



Wednesday, 11 March 2026

Dear Member

South Lanarkshire Community Planning Partnership Board

You are requested to attend a meeting of the above Board to be held as follows:-

Date: Wednesday, 18 March 2026

Time: 13:00

Venue: Committee Room 1, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton, ML3 0AA

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

Members

Councillor Joe Fagan

Paul Manning, Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council

John Binning, Principal Policy Officer, **Strathclyde Partnership for Transport**

Cheryl Burnett, Representative, **Cambuslang and Rutherglen Community Partnership**

Christine Calder, Manager, **Seniors Together**

Fiona Cook, Lead Manager, **sportscotland**

Lynne Cooper, Regional Director, **VisitScotland**

Julie Coyle, Area Manager, **Skills Development Scotland**

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

Scottish Enterprise

Clare Hicks, Director of Education Reform, **Scottish Government**

Martin Hill, Chair, **NHS Lanarkshire Board**

Thomas Keay, Group Commander, **Scottish Fire and Rescue Service**

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

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

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

Louise Long, Chief Executive, **NHS Lanarkshire**

Catriona Mason, Chairperson, **Seniors Together**

Stella McManus, Principal and Chief Executive, **South Lanarkshire College**

Nick Lansdell, Chief Executive, **South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture**

Stephen Nesbit, Area Commander, **Scottish Fire and Rescue Service**

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

Josephine Pravinkumar, Director of Public Health, **NHS Lanarkshire**

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

Callum Smith, Operations Manager, **NatureScot**

Vicky Watson, Chief Superintendent, **Police Scotland**

Jimmy Wilson, Interim Chief Executive, **VASLan**

BUSINESS

- 1 **Declaration of Interests**
- 2 **Note of Previous Meeting** 5 - 12
Note of the meeting of the Community Planning Partnership Board held on 9 December 2025 submitted for approval as a correct record. (Copy attached)

Monitoring Item(s)

- 3 **Community Partnerships Update** 13 - 30
Report dated 25 February 2026 by the Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council. (Copy attached)

Item(s) for Discussion/Decision

- 4 **Community Planning Partnership Budget and Expenditure Report** 31 - 36
Report dated 25 February 2026 by the Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council. (Copy attached)
- 5 **Age Friendly South Lanarkshire Update Report** 37 - 50
Report dated 25 February 2026 by Chairperson, Seniors together in South Lanarkshire. (Copy attached)
- 6 **Local Child Poverty Action Report** 51 - 84
Joint report dated 25 February 2026 by the Director, Health and Social Care, South Lanarkshire University Health and Social Care Partnership, and the Executive Director (Education Resources), South Lanarkshire Council. (Copy attached)
- 7 **'The Voice' - Engaging Children and Young People Report** 85 - 108
Report dated 25 February 2026 by Executive Director (Education Resources), South Lanarkshire Council. (Copy attached)
- 8 **Youth Forum on Climate Change and Sustainability Update** 109 - 114
Report dated 25 February 2026 by Executive Director (Education Resources), South Lanarkshire Council. (Copy attached)
- 9 **Population Health Framework Action Plan** 115 - 126
Joint report dated 25 February 2026 by Director of Public Health, and Health Policy and Acting up Consultant in Public Health NHS Lanarkshire. (Copy attached)
- 10 **Community Planning Partnership Board Development Session - Marmot Place Programme and Population Health Framework** 127 - 132
Joint report dated 25 February 2026 by Chief Executive, NHS Lanarkshire, and Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council. (Copy attached)

- 11 **Marmot Place Programme - Collaboration for Health Equity in Scotland - Data Update Report** 133 - 148
Report dated 25 February 2026 by the Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council. (Copy attached)
- 12 **Marmot Place Programme - Collaboration for Health Equity in Scotland (CHES)- Operational Update Report v2.0** 149 - 156
Report dated 25 February 2026 by the Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council. (Copy attached)
- 13 **Place Director and Community Planning Partnership Charter** 157 - 158
Presentation by C Hicks, Director of Education Reform, Scottish Government. (Copy of Charter attached)

Item(s) for Noting

- 14 **Community Planning Board Bulletin** 159 - 184
- Community Planning Partnership Risk Register Update
 - Community Planning Partnership Website Update
 - Joseph Rowntree Foundation - UK Poverty 2026 Report
 - Public Health Scotland's New 10 Year Strategy - 'Together we can'
 - Winter Wishes 2025 Update
- 15 **South Lanarkshire Register of Information** 185 - 194
Report dated 25 February 2026 by the Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council. (Copy attached)
- 16 **Date of Next Meeting - Wednesday, 17 June 2026**

Any Other Competent Business

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

For further information, please contact:-

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

SOUTH LANARKSHIRE COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Note of meeting held via Microsoft Teams on 9 December 2025

Chair:

Councillor Joe Fagan, Leader, South Lanarkshire Council

Partners Present:

P Manning, Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council

C Burnett, Representative, Cambuslang, and Rutherglen Community Partnership

F Cook, Lead Manager, sportscotland

S Frew, Partnership (West), Place Directorate, Scottish Economic Development, Scottish Enterprise

