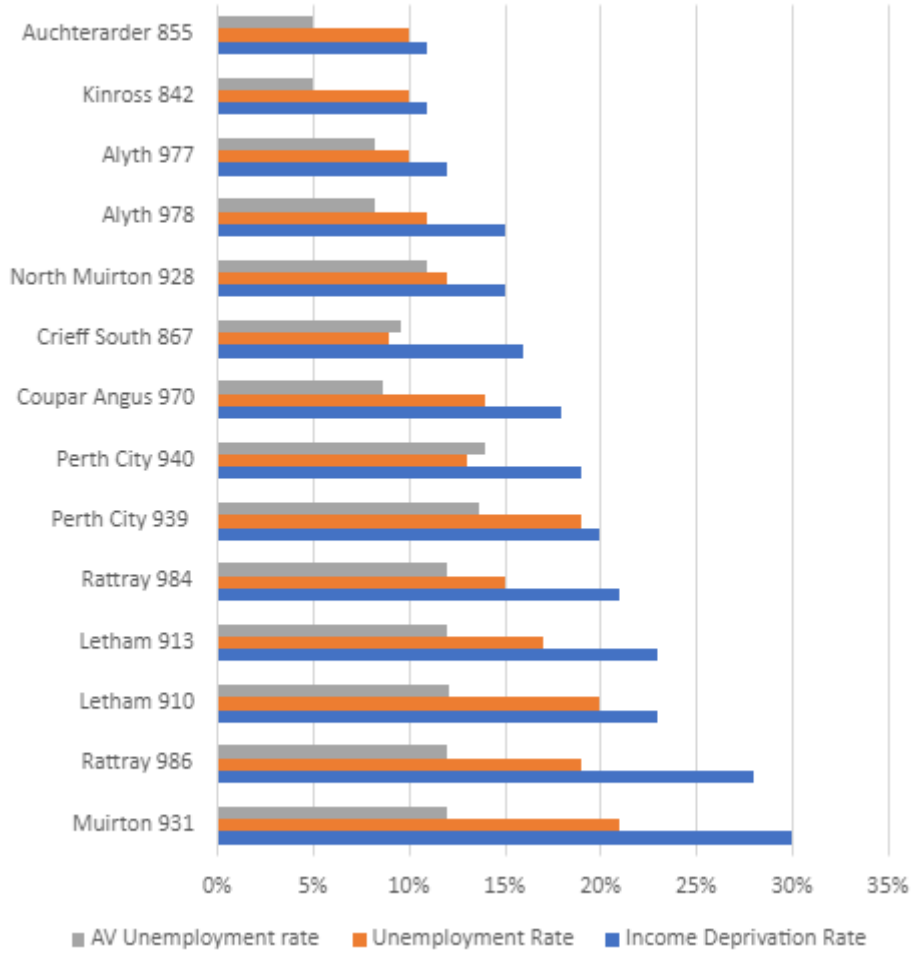
#### **4. LOCALITIES FOR ACCELERATED JOINT WORKING**

4.1 The key requirement of Community Planning is to address poorer outcomes which result from socio-economic inequality. Board has asked for 2 localities to be proposed for accelerating and strengthening joint working in advance of the new LOIP being published early in 2022. These are proposed as

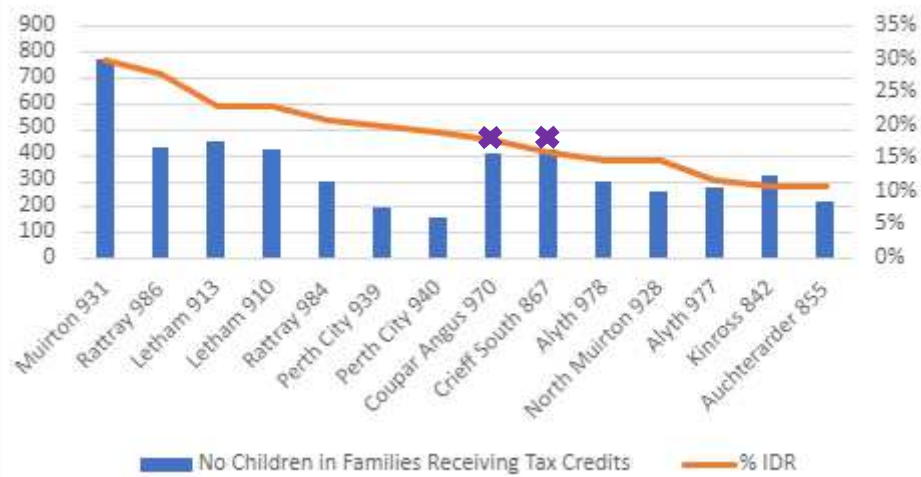
- Crieff South
- Coupar Angus

4.2 These localities have been identified as facing significant and increasing socio-economic challenges and emerging issues following COVID and lockdown. The following series of graphs show how these localities currently compare with other areas of Perth and Kinross also facing socio-economic challenges. In the case of Crieff South, it is an area where socio-economic issues have been steadily increasing over a period of years, especially around child poverty. In Coupar Angus there is a high level of individuals and families who have settled in the area from eastern Europe for work in the agricultural sector. The COVID outbreak in the town in 2020 highlighted some of the inequalities this community and others experience.

### Needlepoints Deprivation/Unemployment



### Most deprived datazone by Settlement by % IDR





## 5. NEXT STEPS

- 5.1 As stated, more input is required from CPP partners to populate the actions proposed to deliver the 5 strategic priorities over the next 3 years, which is a crucial timeframe for COVID recovery and tackling inequality. The climate change agenda and opportunities to mainstream actions to mitigate against the inequalities of climate change also require more consideration. This input is required by mid-November prior to review by CPPEOG in late November and consideration of the first draft of the LOIP by CPP Board on Friday 10 December.

## 6. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 Board is asked to:
- i. **Agree** how further SMART actions for the LOIP will be developed by CPP partners between now and mid-November, including climate

- change equalities issues; *and*
- ii. **Approve** the proposed localities where CPP will implement accelerated joint working



## **PERTH AND KINROSS COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP**

### **CPP BOARD MEETING**

**22 October 2021**

### **Local Child Poverty Action Report**

**Report by Depute Director (Communities) and Child Poverty Lead, Perth & Kinross Council.**

(Report No. G/21/140)

This report presents the 3<sup>rd</sup> Perth & Kinross Local Child Poverty Action Report (LCPAR) November 2020 – May 2021, to be submitted to the Scottish Government. It provides a brief update following the previous report which covered the period May 2019 – November 2020.

## **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 This last year has been particularly difficult – and the challenge facing us has dramatically increased, bringing into even greater focus a need for an effective partnership response to tackling child poverty in our area. Child poverty was already increasing prior to the pandemic however early indicators are that the impact of Covid-19 on people living in poverty will be severe.
- 1.2 The latest Child Poverty figures for Perth and Kinross show that Child Poverty increased by 2.7% between 2015 and 2020 increasing the numbers of children living in poverty from 4,869 to 5,515 (22.6%). These are pre- covid19 figures and are likely to underestimate the number of children living in poverty across Perth & Kinross.
- 1.3 Whilst no single service or agency has the power to end child poverty, there is much that we can do to make the lives and life chances of those living in poverty better and brighter. We have considerable influence as a local authority. We can:
  - create and persuade others to create good jobs that pay fair wages.
  - strive to close the educational attainment gap to ensure the next generation of children don't live in poverty.
  - help to put more money in the pockets of families in poverty through affordable rents, energy efficiency and welfare rights.
  - work with and within our communities to ensure no child ever goes hungry.

- ensure that every child gets the chance to live life well and to fully engage in their own development.
- 1.4 The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2019 received royal assent in December 2017. The act sets out ambitious targets to tackle and eradicate child poverty by 2030 with interim targets set for 2023.
- 1.5 The Scottish Government produced their report “Every child, every chance” in March 2018. However, the act also placed a duty on local authorities to work with health partners to develop and produce their own Local Child Poverty Action Reports (LCPAR) and Action Plan. Progress updates on the plan are required to be published annually.
- 1.6 The key messages within “Every child, every chance” are: -
- a recognition that poverty is fundamentally about a lack of income and sets out the three main drivers of child poverty.
  - the LCPAR actions must prevent children and young people in poverty now becoming poor parents by 2030.
  - targets can only be achieved through partnership working.
  - meeting the targets requires a radical change.
  - a need to place a focus on families who are most at risk of poverty.
- 1.7 The Scottish Government agreed that year 2 reports could cover a longer timeframe to enable local authorities to focus on the Covid response. Feedback from the Improvement Service in relation to last year’s report -[All in - To End Child Poverty, Perth & Kinross Child Poverty Action Report 2020](#) was very positive, indicating that it was a strong and clear report, with many strengths and was reflective of strong partnership working. They were complimentary about our approach to understanding the lived experiences of child poverty and to understanding data and context to inform actions.
- 1.8 This year the Scottish Government have requested only short year 3 update reports, to capture progress made since the last report and enable all local authorities and health boards to re-set the reporting timetable following the pandemic. This third report therefore covers the period November 2020 to May 2021, it has been developed in collaboration with a range of partners.
- 1.9 The report and actions support the Community Planning Partnerships 5 new strategic priorities that will form the basis of the new Local Outcomes Improvement Plan:
- Poverty (including child poverty, fuel poverty and food poverty)
  - Mental and physical wellbeing
  - Skills, learning and development
  - Employability
  - Digital participation.

- 1.10 The Perth and Kinross LCPAR (Appendix A) provides an overview of our understanding of the key drivers of child poverty here in Perth and Kinross, some of this is not new and many of the drivers are not unique to our area. However, we do have specific challenges, with the root causes of poverty appearing to be structural and related to local labour markets (low wage economy and incidence of precarious employment); the existence of a poverty premium exacerbated by higher costs of housing, childcare, transport, food and fuel in rural areas and digital exclusion due to poor connectivity, lack of skills or inability to afford data packages or devices. The findings from research in Blairgowrie and the Glens highlight some of the specific challenges faced by people living in more remote and rural communities.
- 1.11 Although it will be some time before we fully understand the impacts of the Covid pandemic on our communities many families across Perth and Kinross are experiencing significant financial stress because of Covid19. The report highlights that some groups were and continue to be particularly vulnerable and provides an overview of Covid-19 impacts, highlighting the importance of the significant work that is underway to support households.
- 1.12 The Child Poverty Programme is cross cutting and involves a number of Council Services and Community Planning Partners. It is currently organised around 4 workstreams – each with its own delivery plan and targets. The workstreams are:

- Maximising Income from Employment
- Reducing the Cost of Living
- Maximising Income from Social Security and Benefits in Kind
- Breaking the Cycle of Poverty

Governance is provided by a multi-agency Child Poverty Working Group involving officers from the Council and NHS Tayside.

- 1.13 The LCPAR summarises some of the many positive actions that all partners are progressing to mitigate the impacts of child poverty. It also sets out a number of initiatives underway or that we intend to move forward to further improve our approach to tackling child poverty in Perth and Kinross. In summary these are: -

- The co-production of a **Children's Scorecard** with the Scottish Poverty and Inequality Research Unit and parents from Priority Families. The Children's Scorecard will help to measure the reach and effectiveness of the Perth and Kinross Offer for children and families affected by poverty.
- A **Child Poverty Training Programme** for frontline workers and service managers which will help inform those who deliver and plan services about the particular challenges facing children and families living in poverty and equip them with the skills and confidence to embark on co-production and multi-agency collaborative working on innovative new approaches to alleviating child poverty.

- A **Social Needs Screening Project** will test the impact of Social Needs Screening and whether it results in better delivery and engagement with families affected by poverty.
- A **Good Food Network and Strategy** which aims to bring a broad range of stakeholders from the public, private and third sector to tackle food poverty and insecurity, to support food for health and wellbeing and sustainable food across Perth and Kinross.
- **Feeling the Pinch – a public awareness campaign** aimed at informing families who are struggling with the increased costs of winter on where to get help accessing welfare rights, housing, heating and mental health support.
- The development of **child poverty programmes established initially in 2 pilot areas** to test people and place-based approaches. The focus of the pilot will be social needs screening, social prescribing, community capacity building, co-production with local communities to deliver new services or ways of working aimed at the mitigation of poverty and the broadening of opportunity for children and families affected by poverty.

## 2. PROPOSALS

- 2.1 As the Community Plan is the strategic context within which our LCPAR is set, progress will be reported to the Community Planning Partnership Board, Perth and Kinross Council's meeting and the NHS Public Health Child Poverty Working Group. This will ensure a consistent message and approach around tackling the drivers of child poverty.

## 3. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 We know that over 5,500 children across Perth and Kinross are living in poverty. The negative impacts of poverty on each child cannot be underestimated, both in the short and longer term. This report sets out Perth and Kinross Councils' commitment to tackling child poverty in the area. It demonstrates our understanding of child poverty in Perth and Kinross, the key areas of focus and the actions that we will continue to progress with our partners to ensure that child poverty is minimised and that all of our children are supported to live life well.
- 3.2 It is recommended that the CCP Board:
- i. Notes the Local Child Poverty Action Report
  - ii. Notes the next steps and actions outlined within the Local Child Poverty Action Report
  - iii. Notes that feedback and further updates on the Local Child Poverty Action Report will be brought back to the Community Planning Partnership and then to Council.



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**Approved**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Date</b>
Clare Mailer	Depute Director (Communities)	19 October 2021





# All in - To End Child Poverty

Perth and Kinross  
Child Poverty  
Action Report

Progress Report  
November 2020 - May 2021



## November 2020 – May 2021

### Notes to the 3rd Edition of the Local Child Poverty Action Report

This 3rd Local Child Poverty Action Report (LCPAR) is a brief progress report which follows on from the 2nd Local Child Poverty Action Report which covered the period May 2019 - November 2020. The normal reporting cycle was interrupted by the need to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic – and the Scottish Government have now requested that Local Authorities and Health Boards resume the previous reporting schedule. The timeframe for this progress report is therefore November 2020 - May 2021.

We have not revisited the Child Poverty (Local) Indicators Data Set in this report as the statistics used have not been updated in the last 6 months and these were fully reported in the 2nd Report in [Measuring Child Poverty, Perth and Kinross Local Child Poverty Action Report 2020](#). Instead, we have provided Issues Maps which provide an understanding of the interlinking issues affecting Child Poverty across Perth and Kinross.

The Child Poverty Programme is cross-cutting and involves all Council Services and Community Planning partners. It is currently organised around 4 Workstreams - each with its own delivery plan and targets. The Workstreams are:

- *Maximising Income from Employment*
- *Reducing the Cost of Living*
- *Maximising Income from Social Security and Benefits in Kind*
- *Breaking the Cycle of Poverty will be established*

Governance for the Child Poverty Programme is provided by a multi-agency Child Poverty Working Group involving personnel from Perth & Kinross Council and NHS Tayside.

The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 requires Local Authorities and Health Boards to report jointly each year on activity they are taking and will take to reduce child poverty.



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# Introduction

Child poverty and the impact that it has on the lives of our children now and their future prospects is the wicked problem of the age. Sometimes it seems that no matter how hard we try - things don't improve.

This last year has been especially difficult - and the challenge facing us has dramatically increased. Child Poverty was already on the increase in Perth and Kinross before the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic. Early indications and economic and social forecasts suggest that the impact of COVID-19 on people in poverty will be severe. There will be many who will find themselves living below the poverty line for the first time.

We know that local authorities do not have the power to end child poverty - but there is much we can do to make the lives and life chances of those living in poverty better and brighter.

We have considerable influence as a local authority. We can create and persuade others to create good jobs that pay fair wages. We can strive to close the attainment gap in education to ensure the next generation of children don't live with poverty as their parents had to do. We can help to put more money in the pockets of families in poverty through affordable rents, energy efficiency and welfare rights. We can work with our communities to ensure that no child goes hungry, ever. We can ensure that every child, no matter their background, gets the chance to learn, to live well and to fully engage in their own development as fully rounded persons, cultured and active citizens.

This is what *“Giving every child the best start in life”* means and it is at the front and centre of the Perth and Kinross Offer for children and families affected by poverty.

The Perth and Kinross Offer is an ambitious plan for Perth and Kinross which is being developed through consultation and engagement with our communities, individual citizens, partners and businesses.

The Offer will build upon existing success and, progress work that is already happening across Perth and Kinross in partnership with our communities, our businesses and citizens. The plan recognises that we need to listen more to families affected by poverty and create greater opportunities for all to get involved in tackling child poverty and delivering broader opportunities for all regardless of family circumstances.

We believe that everyone has something to offer and we can all play our part in making Perth and Kinross a fairer place for all. By working together in partnership, we can give every child the best start in life.

An outline of the Perth and Kinross Offer for children and families affected by poverty is included in this report - and we are currently working with families with lived experience of poverty to develop this work in progress.