M Hill, Chair, NHS Lanarkshire Board

T Keay, Group Commander, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

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

T Little, Head of Communications and Strategy, Chief Executive's Office, South Lanarkshire Council

S McManus, Principal and Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire College

J Pravinkumar, Director of Public Health, NHS Lanarkshire

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

C Smith, Operations Manager, NatureScot

V Watson, Chief Superintendent, Police Scotland

J Wilson, Interim Chief Executive Officer, VASLan

Also Attending:

L Cunningham, Administration Officer, Finance and Corporate Resources, South Lanarkshire Council

S Jessop, Administration Assistant, Finance and Corporate Resources, South Lanarkshire Council

A Murray, Community Planning Adviser, Chief Executive's Office, South Lanarkshire Council

E Paterson, Community Planning Officer, Chief Executive's Office, South Lanarkshire Council

N Riches, Acting up Consultant NHS Lanarkshire

H Robertson, Community Development Officer, Chief Executive's Office, South Lanarkshire Council

L Williamson, Community Development Officer, Chief Executive's Office, South Lanarkshire Council

Apologies:

J Binning, Principal Policy Officer, Strathclyde Partnership for Transport

L Cooper, Regional Director for Glasgow City Region

J Coyle, Area Manager, Skills Development Scotland

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

N Lansdell, Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture

L Long, Chief Executive, NHS Lanarkshire

Chair's Remarks

The Chair welcomed Lynne Cooper, Regional Director for Glasgow City Region, VisitScotland to the Board.

1 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

2 Note of Previous Meeting

The note of the meeting of the South Lanarkshire Community Planning Partnership Board held on 17 September 2025 was submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

3 Community Partnerships Update Report

A report dated 18 November 2025 by the Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council was submitted providing an update on the progress of the Cambuslang/Rutherglen, Clydesdale, East Kilbride and Hamilton Community Partnerships.

Issues raised by each partnership, together with partner updates to those issues were outlined in section 4 of the report. Common areas of activity across the 4 partnerships were detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

Appendix 2 to the report set out progress on activities to deliver the Community Planning Partnership Development Plan.

J Pravinkumar highlighted the benefits of linking the Population Health Committee priorities with Neighbourhood Plans and working with communities to raise awareness. This work could be taken forward through the Outcomes Group initially.

The Chair advised that the identified common areas for activity across the 4 partnership areas reflected areas where the Council had decided to make additional investment. The Chair further highlighted 2 other areas that needed to stay in focus were Cambuslang Library and the bin replacement programme.

Outcome(s):

- (1) Community Partnerships progress updates, as outlined at section 4 of the report, noted.
- (2) Intention to continue to progress those areas highlighted with the Partnership's Community Development Officer and Progress Group noted.

4 Community Planning Partnership Budget and Expenditure Report

A report dated 18 November 2025 by the Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council was submitted providing an update on the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) budget and expenditure for 2025/2026, as at 31 October 2025 (Period 8).

As outlined at Appendix 1 to the report, the total available for 2025/2026 was £89,651. This included a carry-forward of £44,301 from the 2024/2025 budget and annual income of £45,350.

Appendix 1 also showed projected spend for the year of £70,440, which would result in an underspend of £19,211. Details of the underspend were provided at paragraph 4.4 of the report. Actual expenditure at the end of Period 8 amounted to £36,669.

It was proposed that the Board continue to invest in the Community Development Officer post until 31 March 2027, the cost of which could be met from the current budget through the "Community Plan Delivery" budget line.

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

Outcome(s):

- (1) Content of the report noted.
- (2) Continued investment in the Community Development Officer post on a full-time basis until 31 March 2027 approved.

[Reference: Note of 17 September 2025 (Paragraph 8)]

5 Lived Experience Fund 2025 Applications

A report dated 18 November 2025 by the Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council was submitted advising of the Lived Experience Fund applications received from the second funding campaign for 2025.

The Lived Experience Fund supported organisations in capturing the lived experience of residents to help inform Community Planning Partnership service delivery and policy development.

Following approval by the Board, applications for the first round of funding for 2025 commenced on 25 June 2025. Eleven successful applications received £500 each.

Following approval by the Board for a further round of funding, applications were invited from 6 October to 31 October 2025. A total of 14 applications had been received and assessed, with 11 meeting the required criteria. Details of the applicants, purpose of grants and amounts awarded were provided at Appendix 1 to the report.

A range of methods would be used to gather feedback on the projects, the use of funds and the number of people engaged.

The current position of the Lived Experience funding allocation was as follows:-

◆ Total allocation for Lived Experience Fund 2025/2026	£13,500
◆ Lived Experience Funding approved	£5,500
◆ Lived Experience Funding approved (pending approval)	£5,500
Remaining balance	£2,500

Outcome(s): Lived Experience Fund applications received from the second funding campaign for 2025, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report, approved.

[Reference: Note of 18 June 2025 (Paragraph 10)]

6 East Kilbride South Neighbourhood Plan Update

A report dated 2 December 2025 by the Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council was submitted providing an update on the East Kilbride South Neighbourhood Plan.

Information was provided on:-

- ◆ the background to neighbourhood planning arrangements within East Kilbride South
- ◆ the development of the Plan, which included community engagement and consultation
- ◆ the context of the Plan, which included 11 priority themes and was attached as Appendix 1 to the report
- ◆ Participatory Budgeting in 2025
- ◆ the next steps to be undertaken, including the development of an action plan, the digital design, and publication of the Neighbourhood Plan and launch event

L Williamson responded to questions in relation to:-

- ◆ the membership of the Stakeholder Group and the possible inclusion of a representative from health and South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture
- ◆ the inclusion of the Open Space Strategy in taken forward actions

Discussion also included:-

- ◆ looking at matching up and streamlining meeting arrangements to minimise overlapping membership
- ◆ investing in playparks and green spaces
- ◆ the use of the Alistair McCoist Complex

Outcome(s): Content of report noted.

[Reference: Note of 5 March 2025 (Paragraph 4)]

7 South Lanarkshire Integration Joint Board Annual Performance Report 2024/2025

A report dated 14 November 2025 by the Director, Health and Social Care, South Lanarkshire University Health and Social Care Partnership was submitted on the South Lanarkshire Integration Joint Board (IJB) Annual Performance Report (APR) 2024/2025.

The Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 placed a duty on IJBs to prepare and publish APRs.

The APR 2024/2025, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, aimed to ensure that performance was open and accountable, whilst providing an overall assessment of performance in relation to planning and carrying out integration functions.

As with previous years, the APR was aligned to reporting progress against the intentions outlined in the Strategic Commissioning Plan (SCP) and for this APR, would cover the final year of the 2022 to 2025 SCP.

Outcome(s): Content of the report noted.

[Reference: Note of 4 December 2024 (Paragraph 7) and Minutes of the South Lanarkshire Integration Joint Board of 23 September 2025 (Paragraph 10)]

8 Lanarkshire Joint Community Planning Partnership Event – Building a Prevention-Focused System

A report dated 18 November 2025 by the Director of Public Health and Health Policy, NHS Lanarkshire was submitted providing an update on the Joint Lanarkshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Event held on 9 October 2025.

The event, which brought together senior leaders and partners from across North and South Lanarkshire's CPP's and other stakeholders, aimed to translate the ambitions of Scotland's Population Health Framework into practical, local action.

Information was provided on:-

- ◆ the structure of the event which included plenary sessions and workshops
- ◆ the cross-cutting themes which included:-
 - ◆ whole system leadership and government
 - ◆ long-term, multi-year investment
 - ◆ shared data and intelligence
 - ◆ workforce culture and capacity
 - ◆ community empowerment
 - ◆ equity and proportionate universalism
- ◆ the proposed establishment of a Joint CPP-Population Health Framework (PHF) collaborative, as outlined in Appendix 1 to the report, to co-ordinate prevention strategy, delivery and monitoring across Lanarkshire
- ◆ the development of an action plan for the following immediate priorities:-

- ◆ leadership
- ◆ governance
- ◆ strategic alignment
- ◆ measurement
- ◆ workforce and culture
- ◆ community engagement
- ◆ the alignment of CPP strategic priorities, governance and investment to embed prevention and tackle inequalities
- ◆ the proposal to maintain prevention as a standing item across CPP governance and planning forums

During discussion, the following issues were highlighted:-

- ◆ the balance between the joint CPP-PHF collaborative being a supportive structure and potentially another demand on the system
- ◆ the Third Sector has now completed its strategy work within all localities with the strategies ready to be launched on 1 April 2026 and the involvement of the community groups would be beneficial
- ◆ an awareness that each locality is unique and what was suitable for one may not be suitable for another

- Outcome(s):**
- (1) Content of the report and the outcomes of the October 2025 CPP event be noted.
 - (2) Establishment of a Joint CPP–PHF Collaborative to coordinate prevention strategy, delivery and monitoring across Lanarkshire endorsed.
 - (3) Alignment of CPP strategic priorities, governance, and investment to embed prevention and tackle inequalities supported.
 - (4) Content of the action plan noted.
 - (5) Prevention as a standing agenda item across CPP governance and planning forums to be maintained.

9 Healthy Weight Public Health Action Team (PHAcT)

A report dated 18 November 2025 by the Director of Public Health and Health Policy, NHS Lanarkshire was submitted providing an update on the Healthy Weight Public Action Team (PHAcT).

Preventing overweight and obesity was a public health priority, with significant implications for population health, health inequalities, and the sustainability of health and care services.

Obesity was identified as a key priority in the recently published Scotland’s Population Health Framework (2025 to 2035). This framework set out a 10-year vision to improve life expectancy and reduces inequalities through a whole-system, whole-society approach.