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*Signatory for Perth & Kinross Council*

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*Signatory for NHS Tayside*



# The Perth and Kinross Offer for Families Affected by Poverty

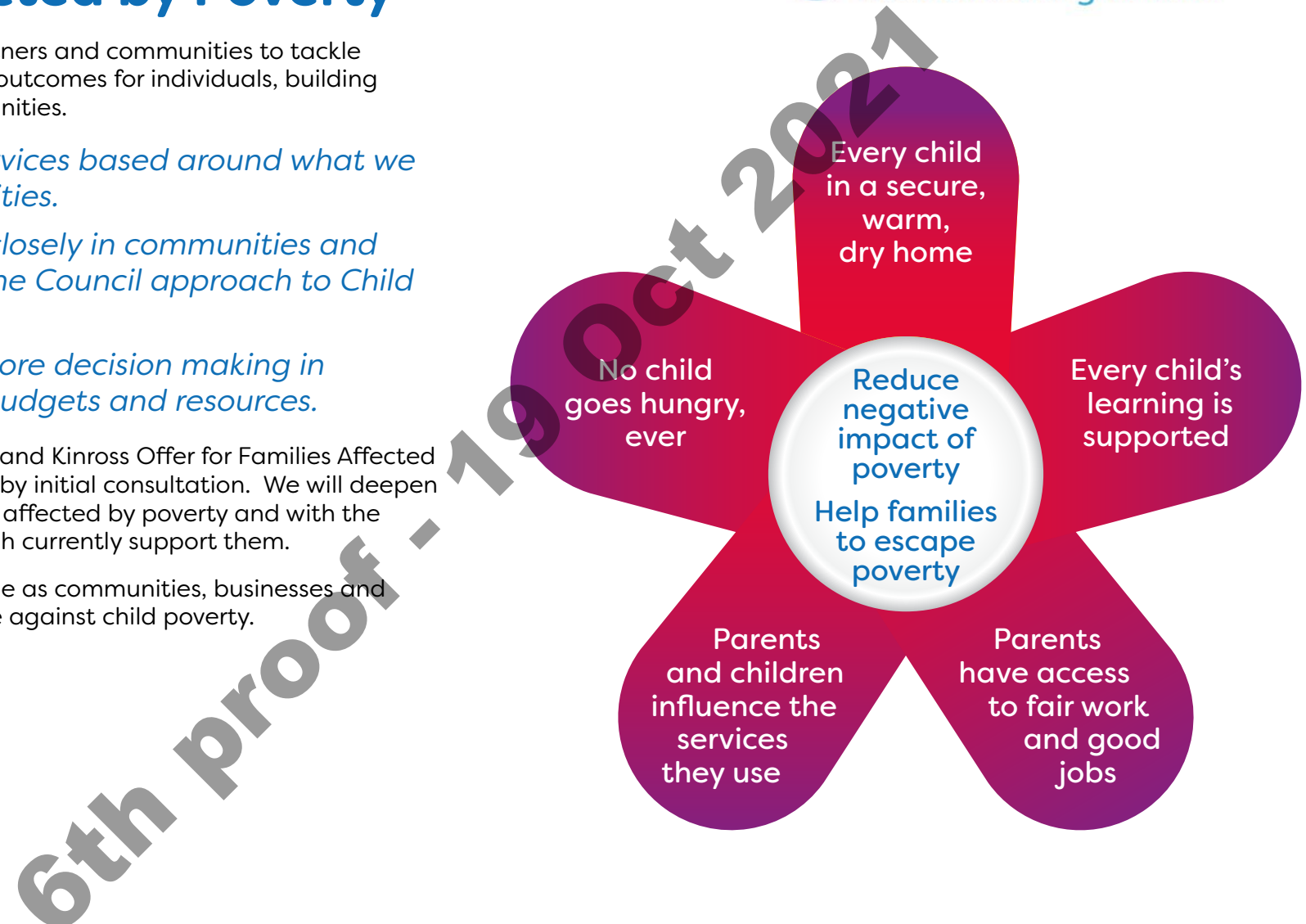
We want to work with our partners and communities to tackle inequality and provide better outcomes for individuals, building stronger more resilient communities.

- *We will redesign services based around what we hear from communities.*
- *We will work more closely in communities and strive to deliver a one Council approach to Child Poverty.*
- *We will empower more decision making in communities with budgets and resources.*

This first iteration of the Perth and Kinross Offer for Families Affected by Poverty has been informed by initial consultation. We will deepen our engagement with families affected by poverty and with the community organisations which currently support them.

The Offer will develop over time as communities, businesses and citizens engage in our crusade against child poverty.

**everyone** PKoffer  
has something to offer



# Section 1

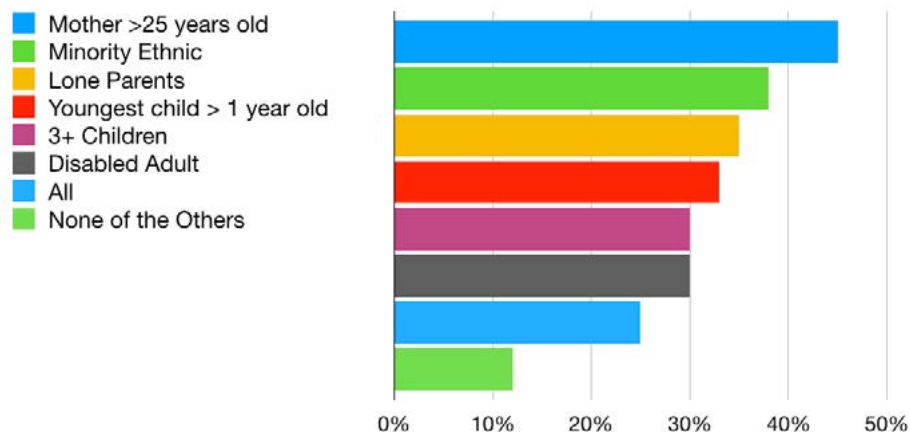
## Understanding Local Data Around Child Poverty in Perth and Kinross

We spent some time analysing local data and collecting information from people with lived experience of poverty. This is what we learned about the drivers of child poverty in Perth and Kinross.





## Priority Families



### Child Poverty was increasing - even before COVID-19 and the lockdowns.

The latest Child Poverty figures for Perth and Kinross show that Child Poverty increased by 2.7% between 2015 and 2020 increasing the numbers of children living in poverty from 4,869 to 5,515 (22.6%). These are pre-COVID-19 figures and are likely to underestimate the number of children currently affected by poverty across Perth and Kinross<sup>1</sup>.

## Priority Families

The challenges facing some families are greater than others - and we know that Priority Families are more likely to be affected by poverty:

- *Nearly 1 in 5 parents report a limiting long-term physical or mental health condition which is higher than for Scotland as a whole (1 in 6).*
- *1 in 20 first-time mothers is aged 19 and under.*
- *1 in 25 households is headed by a lone parent compared with 1 in 20 for Scotland as a whole.*
- *1 in 25 households have 3 or more children compared with 1 in 20 for Scotland as a whole.*
- *313 families have had their benefits capped (167 - Universal Credit) and 153 (Housing Benefit).*
- *3.3% of people in Perth and Kinross were from BAME backgrounds in 2011 (Census). Perth and Kinross has a number of migrant families from Eastern Europe many of whom are affected by poverty.*

We have focussed on including BAME and migrant families in our Children's Scorecard project as local data for these families is lacking.

Migrant populations include a combination of seasonal migrant workers and new migrants. They are working in critical sectors of employment which in Perth & Kinross is agriculture, tourism, hospitality, food processing and the care sector for example. A number of these sectors of employment have been particularly affected by the coronavirus crisis.

<sup>1</sup> Child poverty in your area 2014/15 - 2019/20 - End Child Poverty



## Financial Hardship and Vulnerability in Blairgowrie and The Glens

This research by the University of Lancaster, Scotland's Rural College and the Impact Hub Inverness investigated how people in Blairgowrie and The Glens experienced and negotiated poverty and vulnerability. It found that:

- structural changes to the rural economy mean fewer jobs in land-based activities and manufacturing with most people now employed in services such as education, health, tourism and retail;
- much local employment is precarious, low paid or seasonal with volatile, unpredictable incomes creating financial vulnerability;
- Universal Credit is unable to deal fairly with the volatility and irregularity of rural incomes, making household budgeting hard and increasing the risk of debt and destitution;
- inadequate broadband and mobile coverage and loss of public transport makes centralisation of advice and support services difficult to access;
- these difficulties are exacerbated for people without digital and literacy skills and for those with poor mental health;
- the Cost of Living in rural areas is substantially higher than in towns and cities - distance to services and larger shopping centres, costs of heating off-grid homes which are less well-insulated.



“Certainly here, it is seasonal work. It’s low paid work, zero hours contracts and a lot of it is in the tourism/hospitality sector.”

“You don’t get work around here, not if you want to work out and about and in the hills. You don’t get work until you know people. And until you’ve met somebody in the pub or you’ve gone and done some door knocking around the gamekeepers’ houses and that sort of thing. There just isn’t the work out there.”

“This is the first time I have seen such a dramatic difference between really, really very rich people and people just below zero.”

“I think that lack of advocacy and support to get your benefit is very lacking. People are not going to go down to Perth, and not everybody is comfortable with doing it on the phone. It is quite an intimate and personal thing to do. So I think that lots of people struggle and lots of people will not be getting their benefit.”

“My assessment was just after Christmas. But during the run up to that, it wasn’t stressful at first, but then as it got closer and closer, it got really bad, having to fill out the form with all the stuff. I was panicking. It was just horrendous. A lot of places are too busy to go through the whole form because it’s so big and complicated.”



The report highlights some policy challenges arising from its finding and these will be considered and incorporated within our action plan:

- *Many rural residents are at risk of poverty, while poverty is perceived as an urban issue.*
- *The welfare system is not well-adapted to rural lives.*
- *Much rural work is not 'good work', with incomes often volatile and irregular.*
- *There are barriers to entering self-employment and developing rural small businesses.*
- *It is challenging for organisations to 'reach' into rural areas.*
- *It remains difficult for financially vulnerable groups to access suitable, affordable housing.*
- *Framing narratives of place and change are important to the wellbeing of rural communities.*
- *There is an imminent crisis in rural social care delivery<sup>2</sup>.*

6th proof - 19 Oct 2021






<sup>2</sup> *Rural Lives: Understanding financial hardship and vulnerability in rural areas.*  
Shucksmith, Chapman, Glass and Atterton, Rural Policy Centre, Scotland's Rural College, March 2021



# Impact of COVID-19



## Sources

-  *Weathering the Financial Storm: Strengthening Financial Security in Scotland Through the COVID-19 Crisis.* Stratham, Parkes & Gunson. IPPR Oct 2020
-  *Rural Lives: Understanding financial hardship and vulnerability in rural areas.* Shucksmith, Glass and Atterton, Rural Policy Centre, Scotland's Rural College, March 2021 - Findings - Blairgowrie and The Glens
-  ONS, ASHE Tables, Dec 2020
-  *Framework for Local Authorities Supporting Gypsy Travellers.* SG & COSLA Dec 2020
-  DWP: *Employment & Labour Market Stats, People Not in Work, Dec 2020*
-  *Strengthening Financial Security in Scotland Through the Ongoing COVID-19 Crisis,* IPPR 3 Scotland
-  *The effects of coronavirus on workers. "The Resolution Foundation & Sector Shutdowns during the coronavirus crisis - which workers are more exposed?"* Institute of Fiscal Studies
-  *Scottish Welfare Fund and Self-Isolation Support Grant Monthly Management Information* Jan 2018 - Sept 2020
-  *Inequalities in home learning and schools' provision of distance teaching during school closure of COVID-19 lockdown in the UK.* Baykrader & Guvcell Institute of Social & Economic Research, June 2020





**It will be some time before we fully understand the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic. However some proxy indicators suggest that families across Perth and Kinross were experiencing significant financial stress as a result. Preliminary Research undertaken by IPPR Scotland<sup>3</sup> indicated that some groups were particularly vulnerable:**

➤ **Parents and Carers**

Nearly half (49%) of families with children reported that they were struggling to make ends meet or were in serious financial difficulty. Across Scotland's workforce parents are more likely to have sustained a fall in pay of 20% or more during the pandemic than non-parents.

School closures and shielding and lockdown meant that many grandparents who would normally provide care were unable to do so. There has been a significant transfer of care of children from the state onto parents and carers.

➤ **Lone Parents**

Lone parents were more exposed to financial insecurity coming into the COVID-19 crisis. They face additional pressure in balancing paid and unpaid work - this often restricts their earning capacity in terms of hours worked, type of work they can take on and opportunities to progress.

➤ **Young People**

Economic modelling by IPR suggests that there could be 100,000 young unemployed young people in Scotland in 2021 - and this could rise to 140,000 in a worst-case scenario. Young people's jobs disappeared faster than others, and they were more likely to be working in industries (hospitality, catering, tourism) that were affected by lockdown measures. They are also more likely than older workers to be on zero hours contracts or working in the gig economy.

➤ **Disabled People**

Before the pandemic struck disabled people were 37% more likely to be struggling financially and were more likely to report being behind on their bills.

There is some evidence for increased costs for disabled people during the pandemic associated with increased bills for fuel, food, equipment costs, the costs associated with accessible transport and charges for social care services.

➤ **Renters**

Renters are more likely to have been furloughed than homeowners who are paying off a mortgage - meaning those at greatest risk of experiencing a drop in income or job loss have less in the way of a financial buffer and cannot take advantage of mortgage payment holidays.

➤ **Self-Employed**

41% of HHs that included a self-employed person were unsupported by Government Schemes and self-employed people were over 50% more likely than employees to face a fall in pay.

Perth & Kinross Council were made aware of the specific needs of local minority ethnic communities during lockdown. In particular, community members faced travel restrictions and no local Chinese traditional food supplier existed. Although a small local Halal producer does exist, it had limited capacity to meet increased demand.

Perth & Kinross Council provided culturally appropriate food parcels and put in place procurement arrangements to meet the needs of minority ethnic communities across Perth and Kinross.

Local businesses operated by owners from minority ethnic communities also provided free meals to those in need from the wider Perth and Kinross area.

An audit of need and support to the Gypsy/Traveller community was conducted to ensure the specific needs of this community were addressed. Provision ranged from food and fuel to digital devices, advice and cash support.

<sup>3</sup> "Weathering the Winter Storm: Strengthening Financial Security in Scotland through the ongoing COVID-19 Crisis." Statham, Parkes and Gunson, IPPR October 2020



### In Perth and Kinross:

- **17,500 HHs** - (1 in 4) are estimated to be in *Serious Financial Difficulty or Struggling to Make Ends Meet*; Before COVID, 4,092 HHS said they were “not managing well” financially.
- **8,500 HHs** - (1 in 8) are estimated to be struggling to pay for food and essentials.
- **5,000 HHs** - (1 in 14) are estimated to be in arrears with mortgage or rent payments.
- **6,500 HHs** - (1 in 11) are estimated to be in arrears with unsecured credit or car finance.
- **24,500 HHs** - (1 in 3) are estimated to have no savings or less than one months’ savings; Before COVID the figure was 13,618.

### COVID-19 Impact Indicators

- 1 in 6 jobs was lost to the local economy.
- The number of people on out of work benefits doubled - and now stands at 4,195.
- 105 families with 3 or more children had their benefit capped.
- Between December 2019/2020 there was a 92% increase in the amount paid out in Crisis Grant.
- The number of households on Universal Credit increased by 237%.

Snapshot - COVID-19 and Poverty in Perth and Kinross

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## Service Delivery Areas Impacting on Child Poverty

The following tables show where Perth & Kinross Council's service delivery is focussed on mitigating the impact of poverty on families and children.

Workstream 1 - Income from Employment	
Education & Children's Services	Adult Health & Social Care Partnership
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>Developing the Young Workforce - Employability and Career Ready Programme</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Services for Young People @Scott Street - Employability and Drop-In Service for Young People; Youth Programme for No-One Left Behind</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Youth Base Programme</i></li> <li>➤ <i>1140 Project - PESF for ELC job opportunities</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Criminal Justice System Employment Support</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>Employability Service (Parents)</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Employment Support Team - employability programmes for people with brain injuries, mental health issues, on the autistic spectrum and carers, or in receipt of services from the Drug and Alcohol teams</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Carers Support Service for Young Carers</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Employability - No-One Left Behind and Parental Employment Support Fund</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Rural Employment Initiative</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Scottish Government Youth Job Guarantee</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Digital Skills Participation (Community Planning Team)</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Skills Passport - Grants to Support Employability</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Futures for Families</i></li> <li>➤ <i>ESF - Positive Futures and Employability Pipeline</i></li> <li>➤ <i>UK Kickstart Programme</i></li> </ul>

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## Workstream 2 - Reducing the Cost of Living

Communities	Education & Children's Services	Corporate & Democratic Services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Affordable Rent Scheme</li> <li>➤ Increased Provision of Socially Rented Housing</li> <li>➤ Warm Homes Programme</li> <li>➤ Tackling Fuel Poverty Measures including investment in heating systems, renewable energy, insulation and triple glazing</li> <li>➤ Good Food Co-ordinator and Support for Food Share Network, food banks and community larders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Breakfast Clubs</li> <li>➤ Provision of Free School Meals</li> <li>➤ Provision of Clothing Grants</li> <li>➤ Provision of Devices and Data Packages for Digital Inclusion</li> <li>➤ Reducing the Cost of the School Day</li> <li>➤ Out of School Care</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Customer Care Centre - 1st point of contact - operates signposting and referral system</li> <li>➤ Procurement Support for Living Wage and Community Benefits</li> <li>➤ Financial Assessment Team maximise income and reduce costs for adults needing care</li> </ul>

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## Workstream 3 - Income from Social Security and Benefits in Kind

Education & Children's Services	Communities	NHS Tayside
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>↻ School Nurses - Referral to food banks and other sources of in kind support (school uniforms)</li> <li>↻ Holiday Activities - provision of programme of summer activities linked to summer food programme</li> <li>↻ Distribution to all parents of information about food banks, community larders, give and take boxes etc during summer months</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>↻ Welfare Rights Team - 2,000 Priority Families to be provided with Welfare Rights check</li> <li>↻ Scottish Child Payment take-up campaign</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>↻ FNP referral to food banks, and other sources of in kind support (school uniforms, baby clothes)</li> <li>↻ Welfare Rights Advisers embedded in Doctors' Surgeries and Community Health Centres</li> <li>↻ Welfare Advice provision in Carseview Centre, Dundee for all mental health patients</li> <li>↻ Midwife Project - to provide child poverty and financial inclusion support and embed this in maternity services, health visiting, family nurse partnership and early years education settings</li> <li>↻ Pilot money and employment section in core nursing admission and discharge documentation enabling referral to welfare benefits and money advice services for all patients at Perth Royal Infirmary</li> <li>↻ Financial Inclusion added as a referral option which GPs can deploy for patients with money worries</li> </ul>

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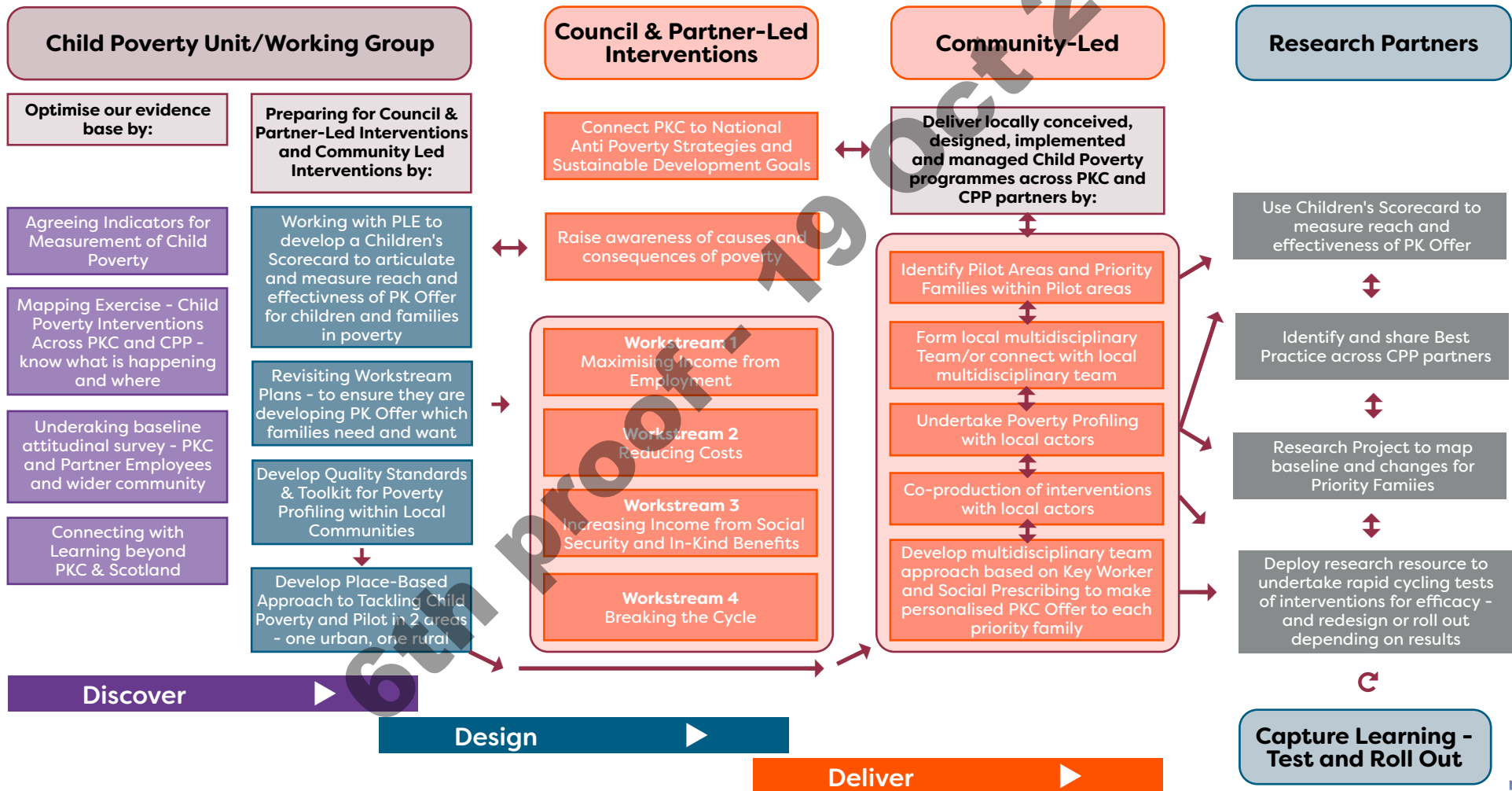
**Goals**

- To raise awareness about the causes and consequences of child poverty
- To foster social cohesion and reduce the stigma surrounding poverty for children and families
- To reduce the negative effects of living in poverty for children and families
- To enable children and families to prepare themselves for a life free from poverty

**Outcomes**

- PKC Offer for Priority Families and children living in poverty
- To be identified through SPIRU Action Research Project

**Critical Path**



## Section 2

This section of the report provides an update on progress made between November 2020 and May 2021.