The 2 main priorities identified were:-

- ◆ Creating a Prevention-Focused System – shifting resources and efforts upstream to prevent ill health
- ◆ Tackling Obesity and Promoting Healthy Weight – addressing a major and unequal public health challenge

A multi-agency Healthy Weight PHAcT had been established in April 2024 to focus on a whole-systems approach to the promotion of healthy weight and the prevention of obesity across Lanarkshire.

The PHAcT had identified the following 3 key initial priority areas:-

- ◆ review of Lanarkshire Weight Management Service (LWMS);
- ◆ child health surveillance at 27 to 30 months, with a focus on increasing referrals for children who were significantly overweight/severely obese; and
- ◆ development of the Good Food Nation Plan at a pan- Lanarkshire level.

A workshop was scheduled for early next year to consider the plans and actions at a local level.

Outcome(s): Content of report noted.

10 Community Planning Partnership Board Meeting Arrangements

A report dated 18 November 2025 by the Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council was submitted on a proposal to amend the CPP Board meeting arrangements for 2026.

It was proposed that 2 of the 4 Board meetings for 2026 and subsequent years be held in-person. For 2026, it was proposed that the March 2026 meeting be held within the Committee Suite, Council Offices, Almada Street Hamilton, and the September 2026 meeting hosted by a partner organisation.

Partners were invited to indicate their interest in hosting the September meeting by contacting the Community Planning Team to discuss arrangements.

Outcome(s): Content of report approved.

11 South Lanarkshire's Children's Services Plan 2023 to 2026 - Annual Report of Progress for 2024/2025

A joint report dated 18 November 2025 by the Director, Health and Social Care, South Lanarkshire University Health and Social Care Partnership and the Executive Director (Education Resources), South Lanarkshire Council was submitted providing an update on the work being undertaken to ensure South Lanarkshire's Children's Services Plan (CSP) remained in line with Scottish Government guidance and continued to contribute towards achieving the best possible outcomes for children, young people and families.

The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 introduced requirements for each local authority and its linked health board to prepare and publish:-

- ◆ a Children's Services Plan (CSP) covering the period April 2017 to March 2020 and thereafter in a continuing 3-year cycle
- ◆ a Children's Rights Report by March 2020, also in a continuing 3 -year cycle

The children's Service Plan Annual Progress Report for 2024/2025 was attached as an appendix to the report.

Outcome(s): Content of report noted.

12 Welfare Services Support for Households (to 31 March 2025)

A report dated 18 November 2025 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources), South Lanarkshire Council, was submitted providing an update on the support that had been provided to households in South Lanarkshire up to 31 March 2025 from a range of Council Services and organisations.

Information was provided on how Council Services including the Money Matters Advice Service (MMAS), Benefits and Revenue, Housing, Education and Community Participation, together with

Citizens Advice Scotland, the Scottish Social Security Agency and NHS Lanarkshire continued to respond to the increased need for vital welfare support for households.

Outcome(s): Welfare support provided by a wide range of Council services and organisations in helping households manage their financial position noted.

[Reference: Note of 18 September 2024 (Paragraph 9)]

13 Community Planning Partnership Governance Update

A report dated 18 November 2025 by the Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council, was submitted providing an update on the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) governance arrangements.

Following approval of the revised Community Planning structures on 6 September 2023, the Board approved an updated Governance Framework, and reviewed its membership to ensure that representation better reflected the new structures and the Community Plan.

Following the successful application to become a Marmot Place and in order to further strengthen the membership of CPP and Board, a further updated governance Framework was approved by the Board at its meeting on 18 June 2025 and it was agreed that all remaining statutory partners, as set out in the community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, be invited to join the Community Planning Partnership.

The updated Governance Framework was attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

A list of all the statutory partners set out in the Act, as well as non-statutory members of the CPP Board, was provided at Appendix 2 to the report.

Outcome(s): (1) Updated Community Planning Partnership Board membership be noted.
(2) Updated Governance Framework and Partner Commitments 2025 noted.

[Reference: Note of 18 June 2025 (Paragraph 11) and 6 September 2023 (Paragraph 7)]

14 Community Planning Partnership Board Bulletin

The Community Planning Partnership Board Bulletin of 9 December 2025 was submitted providing information on the following:-

- ◆ Challenge Poverty Week Update; and
- ◆ Community Engagement and Participation Strategy 2020 to 2025 Review Update

Outcome(s): Noted.

[Reference: Note of 17 September 2025 (Paragraph 14)]

15 Community Planning Partnership Board – Register of Information

A report dated 18 November 2025 by the Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council, was submitted providing a summary of information which had been circulated to Community Planning Partners between 23 August to 13 November 2025, as outlined in Appendix 1 to the report.

Outcome(s): Noted.

[Reference: Note of 17 September 2025 (Paragraph 16)]

16 Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Board would be held on Wednesday, 18 March 2026 at 1.00pm.

17 Any Other Competent Business

There were no other items of competent business.

Community Planning Partnership Board Executive Summary

Date of Meeting:	18 March 2026
Subject:	Community Partnerships Update
Report by:	Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council
Contact for Further Information:	Heather Robertson, Community Planning Community Development Officer, South Lanarkshire Community Planning Partnership Tel: 0303 123 1017 Email: heather.robertson2@southlanarkshire.gov.uk
Purpose of the Report:	♦ to provide the Partnership Board with an update on the progress of the four Community Partnerships.
Community Planning Delivery Partners:	All partners
Key Recommendations/ Decisions/Action Required from Partners:	The Board is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):- (1) that the Community Partnerships progress updates outlined at section 4 and in Appendices 1 and 2 and its intention to continue to progress these areas together with the Partnership's Community Development Officer and Progress Group, be noted; and (2) that the request for improved partner representation at the meetings of the Clydesdale and Hamilton Community Partnerships be supported.
Risks/Challenges:	Section 8 provides a summary of the risks and challenges as set out in the Partnership Risk Register relating to community participation and engagement.
Links to Community Plan Ambitions/Principles:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Ambition 1 - We will invest in people by finding ways to share power and resources. ♦ Ambition 2 - We will make progress by investing in learning together and how we can do things better. ♦ Ambition 3 - We will invest in our planet by putting local areas at the centre of our work. ♦ Principles: Communication and Empowerment; Embracing Change; and Openness and Trust.
Summary of Report:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Section 4 provides an update on current activity of the Community Partnerships. ♦ Appendix 1 provides an update on common areas across the four locality partnerships for information. ♦ Appendix 2 provides an update on engagement activity and work carried out to progress the Community Partnerships Development Plans. ♦ Appendix 3 provides a case study encapsulating the work of a local community.

Report

Report to:	Partnership Board
Date of Meeting:	18 March 2026
Report by:	Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council

Subject:	Community Partnerships Update
----------	--------------------------------------

1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to: -

- ◆ provide the Partnership Board with an update on the progress of the four Community Partnerships.

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the Community Partnerships progress updates outlined at section 4 and in Appendices 1 and 2, and its intention to continue to progress these areas together with the Partnership's Community Development Officer and Progress Group, be noted; and
- (2) that the request for improved partner representation at the meetings of the Clydesdale and Hamilton Community Partnerships be supported.

3. Background

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

3.2. Following the previous meetings of all Community Planning Partnership Groups (CPPG), it was agreed that one volunteer who currently chairs the Cambuslang and Rutherglen Community Partnership should chair the meetings to help build trust and help volunteers to understand the value of being part of a CPPG in their locality and the benefits of this. This arrangement will be put in place until locality partnerships have their own local chairs. The Community Planning Community Development Officer (CDO) will oversee, coordinate and link directly with all organisations and individuals prior to and follow on from meetings.

4. Current Update

- 4.1. The latest updates on activities within the four Community Partnership areas are as follows:-

Cambuslang and Rutherglen Community Partnership:

Cambuslang and Rutherglen Community Partnership has met once since the last Board meeting. The purpose of the meeting which took place in February 2026 was to update and discuss progress to date and agree the next steps for moving forward.

Future Actions:-

- ◆ **Partner Representation** - more information/representation at meetings from Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP).
- ◆ **Neighbourhood Planning** - at present, within Burnhill and Cambuslang East, there is no formal structure for Neighbourhood Planning (NP) Stakeholder Groups. This has resulted in some uncertainty among groups involved in supporting the development of the Plan, particularly in relation to guidance, support, and clarity around roles and responsibilities.
- ◆ **Partner Update** - neighbourhood Planning Structures vary across areas, working with local community assets already in existence. Recent meetings in Cambuslang East have re-affirmed that the Community Council wished to continue to be the Stakeholder Group for the area and partners have started a plan to grow the network of local involvement. A recent change in Burnhill's membership is opening opportunities to review the operational of a Stakeholder group in Burnhill.
- ◆ **Participatory Budgeting** - the Community Partnership has expressed an interest in taking responsibility for the delivery of local Neighbourhood Planning Participatory Budgeting (PB) funds, with the aim of supporting smaller local groups to access modest levels of funding. This is considered particularly relevant this year, given that overall available funding is expected to be reduced. It has been noted that previous approaches to delivering this fund have, at times, presented challenges for local groups, and that certain requirements may have limited opportunities for effective partnership working.
- ◆ **Partner Update** - the requirements for PB in 2025/2026 were set by an advisory group as part of an evaluation of the previous round. A range of options to limit amounts per grant were put out to PB stakeholders to vote on who overwhelmingly voted for a £2,500 maximum. This worked well for most areas but not all. We are currently evaluating the last round of PB, and an advisory group is re-forming to take forward recommendations for more local autonomy over the terms and conditions. We encourage partnership members to participate in both.

Youth Voice/Participation

The inclusion of young people's voices on this platform is essential, and the Community Partnership needs to have discussions about how this can be achieved effectively.

Actions:-

- ◆ The creation of a local youth forum would be effective, however, by initially engaging young people who are already attending existing groups, their voices can be heard at this platform. These contributions can then be fed into the larger partnership meetings through the group members. Creating a safe space including guidance, addressing language barriers, and giving young people a voice will help produce better outcomes for their future.