### **Children's Scorecard**

We have teamed up with The Scottish Poverty and Inequality Research Unit at Glasgow Caledonian University and parents from Priority Families.

These parents are helping to co-produce a Children's Scorecard to measure the reach and effectiveness of the Perth and Kinross Offer for children and families affected by poverty.

### **The Perth & Kinross Offer for Struggling Families**

A Perth and Kinross Offer for Struggling Families has been developed and will shortly be reviewed in the light of the feedback received from the Children's Scorecard Project. It covers food, housing, education, work and engagement.

### **Social Needs Screening Project**

A Working Group involving frontline workers and service managers from across Perth & Kinross Council, NHS Tayside and our Community Planning Partners has been established to test the feasibility of establishing a Social Needs Screening Project to identify unmet need and connect families not currently on our radar to the help and support they need.

The Working Group are developing a Social Needs Screening Toolkit and will establish a pilot project to test the impact of Social Needs Screening and whether it results in better delivery and engagement with families in need of additional support.

### **Child Poverty Training Programme**

A Child Poverty Training Programme for frontline workers and service managers is in production. The 5 modules will cover:

- › *Understanding Poverty*
- › *Poverty and Inequality*
- › *The Experience of Poverty*
- › *Social Needs Screening*
- › *Alleviating Poverty*

The course aims to inform those who deliver and plan services about the particular challenges facing children and families living in poverty and to equip them with the skills and confidence to embark on co-production and multi-agency collaborative working on innovative new approaches to alleviating poverty.

### **Good Food Network and Strategy**

We are supporting the development of a Good Food Network and Strategy which aims to bring a broad range of stakeholders from the public, private and third sector together to tackle food poverty, food insecurity, to support food for health and wellbeing and sustainable food across Perth and Kinross.

### **Feeling the Pinch - Winter Information and Awareness Campaign**

An information campaign aimed at families who were struggling with the increased costs of winter was run. It provided information on how to access welfare rights, housing, heating and mental health support and reached 250,000 people.



## Feeling the Pinch Winter Campaign

**Are you feeling the pinch this winter?**



**Are you feeling the strain this winter?**



**Are you feeling the cold this winter?**



Overall the campaign reached was 258,482 - Perth and Kinross has an overall population of 151,000.

Between December 2020 and March 2021, the “Feeling the Pinch” campaign sought to mitigate the financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and public health measures by raising awareness of the range of support available from council services and our community partners.

The advice covered welfare benefits, housing and heating and mental health and wellbeing.

By using multiple channels and targeted methods of communication we aimed to ensure that everyone who needed help knew where to find it.

The campaign was widely covered in the local press, videos and social media messages.

## Workstream 1 - Income from Employment

The Futures for Families Programme, which is funded via the Parental Employment Support Fund, has been launched. So far 10 parents have been signed up and 10 more are waiting for their registration to be confirmed.

Elev8 Training Grant has been provided to 2 parents - one of whom has used it to access a Teacher Training Diploma course and has been provided with office equipment for her studies.

### Case Study - Parental Employment Support Fund

*Without the support of the Parental Employment Support Fund - Futures for Families Elev8 Grant and the help, support and advice received from Rebecca Hogg, then my dream to be able to apply for the PGDE Primary Teaching course with Perth College UHI would still be a dream.*

*I am 39 years old and have four children who are 12, 11 and 6 years old as well a baby of 10 months. The last 4 years has been an incredible journey, which has been very challenging, especially the last year due to the current COVID situation and home schooling. I have just managed to finish my BA Honours Education (Primary) Studies degree with the Open University. To move forward I needed to have National 5 Maths as well to be able to continue on the path of becoming a primary school teacher and this qualification was all that was holding me back as I could not afford the course fees.*

*My tutor had saw the Parental Employment Support Fund - Futures for Families Elev8 Grant advertised when she was having her COVID vaccination and emailed me the details!*

*I then contacted Rebecca and the support and advice I have received since then has been amazing. I can now continue with my dream and know I still have the support from Rebecca throughout my journey. I am so very grateful and feel so lucky that I have been provided with the amazing support from Rebecca and the fund, as without it I could never have progressed any further.*



## Workstream 2 - Reducing the Cost of Living

### Good Food Co-ordinator

A Good Food Co-ordinator has been appointed to establish a governance structure for the Food Share Network and establish a permanent food hub in Perth. This will help struggling families to access reduced price or free surplus foods donated by local retailers and producers and reduce food waste at the same time.

### Schools

Schools have been concentrating on supporting pupils to recover from lockdown and continue to promote free school meals and the Welfare Rights Service to all families. School uniform rules have been relaxed as it is accepted that many families whose income has been adversely affected as a result of the COVID pandemic will struggle to provide new school uniforms.

Public Health Tayside worked closely with the Family Nurse Partnership to identify families who may be affected by digital exclusion. Using funds provided through the Connecting Scotland fund, they were able to provide 32 families across Tayside with a laptop or tablet and free Wi-Fi. Recipients were supported to use their device by NHST Digital Friend volunteers.

### Affordability Analysis

Annual income required to be able to afford a Perth and Kinross property by size

Property Size	PKC Current Rents	25% Income to Rent	30% Income to Rent
Bedsit	£47.18	£9,813	£8,178
1 Bedroom	£64.25	£13,364	£11,137
2 Bedroom	£69.45	£14,446	£12,038
3 Bedroom	£77.59	£16,139	£13,449
4 Bedroom	£84.01	£17,474	£14,562
Average	£69.04	£14,360	£11,967

£ =	<b>£14,942</b> Minimum Wage (25+)	<b>£16,380</b> Living Wage	<b>£14,942</b> Average UK Pension Income
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## Case Study - Affordable Rents Toolkit

Reducing the Cost of Living is an important way of mitigating poverty. One of the most significant outlays for families are housing costs. There is no set definition of what rent affordability would look like, however, the Housing Needs Demand Assessment says that a rent is considered affordable if a household is contributing no more than 25% of their income. Elsewhere most households will spend between 25-35% of their income.

Perth & Kinross Council has developed an Affordable Rents Toolkit for Local Authority tenants. The aim of the toolkit is to allow Perth & Kinross Council to assess the affordability impact of current and proposed rent levels on households living in Perth and Kinross.

The Perth & Kinross Council Toolkit uses up-to-date Income Data and an Equivalised Income Factor. This enables household income to be recalculated to take account for differences in household size and composition, eg:

- larger households will need a larger income to achieve the same standard of living as households with fewer members;
- living costs for adults are greater than those for children.

The end result being that we can assess the % of income spent on housing costs for individual household types, property size and income type as outlined in the table below. The toolkit can also be used to forward project affordability levels based on anticipated rent and income levels over for example a three-year period. All of this allows Perth & Kinross Council to make sure that targeted support can be provided to certain localities or households who may be disproportionately impacted on as result of their income level.

- Perth & Kinross Council delivers lower rents for tenants than neighbouring Local Authorities.
- Our rents are on average 23% lower than comparator Registered Social Landlords operating in Perth and Kinross.
- Our rents are on average 110% lower than the market rents for similar properties across Perth and Kinross.
- Perth & Kinross Council rents are 64% lower than the Local Housing Allowance rate. This means that Housing Benefit covers the full cost of the rent for Council tenants.
- The toolkit has enabled PKC to ensure that families with children pay between 13% and 22% of their income on rent. This frees up much-needed cash for other essentials like food, childcare and transport.

6th priority - 19 Oct 2021



## Workstream 3 - Income from Social Security and Benefits in Kind

800 families have received £90,639 in Child Payments provided by Perth & Kinross Council. Families with a child under 6 who were in receipt of Council Tax reduction were provided with a one-off payment of £80 per eligible child.

A take-up campaign was organised to raise awareness of the new Scottish Social Security Child Payments. This included text messages sent to 3,000 Council Tenants and 6,000 Council employees and a social media campaign in English, Polish, Bulgarian and Romanian.

Over £147,000 was distributed through a Financial Insecurity Fund set up to provide financial assistance to households:

- *with no recourse to public funds;*
- *with priority debts including fuel debt;*
- *where help was needed to pay for broadband debt or data packages;*
- *where help was needed to meet essential costs of children under the age of 2; and*
- *to help with the additional costs of rural living.*

£80,000 was provided to augment the Scottish Welfare Fund and Discretionary Housing Fund to ensure that the needs of residents were met.

129 Winter Payments for Early Learning Centres and some additional funds were provided to Pink Saltire to assist with hardship payments for LGBT+ community members.

Agreement was reached that Perth & Kinross Council would be part of the Scottish Child Disability Payment pilot with two other local authorities (Dundee City Council and the Western Isles Council). The pilot focussed on data sharing to improve the customer journey in advance of the roll out of this scheme across Scotland.

NHS Tayside have established a referral pathway for Primary Care Clinicians to use to refer patients for specialist support, this includes a referral mechanism for welfare rights and financial inclusion. This will compliment co-located welfare advisers attached to GP practices:

[http://eds.tayside.scot.nhs.uk/Internet01/WorkingWithUs/ReferralHelpSystem/PROD\\_344478](http://eds.tayside.scot.nhs.uk/Internet01/WorkingWithUs/ReferralHelpSystem/PROD_344478)

Brooksbank Centre and Services have been awarded 1-year funding by NHS Tayside to deliver in-patient debt and benefit advice within the Carseview Centre in Dundee. This will enable the integration of financial support with care planning. The new service will benefit patients from Perth and Kinross.

Following the successful evaluation of the Angus Midwifery Pilot, NHS Tayside has secured additional funds to support maternity services which have recruited a project midwife to work closely with Public Health to address child poverty and financial inclusion. The postholder will be responsible for working alongside key universal services and colleagues across Maternity Services, Health Visiting, Family Nurse Partnership and Early Years education settings.

Perth Royal Infirmary are piloting inpatient admission and discharge documentation which includes questions on money worries and employment. This will enable patients to be referred for welfare rights and financial inclusion support. Public Health colleagues will support the roll-out of the documentation, which will include training on how to raise the issue of money worries and employment and referral pathways to advice services.

The Tayside Regional Improvement Collaborative has funded a range of measures aimed at providing a universal holistic income maximization service to ensure families can access their full benefit entitlement. This has been implemented through the strengthening of relationships and referral pathways between Welfare Rights Teams and health and social care professionals involved in pre-birth and early years.



A series of workshops was co-delivered by Public Health and Perth & Kinross Council Welfare Rights Service to Health Visitors and Family Nurse Practitioners on the topic of Child Poverty and Financial Inclusion Advice. The training was provided to over 100 colleagues.

All midwives in Tayside now use BadgerNet which enables them to refer clients and access a single point of contact within each Local Authority Welfare Rights Service. All areas are now regularly referring pregnant women for income maximisation and benefit support. Health Visitors and Family Nurse Practitioners are using a similar system (EMIS) to refer clients to Local Authority Welfare Rights services.

### *Case Study - Couple Under 25*

*A young couple, both under 25 and both with mental health issues, were being supported by the Family Nurse Partnership and Welfare Rights Team and Social Worker to cope with their first tenancy and the arrival of their first child.*

*The Welfare Rights Team were asked to step in when the couple were subjected to a benefits sanction. The Welfare Rights Team helped them to secure a Community Care Grant which provided a cooker, fridge/freezer and living room carpet. They were given a Best Start Grant Pregnancy Payment and Best Start Food Card, Child Benefit, Council Tax Reduction, Personal Independence Payment, a Carer's Allowance was awarded to the partner. They received a Financial Insecurity Fund Payment, Perth & Kinross Child Payment and a Scottish Child Payment and saw their Universal Credit increase by £47 a week.*

***In total, the client financial gain over a 12-month period amounted to £17,956.***

### *Case Study - Lone Parent with a Disabled Child*

*A lone parent and her 3 children under 8 were living in private rented accommodation. The client was subject to the Benefits Cap and was in receipt of Discretionary Housing Payments to help cover her rent of £650 pcm. Her eldest son suffers from behavioural and sensory issues and had been referred to CAMHS but was awaiting assessment. She was advised not to claim Disability Living Allowance for her son until he had received a diagnosis. The Welfare Rights Team encouraged her to challenge this and to make the claim and helped her to complete the Disability Living Allowance Form.*

*6 weeks later the client was awarded the Middle Rate of Care for her son which was backdated. She received a payment of £420 in respect of arrears with £240 paid every 4 weeks in Disability Living Allowance.*

*Her Child Tax Credit increased by £66 per week and the Team helped her to claim Carer's Allowance which was also backdated - as a result her weekly income increased by a further £37. She will also receive the Scottish Carer's Supplement which amounts to £462.00 each year.*

*As she has now been awarded Disability Living Allowance for her son, the Benefits Cap has been lifted and she will have her full rent covered by Housing Benefit.*

***The Client Financial Gain over a 12-month period was assessed as £9,620.***





# Section 3 - Workstream Plans 2021/2022

## Workstream 1 - Income from Employment

Target Issues/Areas					
<i>Parental Employment and Closing the Gender Pay Gap, Living Wage, School Leaver Attainment Gap</i>					
Actions/Deliverables in 2021/22	Who is action carried out by?	Resources Allocated	How impact has/will be assessed	Timescale for Action	Target Groups - Priority Families and Protected Characteristics
Delivery of Futures for Families (PESF) Programme and Elev8 Training Grants	Skills & Employment Initiatives Team	Project Funding from Scottish Government	48 total number of parents on Future for Families Programme Outcomes for employed parents 24 (50% of total) in work support Outcomes for unemployed parents 24 (50% of total) 10 Wage Incentives @ £4,000 per incentive over 52 weeks 20 (min) Elev8 Employment & Training Grant	March 2022	Priority Families and families affected by a member having a Protected Characteristic Lone parent Person with a disability 3+ Children Minority groups Youngest Child < 1 Parents aged < 25
Delivery of No One Left Behind Programme	Employability Officer in SEI Team	Project Funding from Scottish Government	93 new programme participants engaging for ongoing support from Key Workers 48 young people supported through Activity Agreements 10 individuals progressing onto vocational training 43 entering employment or self-employment of which 24 sustaining employment 7 commencing Modern Apprenticeship posts	March 2022	People of all ages with at least 1 barrier to employment



# Workstream 1 - Income from Employment

Target Issues/Areas					
Parental Employment and Closing the Gender Pay Gap, Living Wage, School Leaver Attainment Gap					
Actions/Deliverables in 2021/22	Who is action carried out by?	Resources Allocated	How impact has/will be assessed	Timescale for Action	Target Groups - Priority Families and Protected Characteristics
Young Person's Guarantee	Skills & Employment Initiatives Team	Project Funding from Scottish Government	<p>170 total number of young people aged 16-24 being supported outcomes breakdown as follows</p> <p>145 - Participants progressed to Vocational Training</p> <p>56 - Participants achieved qualification</p> <p>45 - Participants entered FE/HE/Training</p> <p>77 - Participants commenced employment</p> <p>16 - Participants commenced Modern Apprenticeship</p> <p>80 - Participants commenced on a supported activity programme</p> <p>58 - Participants sustained employment or self-employment (75% of those commencing employment)</p> <p>60 Wage Incentives @ £4,000 per incentive over 52 weeks of which</p>	March 2022	Young people 16-24 with at least 1 barrier to employment
REI - Rural Employment Incentive	Employability Officer in SEI Team	Project Funding PKC	23 new jobs created in rural communities for rural residents.	March 2022	
Futures for Families (PESF)			Gather data and testimonies on the impact of the UC taper on parents moving into employment and the outcomes that can be delivered in terms of moving out of poverty.	March 2022	



## Workstream 2 - Reducing the Cost of Living

Target Issues/Areas					
Affordability - Housing, Childcare, Energy, Food, Public Transport, Debt and Cost of the School Day					
Actions Deliverables in 2021/22	Who is action carried out by?	Resources Allocated	How impact has/will be assessed	Timescale for Action	Target Groups - Priority Families and Protected Characteristics
Collaborative Review of 'Reducing the Cost of the School Day' to identify outcomes, effectiveness and lessons learned.	Workstream 2 Lead	WER	Evidence of positive parental and learner feedback for the Cost of the School Day programme. Evidence of delivery of Cost of the School Day programme. Lessons learned.	June 2021	Children and young people affected by poverty
We will relaunch the Cost of the School Day programme by providing all schools with a video and training materials which can be used to raise the awareness of School Leadership teams, teachers, pupils and their parents.	Workstream 2 Lead	WER	Number of schools participating in Cost of the School Day, sharing and learning examples of good practice, reduction in the Cost of the School Day.  Evidence of positive parental and learner feedback for the cost of the school day programme.  Evidence of delivery of cost of the school day programme.  Lessons learned.	December 2021	Children and families affected by poverty