Marmot

Since the launch of Marmot, local communities have not been given feedback. It is essential to raise awareness and keep the groups responsible for delivering outcomes informed about the progress to date.

- ◆ **Partner update** - Information on current activity as part of the Marmot Place Programme can be found on the [Community Planning website](#). Information updates have been shared with members through the monthly Community Partnership updates to share with their wider networks. The Community Engagement Manager, South Lanarkshire Council, has offered to attend a future Community Partnership meeting to provide further information.

Can Do Community Fund

It has been noted that smaller local groups were not successful in accessing this funding opportunity. The eligibility of larger organisations with paid staff has raised questions in relation to access for smaller local groups. In the previous funding round, a higher allocation cap limited the number of awards made, and in their view was that the funding was not distributed evenly across South Lanarkshire. Smaller community groups typically require modest levels of funding to deliver local activity. Supporting locally based groups and volunteers with smaller-scale funding can help enable delivery that reflects local knowledge and community priorities.

Partner Update: The Can Do Fund was a medium sized grant programme for third sector organisations formed in the spirit of the Third Sector Partnership Agreement. There is no geographic element of the grant programme. The fund was open to organisations of shared characteristics and those that also may operate area-wide across South Lanarkshire. The Community Grants Programme offers smaller funds on a more frequent basis, by area, in support of local community activity. Funding support for these and other funds, is available through VASLan.

Partner Updates shared at the meeting:-

- ◆ VASLan: Local funding surgeries will take place in communities every two weeks, and training modules identified by communities will predominantly be delivered in community spaces. Website development is currently underway and is expected to go live within the next few months.
- ◆ Healthy and Happy: Space to talk from Health Improvement will be moving from the CTEC building in Cambuslang to Healthy and Happy building No 18 Farmeloaan road, Rutherglen. Ongoing support will be provided to smaller community groups, including assistance with managing funds if handling money presents a barrier to their activities.
- ◆ Rutherglen and Cambuslang Community Council updated on the success of the Rutherglen 900 launch. Also, applications for microgrants are still open and planning for Landemer Day is underway, with the event scheduled to take place in June 2026.

4.2. **Clydesdale Community Partnership:**

Clydesdale Community Partnership has met once since the last Board meeting. The purpose of the meeting which took place in February 2026 was to update and discuss progress to date and agree the next steps for moving forward.

Future Actions:-

- ◆ **Public transport** - Quothquan and Thankerton Community Council have shown disappointment with SPT suggestions that rural bus services are to be reduced further. Reducing the 30/31 service to 3 journeys a day (Monday to Friday) and just two on Saturdays which will be detrimental for these services which will create challenges for those who don't have their own transport or cannot drive for medical reasons. The question being asked is why the most important people, the bus service users, are never consulted with when changes to services are being proposed.
- ◆ **Partner Update:** The Analysis and Design Team Leader from SPT has advised that these decisions had to be cost effective and that they would be happy to meet with the Community Council to discuss.
- ◆ Concern was raised regarding the low attendance of local Community Councils at the meeting, despite all 15 currently operating councils being invited, along with the limited representation from local groups, despite over 42 invitations being issued.
- ◆ The group discussed ongoing concerns regarding the separation of smaller areas. It was agreed that closer work is needed to identify how groups naturally align, whether geographically or through shared projects. This process has not yet taken place; however, it has been agreed that Community Councils will help to progress this action.
- ◆ The group's overall perception is that engagement with the CPP is limited, with some attendees only participating when seeking funding. Local groups invited to this platform need a clearer understanding of the purpose, and how sharing good practice and supporting one another's projects can deliver the greatest collective benefit.

Community Councils

- ◆ Discussion took place on how to provide Community Councils with a platform to include Community Planning Partnership activity as a standing agenda item at every meeting. This would allow local people who may not wish to attend larger CPP meetings to ask questions and raise issues that directly affect them and their communities. It was agreed to contact the council's Community Council Co-ordinator and get an updated list of Community Councils who operate within all local communities.

Partner update

- ◆ The Community Council Co-Ordinator has provided an updated list and the CDO will email and ask if a standing item on the CPP can be added to their next agendas.
- ◆ A member of Coalburn Community Council expressed concerns about lighting faults reported via the SLC online reporting page, noting that lights reported as out remain out and the faults are growing in number over time, with the initial report approximately 3 years ago. The length of time and the lack of repairs is causing concern and unrest for local people.

Partner update: The Development Officer has raised this with the Roads service who will now look at this issue to try and resolve it, noting the issue may be linked to an inherent fault with the power supply which sits outwith the council's direct area of responsibility. A response will be provided back to the Community Council.

Representation

- ◆ The group highlighted the lack of statutory partner attendance at CPP meetings. It was felt that improved attendance would help partners gain a better understanding of local issues and appreciate the strength of feeling within communities, particularly around organisational barriers and difficulties in accessing information or achieving outcomes. Agreement that commitment is required from all partners involved, taking accountability and responsibility for the goals and outcomes communities require.
- ◆ Suggestions to involve more local community groups and organisations may be more effective if we focus on working with existing local groups, rather than creating additional sub-groups, as communities and volunteers are already overwhelmed with meetings.