6th priority project 2021



## Workstream 2 - Reducing the Cost of Living

Target Issues/Areas					
Affordability - Housing, Childcare, Energy, Food, Public Transport, Debt and Cost of the School Day					
Actions Deliverables in 2021/22	Who is action carried out by?	Resources Allocated	How impact has/will be assessed	Timescale for Action	Target Groups - Priority Families and Protected Characteristics
<p>Ongoing reducing Cost of the School Day including uniform, travel, school trips, eating, school clubs, fundraising and events, home learning, attitudes to poverty.</p> <p>Reduce cost of practical subjects in secondary</p> <p>Investigate uniform recycling programme</p>	Workstream 2 Lead	WER	<p>Schools have action plans relevant to their context.</p> <p>Priority Families and families affected by a member having a Protected Characteristic are the focal point of this evaluation.</p>	November 2021	All pupils affected by poverty
We will promote Big Energy Savings Week with our CPP Partners.	Workstream 2 Lead	WER	Take-up rates and client financial gains.	February 2022	Priority Families and families affected by a member having a Protected Characteristic are the focal point of this evaluation

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## Workstream 2 - Reducing the Cost of Living

Target Issues/Areas					
Affordability - Housing, Childcare, Energy, Food, Public Transport, Debt and Cost of the School Day					
Actions Deliverables in 2021/22	Who is action carried out by?	Resources Allocated	How impact has/will be assessed	Timescale for Action	Target Groups - Priority Families and Protected Characteristics
<p>Wider ongoing engagement with local social housing providers.</p> <p>Discussions to be scheduled with RSLs to share information gathered through affordability model and further discussion to promote affordable rents.</p>	Workstream 2 Lead	WER	Increased awareness within the social sector and greater focus placed on affordability by RSLs.	Ongoing	Priority Families and families affected by a member having a Protected Characteristic
Private Landlord Forum to be planned, to raise awareness of child and fuel poverty within the private sector.	Workstream 2 Lead	WER	Session with private sector landlords on fuel poverty and energy efficiency.	June 2021	Priority Families and families affected by a member having a Protected Characteristic

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## Workstream 2 - Reducing the Cost of Living

Target Issues/Areas					
Affordability - Housing, Childcare, Energy, Food, Public Transport, Debt and Cost of the School Day					
Actions Deliverables in 2021/22	Who is action carried out by?	Resources Allocated	How impact has/will be assessed	Timescale for Action	Target Groups - Priority Families and Protected Characteristics
<p>Evaluate our transport activities to ensure we can reduce the cost of travel.</p> <p>Identify potential for travel concessions for families during weekends, holidays and after school - Bid to Smarter Choices, Smarter Places for funding to provide some subsidised transport to be submitted.</p>	Workstream 2 Lead	WER	<p>We will produce an options paper with creative and new means of supporting a range of transport options which enable people from rural Perthshire to gain access to employment and educational opportunities.</p> <p>Travel costs reduce.</p> <p>Free bus travel for under 19s in place.</p>	November 2021	Priority Families and families affected by a member having a Protected Characteristic
Option to load free transport on Young Scot cards still to be considered.	Workstream 2 Lead	WER	Travel costs reduce.	November 2021	Under 19s
Improving people's access to affordable credit and supporting financial inclusion - consider credit rating project for Local Authority tenants.	Workstream 2 Lead	WER	Increased access to more affordable credit.	October 2021	Priority Families and families affected by a member having a Protected Characteristic
Consider credit rating project for Local Authority tenants.	Workstream 2 Lead	WER	Increased access to more affordable credit.	August 2021	Families affected by poverty



## Workstream 2 - Reducing the Cost of Living

Target Issues/Areas					
Affordability - Housing, Childcare, Energy, Food, Public Transport, Debt and Cost of the School Day					
Actions Deliverables in 2021/22	Who is action carried out by?	Resources Allocated	How impact has/will be assessed	Timescale for Action	Target Groups - Priority Families and Protected Characteristics
<p>Improve uptake of free school meals by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>improving the application process to maximise opportunities to identify those who are eligible, reduce time and effort of application process for both applicant and staff;</i></li> <li>➤ <i>increased awareness of FSM and how to apply.</i></li> </ul>	<p>Workstream 3 Lead - take-up campaign</p> <p>Workstream 2 Lead</p>	WER	Uptake levels increase.	May 2022	Priority Families and families affected by a member having a Protected Characteristic
<p>Establish a governance structure for the Food Share Network, establishing a permanent food hub in Perth in conjunction with Transform (Fareshare).</p>	Workstream 2 Lead	WER	<p>Increased access to affordable food.</p> <p>Reduction in food waste.</p>	May 2022	Priority Families and families affected by a member having a Protected Characteristic



## Workstream 3 - Income from Social Security

Target Issues/Areas					
<i>DWP, SSS, HMRC and LA Benefits and Concessions</i>					
Actions Deliverables in 2021/22	Who is action carried out by?	Resources Allocated	How impact has/will be assessed	Timescale for Action	Target Groups - Priority Families and Protected Characteristics
Explore more streamlined processes for all Council concessions.	Workstream 3 Lead	WER	Work is currently underway taking a phased approach to the streamlining of Council concessions and benefits/grants administered by the LA on behalf of the DWP and Scottish Government.	March 2022	Priority Families and families affected as a result of a family member having a Protected Characteristic
To ensure Welfare Rights advice reaches target families. 2,000 families in the priority groups will receive a phone call offer of a Welfare Rights check to maximise income from social security and benefits in kind.	Workstream 3 Lead	WER	Number of individuals contacted and offered a welfare rights check. Total client financial gain. Total number of individuals helped.	March 2022	Priority Families will be targeted in information awareness campaign via tracked entry points for each specific group  Families with a member having a Protected Characteristic will be targeted in information awareness campaign via tracked entry points for each specific group
Scottish Child Payment Benefit Take-Up Campaign to achieve a take-up rate of 85% of all eligible children.	Workstream 3 Lead	WER	Take-Up Rates for Scottish Child Payment.	March 2022	





## Workstream 3 - Income from Social Security

Target Issues/Areas					
<i>DWP, SSS, HMRC and LA Benefits and Concessions</i>					
Actions Deliverables in 2021/22	Who is action carried out by?	Resources Allocated	How impact has/will be assessed	Timescale for Action	Target Groups - Priority Families and Protected Characteristics
<p>Health professionals will work collaboratively with Welfare Rights Teams across Tayside to increase and to maximise income from social security.</p> <p>Health professionals will routinely raise the topic of money worries by using the Public Health Scotland guidance on the CARE approach.</p> <p>Effective referral pathways will be established across universal health and educational services (ie Maternity, FNP, Health Visiting &amp; Education).</p> <p>Develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for each referral pathway.</p>	NHS Tayside	WER	<p>Financial hardship for families will be reduced and parents will have better access to the benefits they are eligible to receive.</p> <p>Support families to address poverty identified during pregnancy and at agreed key stages (0-5).</p> <p>Provision of universal holistic income maximisation service.</p>	March 2022	



## Workstream 3 - Income from Social Security

Target Issues/Areas					
DWP, SSS, HMRC and LA Benefits and Concessions					
Actions Deliverables in 2021/22	Who is action carried out by?	Resources Allocated	How impact has/will be assessed	Timescale for Action	Target Groups - Priority Families and Protected Characteristics
<p>Recruit a Project Midwife to work closely with Public Health and partners to drive forward activity and service improvement to address Child Poverty in Tayside.</p> <p>Child poverty and financial inclusion training to be delivered by Public Health and Welfare Right Services across pre-birth and early years networks.</p> <p>Child poverty and financial inclusion activity to be feature on staff meeting agendas.</p> <p>Management receives regular data updates on referrals and outcomes for families.</p> <p>Identified leads across universal services to maintain and/or increase activity which will help mitigate child poverty.</p>	NHS Tayside		<p>% number of referrals (increase)</p> <p>% number of pregnant women and parents engaging with advice services (increase)</p> <p>% Income Generated Benefit gains (increase)</p> <p>% who would use the service again (increase)</p>	March 2022	



## Workstream 4 - Breaking the Cycle

<b>Target Issues/Areas</b>					
<i>Affordability - Housing, Childcare, Energy, Food, Public Transport, Debt and Cost of the School Day</i>					
<b>Actions Deliverables in 2021/22</b>	<b>Who is action carried out by?</b>	<b>Resources Allocated</b>	<b>How impact has/will be assessed</b>	<b>Timescale for Action</b>	<b>Target Groups - Priority Families and Protected Characteristics</b>
Collaborative Review of the Pupil Equity Fund	Workstream 2 Leads	Within Existing Resources (WER)	Review impact of the Pupil Equity Fund on priority families and families affected by a member's protected characteristic.	June 2021	Priority Families and families affected by a member having a Protected Characteristic
Review and Learn from Midwife Project as enablers for families in poverty to access opportunities to maximise income and reduce costs.	NHS Tayside Workstream 3 Lead	WER	Lessons learned and sharing of good practice leads to increased referrals for income maximisation and benefits in kind.	October 2021	Priority Families and families affected by a member having a Protected Characteristic are the focal point of this evaluation
Research Project - Undertake a mapping exercise on child poverty interventions across Perth and Kinross. Design Impact, Outcomes and Outputs Indicators Framework for the 3 workstreams.	Child Poverty Officer	WER	Identify barriers, crossovers and opportunities for future development of child poverty programme.	June 2021	Priority Families and families affected by a member having a Protected Characteristic

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## Workstream 4 - Breaking the Cycle

Target Issues/Areas					
Affordability - Housing, Childcare, Energy, Food, Public Transport, Debt and Cost of the School Day					
Actions Deliverables in 2021/22	Who is action carried out by?	Resources Allocated	How impact has/will be assessed	Timescale for Action	Target Groups - Priority Families and Protected Characteristics
Develop a 'Children's Scorecard' to measure support for children living in poverty across Material Wellbeing, Mental Wellbeing, Diet and Physical Wellbeing and Skills for Life.	Child Poverty Officer	£20,000	The Children's Scorecard will be an important tool for raising awareness of the causes and consequences of child poverty. Closing the Gap Scorecard will enable PKC and its partners to track mitigation interventions to support equal opportunities. Feedback on the relevance and usage of the Closing the Gap Scorecard will be sought from people with lived experience of child poverty and CPP partners involved in service provision.	May 2021	Priority Families and families affected by a member having a Protected Characteristic
We will provide a video and training materials to be rolled out to all Perth & Kinross Council employees and offered to CP Partners for inclusion in their staff development and learning programmes. All COVID volunteers will be given access to the video and training materials.	Child Poverty Officer	WER	Perth & Kinross Council employees have an improved understanding of the causes and consequences of child poverty. Learning Outcomes will be measured using an assessment tool to be completed by everyone taking the course.	December 2021	Priority Families and families affected by a member having a Protected Characteristic



## Workstream 4 - Breaking the Cycle

<b>Target Issues/Areas</b>					
<i>Affordability - Housing, Childcare, Energy, Food, Public Transport, Debt and Cost of the School Day</i>					
<b>Actions Deliverables in 2021/22</b>	<b>Who is action carried out by?</b>	<b>Resources Allocated</b>	<b>How impact has/will be assessed</b>	<b>Timescale for Action</b>	<b>Target Groups - Priority Families and Protected Characteristics</b>
We will develop a branded public information campaign to disseminate a series of key messages around child poverty and where parents can go to get help.	Child Poverty Officer	WER	The stigma surrounding poverty is reduced and social solidarity is increased. An opinion poll question will be purchased to measure the before and after impact of the information campaign on the public in Perth and Kinross. An attitudinal survey of COVID volunteers will be undertaken before and after the public information campaign.	February 2022	Priority Families and families affected by a member having a Protected Characteristic
We will scope out a proposal to work across all CPP partners to data share with a view to establishing a database of households where children are living in poverty and the resources available to support them to deliver a key worker for each family. The role of the key worker would be to act as a social prescriber to tailor a Perth and Kinross Offer to the specific needs of each individual family.	Child Poverty Officer	WER	Multi-Agency Task Team for Child Poverty Social Prescribing Project is established. Project Initiation Document is produced and signed off by all relevant parties.	September 2021	Priority Families and families affected by a member having a Protected Characteristic



## Workstream 4 - Breaking the Cycle

### Target Issues/Areas

*Affordability - Housing, Childcare, Energy, Food, Public Transport, Debt and Cost of the School Day*

Actions Deliverables in 2021/22	Who is action carried out by?	Resources Allocated	How impact has/will be assessed	Timescale for Action	Target Groups - Priority Families and Protected Characteristics
<p>We will undertake a feasibility study for a Social Needs Screening Programme to identify unmet need and connect families with sources of support. This will include the provision of a toolkit, training course and pilot project.</p>	<p>Child Poverty Officer</p>	<p>WER</p>	<p>By the number of families who have completed social needs screening and accessed additional support as a result.</p>	<p>March 2022</p>	<p>Priority Families and families affected by a member having a Protected Characteristic</p>

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## FAO: Chairs of Community Planning Partnership Boards (By Email)

Dear CPP Chair

### Community Planning Improvement Board – Research on Community Planning: Progress & Potential

I'm writing as chair of the Community Planning Improvement Board (CPIB) to share our recent research into the critical role Community Planning has played during Covid and the significant contribution community planning can make to Covid recovery plans in Scotland.

Community Planning has flourished during the COVID response, with partners working flexibly across boundaries to co-ordinate support for local communities. There is an opportunity to build on this momentum and to identify new opportunities by which Community Planning structures can continue to achieve improved outcomes for local communities as part of the COVID recovery period. This is particularly pertinent as we mark the ten-year anniversary of the Christie Commission and reflect on the progress made to date. Community Planning provides a key vehicle to deliver on the Christie vision, driving local partners to work together to deliver collectively for their communities.

The CPIB provides leadership and improvement support for Community Planning in Scotland, with senior level membership drawn from key statutory Community Planning partners. Through its relationship with key Community Planning stakeholders, the CPIB has played an instrumental role in building a strong evidence base around where Community Planning and CP partners are working well together and achieving positive outcomes for their communities, and also on the nature of issues and barriers to progress.

The recent CPIB research on the critical role Community Planning has played during COVID and the role that partners can achieve through Community Planning to support COVID recovery across local communities is enclosed in Annex 1.

The key messages highlighted in this research are as follows:

- **The pandemic required a whole systems response across Scotland.** It needed all the Community Planning partners to work together, and with the third sector and communities, to deliver an effective response at local levels.



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- **Empowerment delivers results.** Community Planning has responded with pace, agility and impact during the pandemic. This has been assisted by empowerment and greater flexibility at both local and national levels, for example, enabling rapid and flexible responses across local communities and supporting work to direct national funding and resources to where it is needed most e.g. Connecting Scotland.
- **Community Planning Partnerships provided the key vehicle for multi-agency working at a local level.** Existing relationships, infrastructure and ways of working have been fundamental within local emergency and resilience planning structures, supporting rapid and co-ordinated community led responses and joined up planning and delivery by key partners. Community Planning enabled partners to work together in ways that reflect local needs and circumstances, empower communities and front-line staff, and forge holistic approaches. The focus on place and knowledge of the local community, a keystone of community planning approaches, was essential to this
- **We must not lose the gains we have made in the last 15 months.** From a public service reform perspective, we must build on the momentum we have created from the pandemic and use it as a catalyst for further reform. This is particularly pertinent as we mark the ten year anniversary of the Christie Commission and reflect on the progress made, and what more Community Planning can do to deliver on the Christie recommendations in terms of community empowerment, partnership and the focus on improved outcomes
- **Given the anticipated increase in inequalities and associated demand from Covid, national and local priorities will need to be rebalanced to support a more targeted approach.** This will be particularly important as we strive to balance a range of demands on services and supports across communities and investing in those things that we know will make the difference for future generations. This may require a rebalancing of local and national policy priorities policy towards a narrower set of priorities, including a meaningful shift from universality towards greater targeting. This will be essential if we are to encourage the more ambitious approach to preventative investment advocated for by Christie

To support local and national recovery, the CPIB has identified the following areas of focus for Community Planning to meet future expectations:

- **Re-Focusing Priorities:** aligning and refocussing priorities and targets in Local Outcomes Improvement Plans and locality plans to play into longer term recovery plans
- **Involving and empowering communities:** strengthening relationships with communities and embracing the value that volunteers, community bodies and third sector organisations can play in recovery and renewal efforts
- **Relationships, structures and bureaucracy:** Building on the expansion and strengthened quality of partnership working and relationships that have driven cohesive action for at-risk communities during the crisis and promoting delivery models which emphasise empowerment

We would welcome your reflections on these key findings and areas of focus, including any examples from your own CPP you would like to share.



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The CPIB has a key role in supporting Community Planning to make a significant contribution to Scotland's recovery. The role of the CPIB has recently been refocused to ensure it is well positioned to help build on the progress achieved to date, and to respond effectively to the opportunities and challenges facing Community Planning during these unprecedented times. The CPIB priorities for 2021-2023 are available on the [CPIB website](#).

The CPIB is keen to actively engage with partnerships to ensure its work programme is informed by local priorities and experiences and we would welcome your thoughts on the priorities identified. We will continue to keep Community Planning partners updated with progress and provide regular opportunities to contribute to work as it develops. CPIB members will also continue to share progress updates within their organisations and sectors therefore members of local CPPs may also be contributing to the CPIB work via this route.

I look forward to hearing from you and learning more about your experiences and improvement priorities. If you would have any questions, please contact myself or Emily Lynch ([Emily.Lynch@improvementservice.org.uk](mailto:Emily.Lynch@improvementservice.org.uk)) and we will be happy to assist.

Yours sincerely

**Chair of CPIB on behalf of Solace Scotland and Chief Executive of Renfrewshire Council**



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**Community Planning Improvement Board**  
**COMMUNITY PLANNING: PROGRESS AND POTENTIAL**  
**May 2021**

## **Introduction**

*This report sets out:*

- *A brief assessment of how and how far Community Planning in Scotland has strengthened in recent years*
- *How Community Planning has reached a new level in co-ordinating and supporting local responses to the Covid-19 Pandemic*
- *How Community Planning is ideally placed to perform a pivotal role in driving local recovery and renewal interventions in the coming years*
- *What CPPs and their partners need to focus on to do this effectively.*

## **Evolution of Community Planning Following Statutory Reforms Pre-Covid**

1. New statutory reforms to Community Planning, in Part 2 of the [Community Empowerment \(Scotland\) Act 2015](#) and accompanying [Statutory Guidance](#), came into force in December 2016. These provisions introduced a statutory basis for Community Planning; built on public sector partners working together and with community bodies to improve outcomes – especially with a view to tackling inequalities of outcome – on locally identified priorities.
2. This statutory purpose is critical. The success of Community Planning is defined by the impact that partners make for their communities by working together; not by structures, procedures or how Board meetings are conducted. The Act also applies statutory duties on CPPs and named public sector organisations to ensure Community Planning fulfils this purpose effectively.
3. The Community Planning Improvement Board (CPIB), through its relationship with key Community Planning stakeholders, has played an instrumental role in building a strong evidence base around where Community Planning and CP partners are working well together and achieving positive outcomes for their communities, and also on the nature of issues and barriers to progress and where improvement support is needed to drive change.

## **How Community Planning Has Progressed since the Act**

4. We have gradually gained a picture of how much stronger Community Planning has become in light of these duties
5. A summary of this progress is provided in [Annexe A](#). In addition to evidence produced through the work of the CPIB, this also reflects:
  - 27 Best Value Audit Reports (BVARs) of local authorities, which the Accounts Commission has published since June 2017
  - a 2018 impact report by Audit Scotland, which summarised national and local progress against improvement recommendations in previous audit reports on Community Planning
6. This evidence points to steady and continuing improvement in Community Planning. However, based on this considerably more progress would be needed to meet fully the expectations of the 2015 Act and statutory guidance.

## How Community Planning Has Responded to the Pandemic

7. Community Planning has come into its own during the Covid-19 Pandemic. Based on self-reported feedback from CPPs (see [Annexe B](#)), Community Planning has played a critical role in supporting emergency response efforts. Existing relationships, infrastructure and ways of working have been fundamental within local emergency and resilience planning structures, supporting rapid and co-ordinated community led responses and joined up planning and delivery by key partners.
8. **Mobilising Communities.** In many cases, communities responded much more quickly than the public sector and organised themselves to deliver assistance on vulnerable people in a matter of days. Community Planning provided essential support via recruiting, co-ordinating and supporting volunteers and community groups; and establishing online community hubs offering support and guidance and signposting to further resources. The community led response has enabled a more rapid and targeted delivery of support to those most in need, despite challenges (volume of volunteers and capacity to support community groups). This is valuable learning for CPPs in why and how they support empowerment in future.
9. **Using and refocusing existing partnership infrastructure and relationships.** Partnerships developed prior to the pandemic facilitated a smooth transition to emergency operations (e.g. one Community Planning Manager noted many of the members of a local Emergency Management Team were members of the area's CPP and had already build familiarity and trust). Existing partnerships have been used and refocussed across a range of social and economic recovery themes, drawing in new partners including business and the private sector. Thematic partnerships worked well at the start of the pandemic, springing into action despite the fact that the local CPP Board was effectively out of action at this point.
10. CPPs have also brought together partner recovery plans and identified areas where partners could join efforts. Many CPPs have looked to alter the way they operate to become more flexible and adaptable, recognising the fluidity of current and evolving pressures. This is particularly evident in relation to locality planning.
11. **Using the knowledge and expertise of the Third Sector Interface (TSI).** Many CPPs drew heavily on the knowledge, connections and expertise of TSIs to mobilise communities, co-ordinate volunteers and to provide support. Some reflected that there had been a strengthening of the relationship with the TSI and a greater parity of esteem as a result of the pandemic response.
12. **Co-ordinating and connecting local and national responses.** CPPs have played a key role in co-ordinating and connecting local and national responses. This was particularly important given the volume and frequency of new guidelines from the Scottish and UK Governments, the speed with which national guidelines were altered, and the need to ensure communities, community groups and partner organisations all had access to the latest guidance and support.
13. **Reviewing and resetting existing LOIPs.** Many CPPs have taken stock with communities to ensure alignment with other local recovery plans, and ensure priorities within their Local Outcome Improvement Plan best reflect circumstances for their area and communities in light of the Pandemic. A number of issues will have come into starker relief – such as exacerbated inequalities, the need for social and economic recovery and renewal, the importance of community resilience. As a result, many CPPs are likely to refresh their LOIP in order to update their local priorities, the extent of progress required or the way these are addressed.

## Looking Ahead: A Pivotal Role for Community Planning

14. Community planning and the close local partnership working it embodies are ideally placed to underpin recovery and renewal efforts across Scotland. The same collective responses by local public and third sector partners that have supported community efforts and helped people at risk during the Pandemic will continue to be vital as energies shift to recovery.
15. We cannot adequately safeguard the wellbeing and life chances of our vulnerable communities now and in future if we return to traditional models of service delivery built on silo-based, service-specific interventions. Local partners need to work together and with communities to understand what matters most to people and then shape comprehensive, holistic and seamless interventions that make a particular positive difference for those of our fellow citizens who need that support most. Recognition of this is already driving national policy on recovery from Covid and more widely (e.g. Scottish Government responses to the Advisory Group on Economic Recovery<sup>1</sup> and Social Renewal Advisory Board<sup>2</sup>; its Climate Change Plan<sup>3</sup>).
16. Community Planning provides an ideal space in which public services, other partners and communities themselves can contribute meaningfully to these national priorities and others. What is more, through Community Planning these partners can do so in ways that reflect local needs and circumstances, empower communities and front-line staff, and forge holistic approaches that connect and add value across a range of outcomes for a local area.

## Areas of Focus for Community Planning to Meet Future Expectations

17. **Re-Focusing Priorities:** CPPs should now be planning and organising for economic and social renewal in light of the Pandemic, with continued particular emphasis on safeguarding wellbeing and tackling inequalities, already established by the LOIP. Approaches shaped to the distinctive needs of Place and communities of interest will feature prominently in this. In many cases, CPPs will now or shortly be considering how they align and refocus priorities and targets in LOIPs and locality plans to play into longer term recovery efforts.
18. **Involving & empowering communities:** CPPs will want to strengthen relationships with communities. In many cases this will involve embedding recent and current positive actions in listening and responding to communities' needs. In particular, CPPs should work to secure trust of communities. Partnerships that were well embedded within their local communities were more easily able to respond and had already earned the buy-in and trust of the local community. The example of North Ayrshire (also taken forward elsewhere in Scotland) on embedding Kindness into the work of local public services has supported effective locality-based interventions.
20. CPPs will want to embrace the significant value that volunteers and organisations in all sectors can play in recovery and renewal efforts, and help overcome challenges facing all sectors. Recent experience has also demonstrated the value of Third Sector Interfaces as a strategic partner for CPPs that are committed to strengthening relationships with communities and to economic and social renewal; and the value of working with the private sector and local businesses
21. More specifically, the Pandemic has highlighted issues exist around digital inclusion for households and communities, including accessibility for them of information and support through IT and the extent of local broadband provision.

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<sup>1</sup> [Economic Recovery Implementation Plan](#), Scottish Government (August 2020)

<sup>2</sup> [Social Renewal Advisory Board: Initial Response](#), Scottish Government (March 2021)

<sup>3</sup> [Securing a Green Recovery on a Path to Net Zero: Climate Change Plan 2018–2032 - Update](#), Scottish Government (December 2020)



22. ***Relationships, structures and bureaucracy.*** CPPs and partners will want to build on the expansion and strengthened quality of partnership working that have driven cohesive action for at-risk communities during the crisis. This includes embedding the improved communication, awareness and trust between partners and sectors – including the third sector which has responded rapidly and decisively to the crisis and local private sector which could offer longer term gains in partnership working. CPPs and partners can apply learning from delivery models using locality-based, multidisciplinary teams. These models, with trust placed in front-line staff and communities to go ahead and get things done, can continue to facilitate nimble (and often community-led) action to respond to local needs and priorities as part of longer term Community Planning. They can also continue to identify gaps and minimise duplication in delivery across partners and community groups, by co-ordinating local communications and support activity.
23. The recent [joint statement](#) by the outgoing Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government and COSLA President on progress with the [Local Governance Review](#) set out the importance of strengthening local democracy through the community, functional and fiscal empowerment of all Scotland's communities and public services. Discussions with Local Authorities and other partners are now proceeding at Official level on their place-based proposals for alternative governance arrangements. Following the parliamentary elections, the Review may continue to provide opportunities for CPPs and partners to propose new powers, where these can assist delivery of local priorities or empowerment for local communities. CPP partners might for instance consider where there might be opportunities to improve how local partnership arrangements like Local Resilience Partnerships, Children's Services Partnerships, Integration Joint Boards and CPPs themselves work and align their activity, to add collective value and minimise duplication of effort. The involvement of Community Councils has also been an important aspect of this work so far.
24. They can also reflect on where there might be scope to use Community Planning as a golden thread that connects local with regional and national ambitions. Many national priorities (including on economic recovery, social renewal and Climate Change targets) rely on the same qualities of partnership working and community engagement that Community Planning embodies. So Community Planning can be highly valuable in pursuing national priorities at local level, whether through CPPs incorporating these within these own priorities or by Community Planning providing a space that hosts and supports this wider partnership work.
25. CPPs can build on significant progress made in data sharing between partners during the Pandemic, particularly in relation to data protection requirements inhibiting partners' ability to share intelligence to allow help to be directed to vulnerable households. CPPs have identified some aspects of data sharing and collection that might be revisited (e.g. for Public Health Scotland and Local Authorities in sharing Test and Protect data concerning households who are required to isolate; frequency, coordination and timescales for Scottish Government requests for data).
26. ***Influencing evolving national policy and advocating role of community planning.*** Recent experiences have brought to life the enhanced impact that Community Planning can make in facilitating close partnership working in practice. At the same time, the importance of close partnership working across agencies and sectors and with communities is increasingly driving national policy priorities. As well as social, economic and environmental renewal, this is playing through in work to [Keep the Promise](#) for care-experienced children and young people, the recent [Independent Review of Adult Social Care](#) that is built on a collaborative, enabling and preventative approach, and much more.
27. These developments create a valuable symbiosis, where the ways of working embodied within Community Planning can drive our pursuit of many of Scotland's national, regional and local ambitions in

ways that embrace the skills and capacities of many players and build action in holistic ways that cut across specific policy priorities and reflect specific local circumstances.

28. This symbiosis demonstrates the value of Scottish Government recognising the power of local partnership working through Community Planning through which public sector bodies can discharge responsibilities for delivering major policy priorities, especially whole-system approaches for improving outcomes or enhancing the wellbeing and life chances of at-risk communities. CPPs and Community Planning partners should be offered, and should in turn seize, opportunities to contribute actively to evolving Scottish Government policy.
29. Many CPPs value the direct connection that Location Directors can make to the wider work of Scottish Government. As focus switches to recovery and renewal, the involvement of Location Directors to Community Planning is likely to become still more valuable and there is scope to reflect on how this can work best for all parties.

## SUMMARY OF PROGRESS MADE IN STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY PLANNING FOLLOWING REFORMS IN COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT (S) ACT 2015 (PRE-COVID)

Summary of findings drawn from CPIB work, Accounts Commission BVARs and Audit Scotland Impact report

### Community Empowerment

- + Councils are increasingly showing **leadership** around the Community Empowerment agenda, including in partnership with others.
- + There are several examples of **community-led action plans**.
- + There is extensive use of Charrettes and other **community engagement activity** across many CPPs.
- *Practices in some councils still seem to be focused on **consultation and engagement, not empowerment**.*
- *Many communities do not feel that their **voices are actively influencing** decision-making by public bodies*
- ***Challenges** in implementing CPPs' commitment to **Community Engagement** because of factors such as: **lack of capacity within communities; Resource constraints for partners; the range and complexity of communities CPPs are seeking to reach***

### Planning for Improvement

- + LOIPs are **evidence-based** and clearly focused on **prevention and reducing inequality-related negative life outcomes**.
- + CPPs have been effective in using **City Region and Growth Deals** to support CPP strategic objectives, particularly for addressing economic disadvantage; and in aligning **Children's Services Planning** with their wider work.
- + Councils and partners are increasingly making more effective **use of data and intelligence** on community needs when setting priorities and targeting resources.
- *Some CPPs have made slower progress than others in **developing locality plans**.*
- *A continued **lack of alignment between national policy objectives and local improvement priorities** within CPPs, with national priorities often 'trumping' local partnership priorities when difficult choices have to be made.*
- *Challenges in **integrating community planning priorities with other significant programmes of change** such as health and social care integration and Regional Improvement Collaboratives (RICs).*

### Delivering on Plans

- + Many examples of (often innovative) projects and programmes that are making a **real difference in communities**.
- + There appears to be an increasing focus on CP partners working together to **tackle inequalities caused by poverty and disadvantage** within many communities, with efforts being made to 'join-up' activity in this area with wider national and local work.
- + Positive examples of CPP partners **strategically aligning their resources** (especially staff time and activity) around shared priorities.
- + Positive **operational joint working** in key areas such as community safety and working to improve outcomes for vulnerable young people.

- LOIPs often not yet backed up by **practical change delivery programmes** with agreed actions, allocated resources and clear measures of success.
- Difficulties in **pooling resources** (especially money) from organisations towards agreed priorities where internal priorities outcompete shared priorities.
- Difficulties encountered in **integrating** corporate and single-agency **delivery and planning models** with new locality/community-based planning arrangements (although a number of councils have been reviewing their locality delivery and governance arrangements in light of the 2015 Act).
- Limited evidence of CPPs **learning** from each other and **sharing innovation**.

### Partnership Working

- + Most councils work well with their partners; **widespread support and commitment** to community planning among councils and partners.
- + Community planning continues to be seen as an **important vehicle for co-ordinating multi-agency work** in areas of shared interest; increasingly seen as useful for engaging jointly with communities to improve outcomes at local level.
- + Generally councils make good use of council-wide, locality and specific interest group **consultation arrangements**, using a wide range of consultation methods.
- *The culture and behaviour within CPPs often still fails to demonstrate effective **collaborative leadership**, with councils still being seen as the lead agency for driving and managing community planning.*
- *Difficulties in establishing **robust CPP governance arrangements** through which partners can and do truly hold each other to account for their performance.*
- *The level and quality of **third sector involvement** still varies considerably. In some areas, the TSI is finding it difficult to engage with the plethora of planning and delivery groups in place to support Community Planning.*

## EXAMPLES OF THE ROLE COMMUNITY PLANNING IS PLAYING IN COVID RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

### *Mobilising Communities*

**Aberdeenshire:** Early engagement with community groups in Buchan to understand what activities they were planning and how the various partners from the CPP could support those activities. An active network of community groups and CP partners evolved from this, which enabled swift and efficient communication, discussions on communities' needs, sharing of resources and support among partners. Also Local Voices (an online forum for households with income under £15k per year and at least one child) and Lived Experiences Online Forum (to tackle isolation and included weekly wellbeing calls) allowed residents to inform reshaping of local services and support around their needs and in the face of constraints imposed as a result of lockdown.

**Angus:** A lot of work with frontline staff has taken place, and the CPP wants to keep this level of empowerment and allow people to go ahead and get things done. Small pots of SG money available meaning people didn't have to go through massive processes. Many have taken a digital by default stance however, in Angus this has caused concern as through listening events local community people have expressed that they do not wish for this to become a permanent way of doing things. Many prefer face to face support and want this to be put back in place. Utilising our Community Councils and building their capacity is a key priority not just to support through COVID but to build on the work done through the Local Governance Review. We have a pilot projects underway to explore the long term sustainability and further develop local skills.

**Argyll and Bute:** Communities were supported and mobilised through the CPP in a variety of ways. Volunteer groups were supported with expenses and insurance. People who wanted to volunteer who were not currently part of an existing local group were given the opportunity to volunteer to support those who needed help. A supermarket pre-paid card scheme was set up for volunteer groups to purchase food for those shielding. Regular catch-ups were also held with community groups to answer questions and identify areas where the CPP / Council/ Care for People Partnership could address and respond to local issues.

Community groups also worked with Education and the wider Food team helping deliver free school meals and food parcels to those who were vulnerable. Examples of this included Arrochar Mountain Rescue Team and HM Coastguard, particularly on the islands.

**Dumfries and Galloway:** Over 2,000 volunteers have come forward during the pandemic. The Council, NHS, Health and Social Care Partnership and Third Sector Interface have been successfully working together through new Locality Hubs to make the best use of resources, with the new South of Scotland Enterprise, Police Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue Service contributing in both traditional and innovative ways. Food has been a key issue - currently, around 3,000 food parcels are going out on a weekly basis and during the peak of the pandemic last year there were about 7,000 food parcels being delivered; a new partnership approach combining tackling poverty and inequality has been developed to provide support for those most vulnerable people.

**Dundee:** Community led response supported by CP was effective, with the CPP key in helping identify gaps and build capacity. Faith in Community Dundee and TSI created an emergency food network with 23 different agencies providing emergency food. Using existing partnership contacts to coordinate and minimise duplication, they provided a quick, coherent local response. An information website was created by one group, with everyone's contributions.

**East Lothian:** Well over 1000 volunteers supporting shielding and vulnerable people.

**East Renfrewshire:** A key element of the community planning response, which compliments the council's humanitarian support is the coordinated community response via The Community Hub. This was led by the local third sector interface and was and still is the first point of contact for those looking for support (out with statutory support) and those offering their assistance. Weekly humanitarian planning meetings with council staff continue to ensure a collaborative approach with the third sector and communities that makes best use of the resources available. The Community Hub model will continue to develop and be key as we move towards recovery and their support offer will change accordingly.

**Edinburgh:** In April 2020, the Scottish Government launched the Ready Scotland volunteers appeal in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. In Edinburgh, 5550 people signed up through Scotland Cares and were routed to Volunteer Edinburgh. Volunteer Edinburgh understood that it was important to "capture" these prospective volunteers (many of whom were new to volunteering) and to engage them to help meet an emerging support need from shielded and other vulnerable individuals.

Volunteer Edinburgh established the Community Taskforce Volunteers (CTVs) programme and developed from scratch, a robust, remote on-boarding process to enable the safe management and deployment of these volunteers. This process was developed with the expectation that the help of CTVs would be required beyond the immediate lockdown period and subject to funding, could potentially be developed to provide on-going ad-hoc support to people in need. There are currently 467 active CTVs. The CTV programme was set up to support people impacted by the pandemic. By providing easy access to reliable, trained and insured volunteers who can respond to ad-hoc support requests, some of the most vulnerable people in Edinburgh have been helped, particularly those who had no familial or neighbour support.

As of 28 June 2021, 5740 deployments of CTV support have been delivered. This has included 1479 shopping tasks, 1210 dog walking tasks, 97 prescription collections/delivery, 128 gardening tasks, 65 waste/recycling tasks and a variety of other one-off, practical tasks. In addition to providing support directly to members of the public, Community Taskforce Volunteers have been able to support statutory sector partners. A successful partnership has been forged with NHS Audiology to collect and deliver directly to patient's homes, repaired hearing aids. To date 492 hearing aids have been delivered. Engaging volunteers in this task has reduced the return time to patients by 6-9 days.