Partner Engagement

- ◆ A representative from Douglas and Glespin questioned why key partners were not present and stressed the need for communities to be more responsive and attend meetings.
- ◆ Agreement that natural groupings will form organically, with groups taking responsibility to support the partnership.
- ◆ Attendees to contact smaller groups to explore how they can bring their voices to the CPP meetings.

Economic Development and Windfarm Issues

The council's Economic Development Officer attended the meeting and provided an overview on Windfarms which included:-

- ◆ The Hagshaw Energy Framework Strategy and the vision for the Douglas Valley area which is where work is currently being carried out, supported by a local community-led advisory group that includes the areas of Coalburn, Muirkirk, Douglas, Glespin and East Ayrshire.
- ◆ The Economic Development Officer is also happy to circulate the Adventure Tourism report to Community Councils upon request.

Local Infrastructure and Environmental Concerns:-

- ◆ A positive update highlighted that Coalburn Community Council carried out its own survey on paths and pavements, which South Lanarkshire Council acted on.
- ◆ The group discussed the issues relating to street lighting in Coalburn that has been reported on the SLC online enquiry forms as not working for over three years and is requiring urgent action. The group hopes this platform can help elevate these issues and provide solutions, along with clear timescales or dates to keep local residents informed and reassured.
- ◆ Duneaton Community Council highlighted that the windfarm consultation did not include their area, despite it being surrounded by other areas where turbines have been erected. As a result, Duneaton and Douglas are now experiencing issues with light pollution at night, with glare from the turbine lights causing significant inconvenience.
- ◆ The councils Economic Development Officer has emailed **Scottish Power** to initiate discussions and has identified the appropriate contact for this issue. Grant Douglas is the point of contact for any future information or issues. Email: gdouglas@scottishpower.com.

Volunteering Update:-

VASLan will continue to provide support across all localities, with a particular focus on the more rural areas of Clydesdale where wider support is needed.

4.3. East Kilbride Community Partnership:

East Kilbride and Strathaven Community Partnership has met once since the last Board meeting. The purpose of the meeting which took place in February 2026 was to update and discuss progress to date and agree the next steps for moving forward.

Neighbourhood Planning (NP) Priority Areas:-

- ◆ A discussion took place around the impact of NP and what this means for the local community. Following the discussion, it was confirmed that Loaves and Fishes had been successful in achieving a Community Asset Transfer taking over the Greenhills Library and Community Centre. This initiative not only impacts the NP area but extends wider into East Kilbride as a whole.
- ◆ The group acknowledge although this area has been identified as a NP area, there are other areas of East Kilbride which face similar challenges with poverty. Local community stakeholders have shaped this process across East Kilbride South by utilising local knowledge to capture community views. This has included participation from residents alongside representatives from key local agencies and organisations.
- ◆ The process encourages an annual review of the actions set out within the Neighbourhood Plan. This is the first phase of longer-term developments in the community.
- ◆ The data gathered through the survey has set 11 priority themes for action for the East Kilbride South neighbourhood.

Calderglen**Country Park/Pathways:-**

- ◆ Group members expressed concern regarding the condition of trails and pathways within the park. Questions were raised about ongoing maintenance arrangements, responsibility for risk assessments, and clarity around who should be contacted to report issues or highlight problem areas within the park.

Partner update:-

- ◆ Trail checks are carried out by the estate team in the park. These workers are responsible for trail checks, dealing with small scale repairs of surface issues and fence repairs. The council's Ground Services Team also provide assistance for larger repairs. A meeting took place on 18 February 2026 to discuss identified areas of concern, some of which are closer to the central area of the park and at the north end which require large scale repairs.
- ◆ There is currently a path condition survey being undertaken at Calderglen as part of the country parks masterplan work. Funding from the council's Climate Change Programme is being used to purchase materials to repair surfaces and works are planned which will enhance some of the worst surface areas.

Housing:-

- ◆ The Westwood Group expressed feeling let down by the proposed development of 99 council houses on another local green space which included football pitches. Members attended a local public meeting but felt the decision had already been made and that local residents' views had little or no influence on the outcome.

Partner update:-

- ◆ The site of the former pitches and surrounding land was first included in the council's Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2025-30, recognising the need to increase the provision of affordable family and amenity housing in East Kilbride to assist in meeting ever growing demand.
- ◆ The plan is updated annually, with the latest version covering the 2026-2031 period also containing the site which was approved by the council's Housing and Technical Resources Committee on 17 December 2025.
- ◆ The project remains in its infancy, with site investigations only just being completed by the council's appointed delivery partners. These investigations aim to assess whether the land is viable for development and what layouts or housing mix could be accommodated, with the total number of proposed homes yet to be confirmed.
- ◆ Resident engagement has only just commenced, with two community events held to date in August and November 2025. The purpose of these was to introduce the idea of new homes for this area and establish design principles for the project, such as what type of homes could be included and what priorities existing residents have for the open space that could be incorporated into any design. It is noted that the purpose of the engagement is to take on resident's views as part of the decision-making process which is not yet complete.
- ◆ The council's Housing Services recognise and acknowledge the concerns raised to date regarding the removal of the existing greenspace through this engagement. However, remain committed to working with residents to achieve balancing the need for new affordable homes in this area and providing high quality, usable recreation and play space for all.
- ◆ A planning application is anticipated to be submitted later in the year. Prior to this, further engagement sessions will be held with residents which will offer an opportunity to review proposed layouts and designs, with feedback from these sessions being used to refine the designs further in advance of a formal planning application being submitted.
- ◆ Decisions relating to the planning application for the project are independent from Housing Services and will be determined in alignment with the statutory requirements.