During winter 2020, Community Taskforce Volunteers were involved in supporting the Health and Social Care Partnership flu vaccination clinics across the city. 561 shifts were undertaken by CTVs, donating 2244 hours of volunteer time. Since the start of the COVID

vaccination clinics Community Taskforce Volunteers have undertaken 1326 shifts to provide support in community clinics, equivalent to 5304 hours of support.

In South West Edinburgh, the GoBeyond network enablers, Space and Broomhouse Hub, Big Hearts Community Trust and Whale Arts, are starting a conversation with the people who live and work there, about the area adopting a people led strategy to create a 'Community Wealth Building Locality', based on Wellbeing Economics and a greener recovery. This will be supported by the community anchor organisations mentioned, as well as embedded into the distributive and creative network that GoBeyond can facilitate, to involve many local and smaller community groups and initiatives, and led by people in local communities. The conversation will also involve the City of Edinburgh Community Planning Partners, Business and Scottish Government, about what this might mean for their understanding of the locality and the opportunities to 'build back better' and to be part of the growing community wealth and wellbeing economy approach locally and internationally.

**Falkirk:** CP will play an important role in recovery, with focus on grassroots and community engagement.

**Fife:** Found that place-based, community led approaches worked well to deliver emergency services at the start of the pandemic and that they will be crucial again in the recovery process. Helping Hand scheme for volunteers established in Fife. During the course of the pandemic Helping Hand has been inundated with requests from organisations, staff, volunteers and local people looking to help in their community. Although this has been great, a challenge with this has been coordinating offers and requests for help and also ensuring that all volunteers have something to do. In addition, Ready Scotland has also been rolled out which has meant that Helping Hand has had to make some changes and adapt. Helping Hand has been a success and the partnership wants to build on the momentum and sense of community connection.

**Inverclyde:** Community planning partners, the third sector and communities worked together to develop a pipeline of support to help individuals with shopping, food, prescriptions, escorts, repairs, digital support, dog walking and many bespoke requests for support that come from the community during the pandemic. This included the establishment of a shielding helpline, humanitarian assistance centre and helpline for anyone requiring support regardless of their circumstances, a prescription collection service, the distribution of food parcels to support those in need, keep in contact and welfare calls to local people and the development of a resource pack containing information on how to access food and support services. There was a coordinated and consistent approach to communications between all partners within the public and third sector to ensure that the community were kept up to date at all times regarding the support that was available.

In addition, a social movement, 'Inverclyde cares' is being developed to promote kindness and compassion. It is a partnership between services and communities and creates opportunities for acts of kindness, building on the resilience and capacity that communities demonstrated to look after each during the first lockdown.

**Midlothian:** CPP board took on the role of community resilience coordination at the outset, meeting weekly initially to ensure immediate response systems were pulled together. This

enabled swift creating local resilience hubs led by community councils, anchor community organisations supported by the Council CLD team and third sector front line staff, alongside adult health and care teams. Hundreds of local volunteers were enabled to direct their efforts to those most in need for food, medicine, social isolation, emergency repairs, banking and access to money. The initial collective response demonstrated how rules and boundaries could be adjusted swiftly in the face of the crisis. Resilience work was delegated to the partnership's "Care for people" multi agency group including community groups and third sector partners. This groups put systems of longer-term support in place and responded to the shielding groups' requirements. The CPP Board then turned its collective attention to the employment issue arising and a joint pledge was created and approved by the board committing all partners to co – working in practical ways to get Midlothian residents back into work.

The resulting joint working group under the Improving Opportunities theme of the CPP includes Colleges, DWP, and SSSA, Council, NHS, Third sector, employer's organisations, SDS and training providers. The shared action plan is now well underway, with initial successes including the retention of 100 pupils who had planned to leave for work (in the height of phase 1 lockdown) at the end of s4 in a vocational learning programme and remaining on the secondary school roll. A tripartite Kickstart programme has been created with 30 jobs in the council, 30 in the third sector and 30 in SME private sector employers.

**North Ayrshire** – Partner managed to set up Community Support Hubs really quickly – going live on 23<sup>rd</sup> March. Partners worked together with volunteers and staff redeployed from elsewhere. This was aligned to the locality model already in place. See [here](#) for more information on one of these Hubs, in the Three Towns locality area. As this separate [report](#) describes, pre-existing work by North Ayrshire to drive a commitment to Kindness has supported accelerated impact from the work of the Three Towns Hub.

The Community Planning website was already well established as a central point for information. This was developed during the lockdown period with daily updates on what shops were open, who was providing deliveries, how partner services were operating and signposting to community support hubs. It was vital to quickly establish a reliable and responsive information service. Partners and communities supported this by providing updates and cascading the messaging.

The CPP also developed "Community Books" for each locality. Not just COVID focussed, it gives people information on all the links to information they may need in a crisis such as GP, Money Advice, etc. An online community centre was developed through Facebook. There were an overwhelming number of responses to volunteering.

**North Lanarkshire:** Communities responded very quickly at a locality level and mobilised resources and local knowledge to respond to immediate need. Community Support approaches were developed very quickly through partners working together to respond to national requirements and local need. Strategic group established to coordinate response (LA, NHS, and third sector interface), this has now evolved to become a Recovery and Renewal Group with direct link into Silver command and Resilience Partnership as required. Operational Locality Response (and later recovery) Teams were quickly established to support local community and voluntary sector response efforts and volunteering focusing on referral processes for community assistance, consistent



messaging, guidance and protocols and funding coordination and support for community and voluntary sector organisations.

**Outer Hebrides:** In a region where communities are traditionally self-reliant, neighbours quickly formed groups, many before statutory responses had been established, to cover their immediate area and set up WhatsApp and Facebook groups. Resident associations, local trusts, churches, and community councils have been reaching out to support their immediate community e.g. prescription & food delivery. Some of these local groups have been willing to be part of the larger, more formal co-ordinated response. While up-take of support (e.g. food parcel delivery) has been high, older indigenous communities have been slower or more reticent to accept aid. The TSI and third sector have supported statutory agencies to identify those who are not known to, or held on defined lists by, public sector bodies to ensure their immediate needs are being met.

**Perth and Kinross:** Communities responded much more quickly than the public sector and organised themselves to deliver food/prescriptions/check in on vulnerable people in a matter of days. 1000 volunteers registered and 70+ community organisations working with them. PKC led on support for those identified as shielding or otherwise vulnerable to try to complement local activities. They are now in the process of redrafting a Volunteering Strategy to try and capitalise on this level of interest and involvement. Of the 1000 registered: 302 happy to volunteer long term, 126 happy to be involved in a wellbeing helpline, 160 happy to help with ongoing food distribution, and 136 (with PVG) happy to help with prescription delivery. Greater ability for council and partners to be more proactive and less risk averse by placing more trust in communities. In recovery phase, resource will require a greater ask of partners and communities. Striving towards Trusted CP scheme. With emergency response powers enacted during lockdown, a community support webpage was created with information regarding funding, community groups, shielding, volunteering etc. A helpline and email were set up, staffed by people from community service.

2 Sisters Outbreak; The COVID-19 outbreak in Coupar Angus was a major incident during the pandemic where CPP partners came together to contain an outbreak of COVID-19. Within two weeks of the first positive test a total of 201 cases were recorded in Coupar Angus (174 from factory workers and 27 from close contacts). The factory was closed, and all workers had to self-isolate for a period of two weeks to contain the virus. The key challenges facing partner agencies were communications, food and welfare.

*Communications* - The workforce of over 700 permanent employees and around 300 agency staff were almost all foreign nationals, many of whom had limited English. 17 different languages in total were spoken across the affected group. Employees lived in communities across Tayside and in response partners, including the Council, PKAVS, NHS Tayside and partners from across Tayside so a range of approaches were required.: By continuing to reinforce clear and simple messages and reassuring affected individuals and families we were able to reduce community transmission and prevent the need for a local lockdown.

*Food and Welfare* - Over 100 households in Perth and Kinross had door to door checks in the first 24 hours and these continued throughout the period. Each household received a food parcel and information on testing and welfare support in Polish, Romanian and Bulgarian. Within 48 hours of the outbreak, the Council and community volunteers had

delivered over 700 food parcels and completed a doorstep welfare check to every affected household in Perth and Kinross. Colleagues in Angus and Dundee also completed welfare checks and delivered food parcels where necessary. Comprehensive information on restrictions was provided and crisis cash grants were given to people in serious financial difficulty.

**Renfrewshire** - Local interface engaged quickly with a volunteer data base set up. Extremely high number of volunteers have come forward and the hope is that the partnership engages with these people going forward. Many elderly volunteers have come forward however, concerns over whether they would be able to continue providing their help due to own health and shielding. In terms of empowerment, people have been able to just get on and do things, as they've been able to avoid the decision-making channels they have been using so far. Want to ensure groups that have worked well are sustained going forward. Neighbourhood hubs have been set up and are responding to the needs of people. As this has been successful, partnership is now exploring ways that this can be rolled out and become business as usual. See [here](#) for more information on Renfrewshire's Neighbourhood Hubs.

The effective partnership working that developed in response to the pandemic was highlighted in a recent report by the Carnegie Trust. The report highlighted the significant work that had been co-ordinated with all partners to ensure vulnerable people received support in relation to food, medicine, isolation: - 7 neighbourhood hubs were established in partnership with Renfrewshire HSCP, Renfrewshire Leisure and Engage Renfrewshire. Volunteering is integral to the approach being developed in Renfrewshire.

A local food network was established to support community food provision and regular resilience meetings were held with community partners to remove barriers and support activity. The hubs supported the Connecting Scotland programme, which provided digital devices and connectivity to those most vulnerable, and also provided cultural and creative, befriending and connection opportunities for local people.

Partners are now working together to embed this work into a more permanent model, with a key focus on continuing to develop partnership working at all levels across Renfrewshire's communities.

**Scottish Borders:** The response within the Borders from our communities and Resilient Teams was outstanding - Resilient Teams across the Borders were mobilised within a few days of lockdown and more Teams were established over the following weeks. The Emergency Planning Team supplied community volunteers and groups with appropriate PPE to support them in the tasks they were undertaking. Community Councils and sub-groups were also keen to support and liaised and worked in partnership with the Resilient Teams. These teams knew what was required at a very local level, and delivered food parcels, medication, food vouchers and also assisted with online shopping distribution. Many individuals described themselves as being "good neighbours" rather than volunteers and supported those within their communities. Community Assistance Hubs were set up in the first week of lockdown and were supported by community planning partners to provide a single point of contact for those seeking support. These Hubs have proved valuable and are continuing, with weekly community meetings to develop further partnership working at all levels.

**Shetland Islands:** Fantastic community response. CPP role was really to support the communities to respond in the way that fitted their own locality. Large numbers of volunteers which was coordinated through Red Cross and Third Sector response. Issues around data and connectivity. Communities don't have equal access to the internet which has been a real challenge. Shetland Islands are about to begin a round of community conversations working with community organisations listening to their experiences and how they think these new ways of working can be sustained.

**South Ayrshire:** There was a huge response from community groups to the pandemic in South Ayrshire. Groups such as St Meddans, Symington Village, Troon Harbour Group, Newlife Prestwick, Ballantrae Support Group and Coylton Community Support, plus many other others, helped to deliver frontline services such as food parcels, medication and phone calls to vulnerable/isolated people.

**South Lanarkshire:** The community response was phenomenal and led by local communities and organisations who mobilised quickly to support those in need. There were approximately 47 groups/organisations providing support to their communities. At a local level, the CPP took on a supporting role, through facilitation, building capacity, nurturing relationships/groups and problem solving. Work was undertaken to map community provision across the area. Gaps were quickly identified and areas where better collaboration between groups was required. Work was undertaken by Community Development Officers to develop local response networks and to forge links between the various community responders to ensure a more cohesive approach.

Along with the local responses and the recruitment of local volunteers, approximately 1,500 central volunteers came forward and were supported by VASlan (the local TSI) to identify local volunteer opportunities. In many of the areas the local private sector was also involved including a number of businesses offering their help, this included for example, vehicles (including LGV's), equipment and staff, such as drivers.

In response to the pandemic, a Community Wellbeing Helpline which provided support regarding any identified need was established and whilst this was delivered via the council, a partnership approach was taken, for example Scottish Fire and Rescue Services delivered prescriptions and community responders provided a range of supports to meet the needs of local people. Individual referral processes were agreed with each of the community response groups who supplied and delivered food, prescriptions and other interventions. Many communities, mostly in our rural area were well supported locally and did not use the Wellbeing Helpline.

Examples of support provided through the Helpline included help with money worries, power top ups, general wellbeing and mental health, getting online and finding a dog walker. As time went on, the helpline was expanded to support the delivery of other services that had ceased/were challenging to deliver as a result of the pandemic such as the supply of hearing aid batteries, sanitary provision and passing on information to new mothers on behalf of the NHS.

The council used food fund monies to support the community responders and is operating a temporary food hub to manage the logistics of food supply. There was strong support in three key areas: CPP support; Third Sector/Community delivery response; and Linking need with community responders.

**West Lothian:** A good example of community mobilisation and community planning on the ground is the West Lothian Community Food Hub. A range of third sector organisations were very quick to respond to getting emergency food to people in the early stages of the pandemic. They then came together to form a food hub managed by third sector organisations, with funding from the council. There are around 33 community food providers involved, who are working together to ensure that all vulnerable people that need access to food can get it. The day to day operation of the hub is being run by the foodbanks. A video has been developed to demonstrate the work of the food hub over the last few months – <https://vimeo.com/453969458/b29097d9ff>

Close links with the TSI have been essential, as they have been responsible for coordinating the 1,200 volunteers who came forward.

## ***Using and refocusing existing partnership infrastructure and relationships***

**Aberdeen:** New partnerships have been formed. Oil companies have come forward and shown willingness to support and help. In October, an online event will take place with the business community in Aberdeen. A platform has been developed to give business a menu of options about how they might be able to support the partnership. This will help link businesses with longer term goals of the partnership e.g. apprenticeships, getting access to digital devices etc. and help create a new way of working. Aberdeen also developed a group for the council and HSCP to work together (not a part of the formal structure). Group has been meeting weekly to discuss resources for communities. This has been very helpful in terms of integrating resources around locality areas. There will be a review of locality planning structures, potential to integrate HSCP with CPP Aberdeen Locality group.

**Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire & Moray:** The Grampian Assistance Hub was launched to provide people across Grampian with a one-stop source of support and information on how to access social, practical and emotional support on Coronavirus (COVID-19). Set up by range of partners including all three local authorities, Police Scotland, NHS Grampian, Red Cross, volunteers and community groups.

**Aberdeenshire:** Council, NHS Grampian and other agencies set up a programme to deliver fresh food produce to some of the most disadvantaged rural households. They shared data to identify the households most in need. Achieved positive outcomes, supported by open and trusting working among partners.

**Angus:** In the early weeks of the outbreak, Angus Council set up an emergency response team, HAART (Humanitarian Assistance Angus Response Team) to coordinate efforts between the council's community team and VAA (Voluntary Action Angus) to deliver support to the community, particularly those who were shielding, and/or vulnerable. This included food parcels, prescriptions etc. This approach was so successful that the CPP have now used it to inform how community planning and partnership working are taken forward in the future. The pandemic has been a catalyst for change, with structures which didn't work well before being removed and the board, executive and wider partnership are now all working together. The change in structures has been positive, with everyone working well together. Interested in exploring the combining of structures further. A Task and Finish group has been formed to explore this using a demand management model; with wrapping around of services based on listening events and survey feedback. In addition, the mapping of customer pathways has begun which will feed into the planned service design sessions. The purpose of this will be to ensure everything is aligned. Also looking at utilising community councils and other existing groups to get message across about accessing services.

**Argyll and Bute:** Good relationships established through the CPP enabled quick work of partners to create the required initial response. In Argyll and Bute this included a Caring for People Partnership led by Public Health, Argyll and Bute Council (Community Planning and Development team), TSI and also included community response groups and SFRS as key partners.

This Caring for People Partnership were able to link with local groups to ensure prescriptions and food were delivered to those who needed assistance. The Fire Service

were also able to assist with checking on those who were shielded where contact was not able to be made. More recently, some fire stations are now being offered as testing centres. Public Health worked closely with the Caring for People Partnership to develop the strategy for the delivery of prescriptions by volunteers.

In November 2020, the Building Back Better (Communities) Group initiated a consultation asking Covid-19 community response groups and the wider community to share their experiences of the pandemic, including the impacts and the positives that could be built upon or strengthened in the future. The Building Back Better (Communities) Group is a sub-group of Argyll and Bute Council's overall Recovery Framework, established to ensure that the role of the community in responding to the pandemic, the impacts and the strengths of this, are included as part of the learning and development to Build Back Better. The current membership has lead officers from the Third Sector Interface, Argyll & Bute Council and NHS Highland. Key themes addressed by this group include Income Maximisation, Food, Volunteers and Volunteering, Social Isolation and Mental Health, Resilient Communities, Young People and Communication. It is seen that the CPP is the main body for which to embed the work of the Building Back Better group.

**Dumfries and Galloway:** There was a regional Community Food Providers Network which met occasionally, as the CPP's Locality Plan is focused on food sharing. From the start of the lockdown this Network was strengthened with more regular meetings on Zoom – participants were Dumfries and Galloway Council, Community Health Development Practitioners within the NHS, Third Sector Interface and the Community Food Providers. The focus has been on delivering emergency food to individuals and families in need across the region :people financially at risk, short term isolators, including those who are advised to self-isolate via Test and Protect, marginalised groups and people who have experienced physical barriers to accessing food and other essentials.

Since the cessation of shielding support, Community Food Providers have continued to meet referrals for those people who have been identified as being at extreme risk of severe illness from COVID-19 and require continued support with food provisions. The Network has been involved in determining the allocation of Hardship Fund monies to the Groups; and the Council has continued to pay for Fareshare registrations from its Anti- Poverty Budget as a result of the Network's influence.

A new Community Planning COVID Recovery Group has been established, chaired by the TSI; and a COVID Recovery Plan, developed initially by the Local Resilience Partnership then developed into a wider approach, complementing the Economic Recovery Plan.

**Dundee:** Made use of existing partnerships in order to facilitate the emergency response. Indeed, many members of the Emergency Management Team were also existing members of the CPP in Dundee, allowing a smooth transition to emergency planning mode. Pre-existing relationships meant trust already existed between partners and so work could get started a lot quicker. Communication between partners has improved with the ability to draw together cohesive responses. CP was important in helping identify gaps and build capacity. Dundee learnt that partnerships which were well embedded within their local communities were more easily able to respond and also had already earned the buy-in of the local community. Without these pre-existing relationships, the response would have been much slower/less effective. Due to restrictions brought in by Covid, plus the fact that many members of the CPP were also Emergency Management Team members, the CP Board

have not been able to meet frequently and certainly weren't available at the start of the crisis. However, the thematic partnerships were able to get up and running almost immediately and were self-sufficient enough to do vital work without the direction of the board.

**East Lothian:** Overall great partnership work happening with the help of good relationships between council and partners at both strategic and operational level. This contributed to good partnership working at local level. Built good working relationships at strategic level in last few years with Police. Since the pandemic, held weekly council management meetings to get updates and discuss key issues such as new restrictions. These helped cement good cooperation both at strategic and operational level.

**East Renfrewshire:** Community planning partners agreed to review operating structure to become more flexible and adaptable, as a direct response to the impacts of the pandemic. This video was produced to share and celebrate the early work of the partnership which was important when the number of formal meetings had very much reduced to allow a focus on action. When we did meet as a full partnership, this was online which worked well, with some partners feeling this format allowed for more open discussion.

**Edinburgh:** The Local Homelessness Resilience Group, a multi-agency group, comprising representation from the City of Edinburgh Council, Public Health and homeless support organisations (Streetwork, Cyrenians, Social Bite) was initially formed for the purpose of developing plans to support Edinburgh's homeless community during periods of adverse weather. At the outset of the pandemic, the membership of this established forum was widened and repurposed to focus on safeguarding this vulnerable community during the COVID lockdown period. During this period, in excess of 150 homeless persons were provided with accommodation, food and access to support. From a community planning perspective, this maximised the opportunities for housing stability, multi-agency effort centred on securing and accessing longer-term housing/repatriation (where appropriate), training and employment, immunisations and methadone programmes. The Edinburgh Partnership Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) Delivery Group, incorporating No One Left Behind, were presented with an issue needing a partnership response. The Hospitality industry in Edinburgh had been majorly impacted by COVID and was struggling to reopen and to recruit and retain staff. Absences due to COVID outbreaks were also a concern. In response, a short life working group was put in place under the LOIP Delivery Group to co-ordinate a collective response. This included:

- the Department of Work and Pensions creating 5 sector based work academies for 60 clients on Universal Credit to get the necessary skills and tickets to enter the industry;
- Edinburgh College adjusting their Skills Boost hospitality courses to respond to the higher level skills shortages;
- NHS Lothian working with Lothian buses to provide vaccination buses to reduce COVID absences in staff with a focus on those under 30;
- Skills Development Scotland providing PACE (redundancy support) to quickly retrain people made redundant to stop them becoming unemployed (this included extensive work with Edinburgh airport);
- University of Edinburgh promoting offers with students who were staying for the summer or returning early;

- the Chamber of Commerce surveying hospitality members to better understand the issues to respond from an evidence base. This led to increased recruitment into the industry and support for the City Centre recovery.

It was acknowledged early in the pandemic that waste build up at high rise flats would be an issue. With people stuck indoors for extended periods and increases in home deliveries there was a significantly higher risk of fire. To address this, Lothian Fire and Rescue Service met monthly with officers from the City of Edinburgh Council to agree additional actions that could be undertaken. This included communicating with and educating residents about the dangers and the Council increasing waste collection at identified premises.

**Falkirk:** More aware of different groups and developed trust between groups. Some partner relationships have been significantly strengthened. Working better together than previously and more aware of each other's strengths than before.

**Fife:** Challenging times have shown CPP in action; despite not always following formal procedures. There are nine thematic partnerships in Fife; they are all being encouraged to think about the way they work and what their priorities will be going forward.

**Glasgow:** As the emergency phase of the pandemic gave way to the recovery phase, Glasgow set up a Social Recovery Taskforce to ensure that issues such as poverty and inequality were tackled as part of the Covid recovery in Glasgow. The Taskforce brings together representatives from community planning partners, third sector and voluntary organisations, to look at how the city can rebuild and recover socially from coronavirus. From this a partnership was created between Glasgow Disability Alliance and Glasgow City Council to build on existing work and implement the recommendations of GDA's report.

Glasgow City Council were asked as part of SOLACE to hold Community Listening Events. This work has spurred a specific piece of Community Engagement to inform the SRT. They will also work in partnership with the Economic Recovery Taskforce.

**Inverclyde:** Inverclyde's Community Planning Partnership has developed a Covid-19 Partnership Recovery Plan to document partnership arrangements for recovery from the pandemic for Inverclyde. Three sub-groups have been established to focus on recovery activities across key areas and each recovery group has developed a detailed action plan. The three sub-groups are economic recovery, humanitarian recovery and education, sport and culture recovery. Progress is reported to every meeting of the Community Planning Partnership.

**Midlothian:** Working with partners such as the DWP, Edinburgh College and the Third Sector to improve employability in their area, with a specific focus on school leavers and those with barriers to employment. This focuses on large public-sector employers offering apprenticeships, training schemes and volunteering opportunities, whilst offering additional support to help others into employment in other organisations. Some highlights of what has been achieved working together so far include:

- 108 s4 pupils for the 6 Midlothian secondary schools who had planned to leave at 16 to seek work remained on the school roll and took up a programme of vocational learning / personal development managed by the Community learning service with support from



schools, FE and SDS colleagues. this prevented them entering the labour market at a time of crisis /lockdown and involved around 80 of them taking Foundation apprenticeships as part of continuing learning and qualifications to make them more competitive in the labour market

- Partnership agreement signed between Council and Regional DYW board embedding DYW staff in the high schools working collaboratively with Community learning, SDS, College and employers to increase connections between schools and the labour market
- Shared Kickstart bid by Council and third sector to deliver 60 local places under this DWP funded programme, with the council, acting as the Gateway for 30 places in third sector and taking on 30 young people itself (at living wage rates)
- Partnership delivery of PACE service to 8 local businesses making redundancies involving SDS, Community learning, DWP and College
- Shared jobs page created on the Economic Development “locate in Midlothian” webpage <https://locateinmidlothian.co.uk/jobs/> which is being used by employers to advertise live vacancies, with links to DWP/SDS / City region deal/ Council / College and third sector Employability services
- The Employability Pledge signed up to by the CPP in June 2020.

**North Ayrshire:** Partners supported the community support hub work, financially, with local intelligence and relationships and with staff and volunteer time. Following a period of focusing partner work on immediate pandemic responses, we then recommenced our usual meeting schedules, moving to on-line. A number of these meetings involve members of our community who may not have access to digital devices, sufficient data or the confidence or skills to participate. We have addressed these issues by providing devices/data to individuals via schemes such as Get Connected, as well as loaning out devices, and providing training.

**North Lanarkshire** – At an early stage of pandemic when focus was very much on response, action came from established relationships and a need for action rather than official CPP structures. As outlined above a Response, Recovery and Renewal Group was established to coordinate and support response efforts and then plan for recovery with the community and voluntary sector. Locality operational teams supported work across the 9 distinct areas of NL through local community and voluntary sector response efforts and volunteering focusing on referral processes for community assistance, consistent messaging, guidance and protocols and funding coordination and support for community and voluntary sector organisations. However, as we moved from initial reaction to more proactive and planned approaches we have started to reflect response and recovery across key partnership workstreams and structures and to use learning from uniform future partnership approaches. The pandemic highlighted ‘Community Planning’ in action and demonstrated that when we need to we can work differently, quickly and flexibly to act and respond to community need and to work with communities to make a difference.

**Orkney Islands:** Initial response to the crisis has been primarily Council led. However, now that the focus is moving towards recovery, several resilience groups have been set up. CPP now working closer together with council groups, relationships strengthened over time however, there is still room for improvement in terms of better aligning the work of partners. Delivery groups are still working on their usual priorities however, prioritising work and having increased focus on what needs to be done immediately. The recovery phase has

seen huge engagement from the business community. Businesses supported to set up their own steering group and report directly to the board.

**Outer Hebrides:** Partners in Uist, Barra and Harris collated information about support available for residents. Worked to make this available to as many people as possible and especially those who had no on-line access and who might be vulnerable but who were not necessarily on 'shielding lists' or known to public agencies. In Uist, for example, a Community Information & Services booklet was delivered to every household.

**Perth & Kinross:** Move to locality-based delivery model for services using multidisciplinary teams i.e. the potential to shift to 5 localities and 5 hubs would make delivering food parcels easier and more efficient than using 1 central model. Locality decision making worked very well; Council funding to support investment and delivery of locality action plan used to support local groups responding to COVID related issues. Given enough support and resource, locality decision making can be done efficiently and effectively. Devolved decision making and resource at a locality level comes with political and cultural issues. The need to respond quickly due to COVID allowed for less risk averse behaviour of information sharing between partners than before. Partners have also been flexible and responsive in redeploying staff to support the emergency response. For example, within the council, when lockdown began, parking attendants were re-tasked to collect and deliver prescriptions, deliver food packages to the shielding & vulnerable, as well as deliver technology i.e. iPads (Connecting Scotland project). They have only recently gone back to their day jobs.

**Scottish Borders:** Scottish Borders had an established Resilient Team network across the Borders, and therefore were able to ask for assistance within days of first lockdown.

Community Assistance Hubs were set up in the first week of lockdown and were supported by community planning partners to provide a single point of contact for those seeking support. These Hubs have proved valuable and are continuing, with weekly community meetings to develop further partnership working at all levels.

Looking at failings and where things haven't joined up but also looking at what has worked well will be key. During the pandemic, discovered people that were not receiving services prior to Covid-19 however, they are vulnerable groups and going forward this information needs to be captured as the CPP has a responsibility towards these people and ensuring that they are okay in the future. Challenge going forward is how to hold on to these people and ensure that they do not get lost along the way. Should this be local knowledge, stored in a database or picked up by community resilience teams? Even though the earlier response to the pandemic hasn't always gone through the CPPs, CPPs have a role in the resilience work. It is important to bring the right people to the table.

**Shetland Islands:** Specified partners were all heavily involved along with the TSI. The Resilience Partnership consists of the main CP partners so when Community Planning meetings were suspended the Resilience Partnership was still meeting most days. Management and Leadership Team (5 specified partners + public health) met regularly which was very focussed and provided leadership which has helped partnership working and resilience planning. Care for People Team had brought together people from across organisations in a way that had maybe been a gap before. Reflecting on whether there is a

longer-term role as an executive group that can be linked to partnership planning. A project called “Anchor” which provides support to vulnerable households has been vital in providing support to those who were vulnerable or shielding in this crisis.

**South Ayrshire:** Officers South Ayrshire Council quickly established, coordinated and managed a comprehensive community resilience response. Whilst this was principally Council led, partners were involved in the response. CPP meetings took place during the pandemic, with a focus on COVID-19 response. For the Strategic Delivery Partnerships (SDPs), discussion took place on what each of the SDPs were doing in relation to their current position and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and if there were any areas of focus that need to change.

**South Lanarkshire:** In relation to the Community Planning Partnership Board, meetings were reconvened online in July 2020 and the Board considered a range of COVID-19 updates at that meeting. The Partnership’s Progress Group started meeting again during May 2020 to share information/address challenges re the pandemic response. Before COVID the Board were in the midst of a governance review and have now agreed significant changes to how the Board operates and is structured. This includes working with communities to develop our new LOIP priorities and work has also started to support communities to develop new ‘Community Partnerships’ at a locality level. These structures will link directly with the CPP Board on a strategic level and with Neighbourhood Planning groups at a local level.

As a result of the local partnership activity, newly formed groups and some co-ordination groups continue to prepare for any future spike in the pandemic and to continue to assist in a post COVID future. Some partnership areas have been looking at more sustainable food provision which has included for example the establishment of community larders.

VASlan and the Third Sector Chief Officers Group have established a Business Continuity and Strategy Group to capture the key learning from the community responses and to build on this work for the future. The council has retained the Wellbeing Helpline and this continues to be supported by community responders. A local food network involving community food organisations in South Lanarkshire has been established with support from the council to respond to food insecurity. Whilst a partnership food network existed before the pandemic, the network has been reshaped as new organisations have emerged and new initiatives were developed to respond to new food insecurity challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. As the council has been regularly liaising with local food organisations to ensure food provision since March 2020, it is now supporting the development of the network by organising regular meetings and facilitating information sharing. The local food network aims at increasing collaboration between organisations and encouraging a partnership approach to tackle food insecurity.

**West Dunbartonshire:** There are five Delivery & Improvement Groups (DIGs) that operate within West Dunbartonshire; the flourishing DIG, the independent DIG, the nurtured DIG, the empowered DIG and the safe DIG. In normal times, the DIGs report back to Community Planning West Dunbartonshire, however as a result of the pandemic there have been no meetings of the CPWD for several months, but that hasn’t stopped the DIGs from assisting both the emergency response and recovery. The various DIGs have worked with local partners to improve employability, support frail and vulnerable people, provide additional support to those experiencing abuse, and community justice.

**West Lothian:** Similar to other areas, the immediate response to the pandemic was largely council-led. West Lothian CPP Board did not meet formally in the initial months, but quarterly meetings began again in September. Although the Board did not meet formally, partners did have ongoing discussions that grew organically from the start of the pandemic, building on existing CPP structures. An Economic Recovery and Growth Plan was developed and an economic recovery group continues to meet weekly to allow partners to gather and share data and ensure joined up approaches, reducing duplication and maximising resources to support businesses and local people seeking employment or training opportunities. This has rationalised a number of different groups that had been meeting into one group. A Health & Wellbeing/Anti-Poverty working group was set up to gather evidence of activity in response to social needs related to COVID-19, to understand the COVID-19 policy landscape and also the potential policy and financial barriers and challenges. This process captured key activity during the first phase of the pandemic and helped to identify future needs which will support the CPP in planning for the future. A community survey was carried out to ask for feedback on initial emerging priorities and additional issues. The initial work has highlighted broad themes which were reported to the CPP Board and have assisted discussion on determining the role of the CPP in recovery.

### ***Using the knowledge and expertise of the Third Sector Interface (TSI)***

**Aberdeenshire:** There is a strong partnership approach to the Third Sector in Aberdeenshire with the TSI Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action, local third sector groups, Aberdeenshire Council and Rural Partnerships forming the Third Sector Strategy Group. In November 2020 they celebrated third sector week which included Covid response work in Aberdeenshire communities. Examples of this can be seen in these videos – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2GuwBfRRSgl&feature=youtu.be>, <https://youtu.be/vrvsFg0tmO8>, <https://youtu.be/CYaNlyhwzcl>

**Angus:** Demand for local TSI was so high that the council were looking into extra support for call handlers. This work is further developing under the Transforming Services work through which we have developed a charter and principles underpinning how we will continue to collaborate and share services – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rU7vb8iXuF8&feature=youtu.be>

**Argyll and Bute:** The CPP through the Caring for People Partnership built on the close relationship with the TSI with the use of the volunteer database and promotion of volunteering opportunities. The TSI's input was actively sought into plans and strategies and they were key, active members with a lead role in both the Care for People partnership meetings, Test and Protect meetings and Building Back Better (Communities).

**Dumfries and Galloway:** The TSI database of volunteers was key to be able to register and approve volunteers quickly and efficiently at the start of lockdown with the Council issuing identify cards; and the Engagement Officers have supported the creation of locality hubs, where local representatives of key public sector partners came together to co-ordinate activity. Support for digital connectivity has also been developed with the TSI, the Council and Enterprise Agency, with long term arrangements now being put in place for the TSI to lead this work.

**East Renfrewshire:** The local TSI (Voluntary Action East Renfrewshire) has played a key role in the local Humanitarian response to the pandemic, coordinating the community response (The Community Hub) from the outset and working at pace. They are now working closely with the local vaccination programme team to offer transport solutions to those in need working with a number of local providers and routing all requests via their established Community Hub number. The council have aligned staff to help establish and develop the Hub model.

**Edinburgh:** Recognising the disproportionate impact of the COVID pandemic on those struggling with the consequences of social inequality and poverty, during May 2020, the City of Edinburgh and Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations Council set up Locality Operational Groups (one in each of our 4 localities) and a Task Force to oversee its work. Brigading capability and capacity across public and voluntary sectors, each LOG has 6 voluntary sector members and 6 members from across the Council. The Groups sought, received, and reviewed referrals from agencies within their respective areas, with a focus on families and children and young people, who had not or did not currently meet the threshold for traditional support. The LOGs identified a lead agency to engage with appropriate support service(s), predominantly third sector partners, to ensure that vulnerable individuals and families received support. Since April 2020 over 250 referrals have been dealt with. Information gathered about emerging needs is fed into the Task Force and this is then shared with the Children's Partnership to assist in planning. This allows key decision makers to have real time information about emerging challenges in communities. One example has been digital poverty issues and an increasing recognition of the need for a more joined up City approach to supporting families to have access to and support to manage digital devices.

The Beat Hunger campaign was developed as an innovative approach to tackle food inequality and poverty and to empower the most vulnerable citizens within the North East of the City to make positive life choices. The initiative was funded from the Police Scotland's Deputy Chief Constable's Local Partnership and Initiative fund with support from retail partners including Edinburgh Community Foods, Capital Wholesalers, Asda and Tesco. Working in partnership with Edinburgh North East Foodbank, phase 1 focused on distributing 'Beat Boxes' to the most vulnerable within the locality (83 boxes distributed). As context, each box provided fresh and long-life ingredients provided by retailers, along with cooking utensils, a bespoke community cookbook created by Michelin starred chef, Martin Wishart, and a suite of literature covering family, financial and mental health together reading materials and activity ideas for children. Predicated on referrals from partners including, Community Renewal, Dr Bell's Family Centre, Castleview Primary School, Edinburgh City Mission and the City of Edinburgh Council, phase 2 supported 28 vulnerable families over a 4 week period (112 boxes distributed). Recognising the school holidays as an acute period, phase 3 capitalised on Edinburgh Community Foods' provision of school holiday food support boxes, with the contents having been supplemented with literature on mental health support and online safety (350 boxes distributed). Recognising the imperative of community voices, feedback was sought and has been overwhelmingly positive.

It was through using the strength of the Edinburgh Partnership collective efforts that a quick and effective response was achieved to make a difference and gain further strategic traction around the Fair Work agenda.

**Falkirk:** Very good relationship established between council and TSI. Pandemic response set up by council with help of TSI. Started by doing some of same work i.e. directory of community groups, but then took up joint approach. Partnership work happened naturally, with help of grass root.

**Inverclyde:** Volunteering was a significant part of the response to the pandemic within Inverclyde. CVS Inverclyde in their role as the TSI co-ordinated the majority of the volunteer response locally. This included 'Volunteer Inverclyde', an initiative to link local people with volunteering opportunities arising from Covid-19. Working in partnership with the CVS Inverclyde (the local TSI organisation), we created a single point of contact for residents in need during the coronavirus pandemic. A phone line which was operational 7 days per week helped people to access provisions, support and advice. Through our unique partnership with CVSI, those individuals whose needs could be better met within the community were referred to the Volunteer Coordinator. Hosted by CVSI, the Volunteer Coordinator spoke with each person to identify their needs and sign post them to the relevant 3rd sector organisation(s). Where appropriate, the Volunteer Coordinator would arrange for a volunteer to deliver food parcels, purchase additional fresh items to supplement food parcels, collect prescriptions and support access to other emergency provisions. The partnership with CVSI and the support of the diverse local 3rd sector provided the people of Inverclyde with a collaborative and holistic approach to support during difficult and unprecedented times.

**North Ayrshire:** There was a joint approach with the TSI to supporting local organisations. Fortnightly meetings took place between NAC officers with remits for funding, community development and social enterprise along with Third Sector colleagues. This was to share information about funding opportunities and organisations in need of help. We created a joint spreadsheet so we could track successful applications, and consequently identify gaps and opportunities. We also shared which organisations we were working with, to prevent duplication. NAC officers helped the TSI with outreach work to local organisations to establish need.

**North Lanarkshire:** TSI in NL has been a key and important partner throughout the pandemic. As outlined above a focused response and recovery partnership approach was established very early on with key CPP's (NHS, LA and TSI) to coordinate efforts to supporting community response. An action plan outlined key priorities and responsibility for delivery at any given time. The TSI was involved in managing the community assistance referral process, coordinating volunteer offers, communicating key messages and supporting work to engage the voluntary sector to understand and respond to their support needs. In terms of referrals the councils Financial Inclusion Team responded to and coordinated access to food requested through community assistance helpline while VANL supported and coordinated local approaches to accessing prescriptions, shopping, dog walking and befriending calls. They also worked with partners to develop protocols, support vol sector access to available funding and engage with the com and vol sector to assess and respond to their support needs.

**Renfrewshire:** Engage Renfrewshire, the TSI in Renfrewshire, worked together with Renfrewshire Council to identify the most appropriate third sector recipients for Scottish Government funding support for Covid-related activity. Council staff joined Engage's daily meeting during the early months of Covid to co-ordinate response and also share knowledge about local third sector activity. Engage Renfrewshire undertook all activities

relating to the recruitment of volunteers to support Neighbourhood Hubs set up by community planning partners in Renfrewshire. Engage Renfrewshire has played a key role in the group supporting community food responses to the Covid crisis and has also periodically facilitated meetings for third sector groups to share their experience, needs and future plans during the pandemic. Engage Renfrewshire has also played a key role in ensuring that local third sector groups have been able to access digital devices through the Connecting Scotland programme.

**Scottish Borders:** The Borders TSI joined the weekly Community Assistance Hub meetings and distributed key covid-19 messages out to communities, community councils, community centres and village halls. They have also assisted with digital champion support, transporting individuals to hospitals, vaccination appointments and dispersed micro-grants on behalf of national organisations and local wind-farms.

**South Ayrshire:** The Council and TSI (Voluntary Action South Ayrshire VASA) worked closely together to provide support to communities through the creation of the South Ayrshire Lifeline. To help coordinate volunteering across South Ayrshire the Council worked in partnership with VASA to promote and react to volunteering requests during the pandemic. Officers worked alongside VASA to develop volunteering opportunities and training throughout the pandemic. This partnership has helped form positive relationships and Community Planning Partners have agreed to continue to develop this partnership approach to volunteering to help establish a sustainable South Ayrshire volunteering network.

**South Lanarkshire -** Council and TSI worked closely to mobilise and support communities. Along with the local responses and the recruitment of local volunteers, approximately 1,500 central volunteers came forward and were supported by VASlan to identify local volunteer opportunities.

They were instrumental in managing the volunteer experience throughout the pandemic and they developed a new volunteer registration portal which ensured that all volunteer information was captured. By using their in-house Salesforce platform, they ensured swift communication of any volunteering opportunities to all volunteers as they became available. Voluntary groups were able to benefit from the efficiency of this system with one local organisation, LEAP receiving over 60 notes of interest within one hour of “broadcasting” their need. VASlan’s links with voluntary groups within the four main areas of South Lanarkshire further assisted with sharing information and ensured new and emerging groups received the support needed to provide necessary services to the community. VASlan initiated a community response group directory via their website to provide contact details and the type of support services available and has worked with a range of specialist providers to adapt their services to encompass revised and safe methods of service delivery during the pandemic. They were also able to support various groups with funding that supported local initiatives around the provision of food and distribution, volunteer expenses, activity packs and sundry equipment to support their applications to national funding sources.

**West Lothian:** Good links with the TSI, who coordinated the 1,200 volunteers as well as information sharing through their online Resource Hub. The TSI is working closely with NHS Lothian to support a local vaccination programme. There has been a strong response from volunteers to help out with this.

### ***Co-ordinating and connecting local and national responses.***

**Angus:** As lots of new groups have been formed local people often get confused about who they should receive support from and CPP played a key role in providing better coordination of these groups. For example, in some cases local people can receive up to three or four different food packs from different groups. Funding streams should be coordinated. A new function is being put in place to coordinate funding and lead the work of the Angus Response to Covid (ARC) team. This will complement the service redesign the Community Planning Partnership is working through. This will reshape the way we set actions and activity with an initial 2 pilots underway focusing on Woman's services and an Angus Transport Network.

**Argyll and Bute:** Good relationships established through the CPP enabled quick work of partners to create the required initial response. In Argyll and Bute this included a Caring for People Partnership led by Public Health, Argyll and Bute Council (Community Planning and Development team), TSI and also included community response groups and SFRS as key partners. This Caring for People Partnership were able to link with local groups to ensure prescriptions and food were delivered to those who needed assistance. Some of the community response groups are also active members of Local Area Community Planning Groups and have fed in their experience and updates to these meetings. The CPP through its links to partners and communities has played a key role in the local response.

**Dumfries and Galloway:** External funding is being monitored to give an overview of the region; ensure there is no duplication in effort and that communities most in need receive the support required. National Policy developments and local data and developments are published in a weekly Bulletin for all Councillors, MPs and MSPs and shared with partners. Updates on COVID are given at every CPP Board meeting.

**Glasgow:** The support and co-ordination provided by the CPP is important. New groups do not always have the right capacity/knowledge. Similar issues encountered in other areas where people are getting multiple knocks on their doors offering help. Everything needs to be tied to local evidence and needs. Call for a reset in relationship with the Scottish Government and closer working together.

**North Ayrshire:** One of the main roles of the Community Planning Team was signposting to relevant information. This was done through the Community Planning website with links to COVID support. We also published North Ayrshire wide daily briefings and if the information was available, we would also provide daily locality updates.

**North Lanarkshire:** It would have been useful at the earlier stages if there was better coordination of funds and a better grasp of what money is coming in and when. I think the approaches improved as LA's developed their response plans and better coordination locally has been built into the recovery planning (i.e., what's coming in and how communities are supported to access support. Again there was a gap between how to engage with and support newly formed groups which are doing a good job at supporting communities but often struggle to understand procedures, language, governance etc. and how more established community structures were able to access and respond to support. At the earlier stages support and opportunities from SG for the com and vol sector was not always as clear as it could be resulting in more work locally to target support to less established groups. Community support should be looked at in a rounded way.



**Perth & Kinross:** Local Action Partnerships (LAPs) are given a budget to support the delivery of their Locality Action Plan. In March 2020 LAPs agreed to open their budgets to bids from local community groups and voluntary organisations who were responding to needs in their community as a result of COVID-19 and lockdown. From March until the end of September 2020 over 70 different funding bids were supported by LAPs, committing over £180,000 in financial support to a variety of different projects and initiatives.

- *FeldyRoo* received funding to deliver hot meals to vulnerable people who were socially isolated in the Aberfeldy and wider Breadalbane area. The group delivered over 40,000 meals during this period and has received national recognition for their outstanding work in supporting community members during lockdown.
- *Logos* received a small grant to fund a Zoom account so they could deliver their youth activity sessions virtually and prevent young people from becoming isolated. This small grant has had a big impact on young people who could continue using the service in the Strathearn and Strathallan area throughout lockdown.

Food Support in Perth involved numerous organisations in Perth providing support for the most vulnerable during the lockdown period. Groups worked in partnership to set up places to access food throughout Perth city and provided a delivery and check-in service.

Examples of specific activities include:

- Letham4All purchased a larger refrigeration unit to store donated food from local businesses to support families in need of free or discounted food.
- National Christian Outreach Centre delivered 500 hot meals to elderly and vulnerable people living in the Perth area each week for 10 weeks.
- Perth Welfare Society supported people using Zoom, in Urdu and Punjabi, to apply for financial support, such as Universal credit. The group worked with local takeaways to deliver hot meals to vulnerable people in Perth.

**Renfrewshire:** Renfrewshire community planning have worked together to connect local and national responses. Public and third sector partners have worked together to ensure that local groups were aware of Scottish Government funding and that this funding was accessed by groups in the best position to utilise it effectively. The local volunteering effort was also co-ordinated with the national recruitment of volunteers, to minimise duplication and make the recruitment process smoother for volunteers. A local Food Group was established to connect national food provision with local community response. This provided local groups with supplies to maintain their own food provision and minimised duplication of provision and food wastage. A local panel was established to work with SCVO to deliver the national Connecting Scotland campaign to ensure that devices reached those most in need.

A Local Assistance Team was established in Renfrewshire to deliver national commitments to contact people isolating due to Covid. The Local Assistance Team connected with Neighbourhood Hubs to ensure that there was a response to needs that people raised during these calls. Renfrewshire Council hosted a site for asymptomatic testing in the Johnstone area. Local and national partners worked together to deliver an appropriate site at short notice and local communications resources were deployed to raise awareness and promote take up of testing.

**Scottish Borders:** Relationships within the CPP proved vital in relation to responding to the pandemic – an example would be the liaison between SBC and Registered Social Landlords to ensure vulnerable tenants were supported, and Fire & Rescue providing venues for NHS Mobile Testing Units.

The co-ordination and communications in relation to funding was difficult to understand at the start of the pandemic. Various funding streams available at the moment. Focus required on keeping track of where money has come from and what the funding will be used for to ensure groups aren't duplicating any work. Optimum position would be to join up efforts and maximise funding.

**Shetland Islands:** A key role was around the communication of information. Challenge around the national direction and how it fitted into the Shetland context in terms of capacity and proportionality.

**South Lanarkshire:** Shortly after the Wellbeing Helpline was established, the National Shielding Helpline was set up and much of the work of the team and the community responders then became focused on individuals and families who were shielding. The Wellbeing Helpline provided support regarding any identified need which included for example, provision of food, money worries, general wellbeing and mental health, getting online and finding a dog walker. Individual referral processes were agreed with each of the community response groups who supplied and delivered food, prescriptions and other interventions. The food fund monies were used to purchase ambient food for local community responders who were supporting their communities and other targeted groups such as homeless people and those living in sheltered housing accommodation.

### ***Refreshing/resetting existing LOIPs.***

**Aberdeen:** A short life working group has been formed to lead on the Socio-Economic Rescue Plan which was published in July 2020. While the plan is an immediate and dynamic response to the impact of Covid-19, it will inform the scheduled refresh of the LOIP in 2021. The plan aligns to the LOIP strategic themes of Economy, People and Place. Partners have been asked to prioritise their work around the Socio-Economic Rescue Plan to ensure activity across the partnership is coordinated. A [Route Map](#) for the refreshed LOIP has been published. In 2021, workshops will take place across the partnership and community to see the impact of the current situation on the LOIP and its priorities. Although priorities will likely remain the same, the workshops will give a better understanding of the data and highlight whether priorities remain valid for the future.

**Angus:** Angus Community Plan will not be refreshed as the priorities within it are still relevant. For example, a priority within the plan is around improving mental health. The action plans within the Community Plan are being reviewed to capture current and forecasted work to support the community's requirements now due to the pandemic. A full review will be carried out in 2022 which will include a review of the partnership, governance and participants.

**Argyll and Bute:** The LOIP in Argyll and Bute is due for renewal in 2023. The CPP agreed though to focus on 4 cross-cutting themes for the duration of the currently LOIP, in addition to the existing priorities. These 4 cross-cutting themes are Poverty, Social and Digital Isolation, Climate Change and Community Wealth Building.

**Dumfries and Galloway:** The eight Outcomes in the LOIP are discussed each year when the Annual Report is developed with stakeholders and presented to the Board in November. It has been recognised as a key document in guiding the response and recovery as it focussed on those people already experiencing inequality and has been reaffirmed by national and local research on the impact of COVID, including the Social Advisory Review Panel Report.

**Dundee:** Plan to review and update current outcomes, progress and targets.

**East Lothian:** The CPP is taking the lead in terms of economic recovery: drive economic development strategy, working with local communities, businesses etc.

**East Renfrewshire:** Partners agreed in September to focus on key priorities linked to local pandemic impacts focussing on inclusive growth and community wellbeing and connectivity with digital inclusion and tackling poverty being horizontal themes. The current LOIP – FairER plans require review early 2021. One option is to develop a 1-year transition plan to focus on Covid recovery with a three year plan thereafter. Partners will meet to consider this and appropriate governance arrangements early March.

**Edinburgh:** Edinburgh Partnership, through its LOIP Delivery Group, are in the process of reframing the LOIP to provide a renewed focus to address;

- the shift in strategic the context in the city over the last 12 months with recognition of the need for a strong post pandemic response to recovery which is fair, sustainable and delivers more resilient and healthy places to live; and
- opportunities to build on the strong foundation of collaborative working evidenced in Edinburgh between statutory, voluntary and communities' sectors during the pandemic response.

Significant within this is the reframing of the priority 'a good place to live' to focus on a public health led approach to place to help tackle poverty and reduce health inequalities.

**Falkirk:** Current LOIP requires review with plan to revise for January 2021. The board have asked to incorporate feedback from community groups, lessons learned and recovery. This is a challenging deadline given lost time for community engagement.

**Fife:** CPP was due to review progress on their LOIP in the coming year but in light of the Covid pandemic they have decided to pause that work and instead focus on five priority areas in the short term; tackling poverty and food insecurity; building community wealth through local economic development; promoting digital working and inclusion; supporting mental health and wellbeing; and addressing the climate emergency. The plan is to combine this with the refresh of the Council Recovery Plan. Aiming to adopt a 'sprint approach' where actions happens quickly and learning and experiences feed into the refreshed plan. 12 ambitions in the plan for Fife won't change however, some will be updated to reflect the learning and experiences from pandemic.

**Glasgow:** The Social Recovery Taskforce formed, enabled by the Community Planning Strategic Partnership as part of the council's renewal and recovery programme, brings together representatives from community planning partners, third sector and voluntary organisations, to look at how the city can rebuild and recover socially from coronavirus. They will also work in Partnership with Economic Recovery Taskforce. The work of the group will be used as a vehicle for a refresh on the LOIP and it is anticipated that the work plan of the Social Recovery Taskforce will in turn become the new Community Plan (Glasgow's equivalent of a LOIP).

**Inverclyde:** A review of Inverclyde's Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2017-22 was carried out in the autumn of 2020. This enabled an assessment to be made regarding whether the LOIP priorities were still the right ones for Inverclyde. The review concluded that population, inequalities and the environment, culture and heritage are still very much priorities for Inverclyde. In addition, the review concluded the "local economy" should be added as a new priority, given that this was a growing issue prior to the pandemic and has been exacerbated by the impact of Covid-19.

**North Ayrshire:** The LOIP is still considered fit for purpose. It is comprehensive in terms of supporting local communities. We are looking at refreshing the "Fair for All" strategy which is focused on reducing inequalities and Locality Partnership priorities.

**North Lanarkshire:** CPP was already reviewing LOIP priorities and approaches and this continued throughout the pandemic, however as we moved to recovery approaches effort has focused on ensuring that learning and principles from both local and national review of the impact of the pandemic on communities and opportunities for improved partnership approaches are embedded across partnership priorities and approaches. This work continues.

**Perth & Kinross:** Creating new overarching 'Perth & Kinross offer' with a series of programmes of delivery under the five Es (Equalities, Empowerment, Education, Economy, and Environment). This includes new focused LOIP to be developed by CPP. Key areas include locality working, improving how communities participate in decision making, mental wellbeing and resilience, climate change, poverty, employability and digital participation.

**Renfrewshire:** Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership Executive Group has focused on the individual and collective response of partners to the pandemic and also how this impacts on community planning priorities agreed pre-Covid. A Community Impact Assessment has been carried out during autumn/winter 20/21 and this will feed in to a Social Renewal Plan in spring 2021. An economic recovery plan has also been developed to update the previous economic strategy in the light of Covid.

**Scottish Borders:** The Community Planning Partnership established a Covid-19 key priorities and action plan during the pandemic to bring together the different strands of work that partners were working together on. The Partnership have agreed last month that a review would now be appropriate, which will look at resetting the Community Plan (LOIP), Locality Plans, performance and governance arrangements in light of the pandemic, including increased levels of poverty and other key priorities that will be part of recovery. This review will be concluded by Spring 2022.

**South Ayrshire:** The strategic themes in our LOIP were considered, and discussion took place to identify if there are new areas emerging/that will emerge as a result of COVID-19 under the strategic themes. It was agreed that there should be a more co-ordinated approach to the financial impact of the current health crisis with an emphasis on wider family which will be discussed through Children's Services. Financial Impact should also be a priority on its own as a major focus for the CPP – in order to reflect the wider community it was agreed that the strategic theme of '**Closing the Poverty-Related Outcomes Gaps for Children and Young People**' should be redefined as '**Closing the Poverty-Related Outcomes Gaps**' to reflect families and the wider community. Further information can be found in our [2020 LOIP annual progress report](#).

**South Lanarkshire:** Prior to the pandemic an update of the LOIP was planned for this reporting year. This work has started and will also include initial COVID recovery actions that were agreed by the Board. Some of the themes include: Planning with communities; digital connectivity; mental and physical health. The first stages of community conversations will begin in March 2021 to inform a full review of the LOIP. A pan-Lanarkshire Partnership Economic Recovery Group has also been established.

**Shetland Islands:** Looked at LOIP and feel that the priorities are right for the longer term. Will do impact analysis on targets and data sets to see the likely impact of COVID.

**West Lothian:** The CPP developed a new LOIP in 2019 and presented a draft to the CPP Board in early March 2020. This has been put on hold as the CPP reflects on the impact of COVID-19 on communities. Initial consideration has been given to possible changes to the draft LOIP to refocus on COVID priorities and this will be further informed through the work of the Health and Wellbeing/Anti-Poverty Working Group, the Economic Recovery Plan and the Anti-Poverty action plan. It is intended that this will be revisited in early 2021 to ensure that the new LOIP reflects a more robust understanding of the impact of COVID-19 and to ensure that it does not duplicate the activity of all the recovery plans.