Policing

- ◆ Concerns were raised about the number of young people using scooters and bikes while wearing masks, which has caused some local residents to feel unsafe. Members noted that increased Community Police presence on the streets, along with the local police station being open more frequently, could help address these issues. Given the size of East Kilbride, concerns were also expressed that it is not being treated as a priority station should be reviewed.

Partner update:

- ◆ It is illegal to ride on E bikes/E scooters anywhere other than private land with permission of the landowner. Retailers display warnings and provide advice around use, so that buyers are aware of restrictions before the make a purchase.

- ◆ Complaints regarding the use of E bikes/E scooters and the associated anti-social behaviour was discussed at the council's Safer South Lanarkshire Board on 9 February 2026 and also at the council's South Lanarkshire Road Safety Forum.
- ◆ In the lead up to Christmas, Police Preventions Officers held pop up stalls across South Lanarkshire Shopping Centres to raise awareness around the legalities of E Scooters, E Bikes and Off-Road Bikes. The Police continue to use social media to raise awareness of these issues.
- ◆ There are various challenges for the service around the pursuit of E bikes and scooters. In relation to the prioritisation of calls to the Police, it is highly likely that by the time calls are actioned, there will be no trace by the time the police arrive. This is where local intelligence and information from the public is important to help the Police trace those responsible.

Visually Impaired Group

- ◆ A local resident and volunteer within the visually impaired community highlighted concerns regarding the council's automated payment system for bill payments. Due to the severity of her visual impairment, she requires the use of a magnifying glass to read and enter card details. The system restricts the time allowed to input this information, and this repeatedly cuts off the call before she can complete the process. She suggested that allowing users to take their time and then press the hash key to confirm once details are entered would significantly improve accessibility for people with visual impairments and others who require more time to complete basic tasks.

Partner update:

- ◆ The Council has previously raised this issue with their software supplier regarding the automated payment line. Unfortunately, the system cannot currently extend the time allowed to key in card details within the current platform. However, the council continues to work with the supplier to investigate improvements in this area and will come back to provide an update should there be any developments.

Several alternative payment methods are available which are listed below:-

- ◆ Direct Debit
- ◆ Online via our payment platform at www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk
- ◆ Standing Order
- ◆ Cheque
- ◆ Bank Transfer
- ◆ PayPoint (available at a wide range of local shops)
- ◆ Post Office

Licensed Premises

- ◆ Concerns were expressed about the town centre redevelopment and the resulting increase in licensed premises within East Kilbride Village to 21, with members questioning the impact on community safety and the character of the area.

Wellbeing Opportunities

- ◆ A local Strathaven resident expressed a desire to access health and wellbeing groups within the Strathaven area. Where no suitable groups are currently available, she would welcome support from partners to help establish a new group aimed at reducing social isolation and addressing wider wellbeing needs that are not currently being met within the community.

Partner Update:

- ◆ VASLan are currently in contact with the resident and will help identify existing groups or provide support in creating a new project or group.

Partner Updates:

- ◆ East Kilbride Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) confirmed they have moved premises in December 2025 to Edinburgh House East Kilbride G74 1LJ. St Andrews Church Greenhills host a Community Cinema at 2pm on the last Wednesday of every month where everyone is welcome.

4.4. Hamilton Community Partnership:

Hamilton Community Partnership has met once since the last Board meeting. The purpose of the meeting which took place in February 2026 was to update and discuss progress to date and agree the next steps for moving forward.

- ◆ Hamilton Area Community Partnership sessions have been held through small-group conversations. These initial meetings have built trust and confidence, enabling participants to come together at a larger Community Partnership meeting. This broader forum is now helping advance dialogue and identify opportunities for change.

The CDO continues to map all key groups in the locality and regularly carries out face-to-face and online communication of CPP objectives and activities with these groups through attendance at their meetings.

Further Actions:-

Community Councils

- ◆ Discussion highlighted that attendance from Community Councils remains poor. It was agreed that visits from the CDO to attend Community Council meetings would help build trust and improve understanding of the unique role and purpose of the Community Partnership. While invitations to the group are routinely issued, sustaining attendance continues to be challenging where the purpose and value of the platform are not fully understood by groups.

Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund

- ◆ Concerns were raised about the lack of responses and feedback provided to local groups by VASLan. Discussion focused on the transparency of the process and the length of time taken to inform groups whether their applications had been successful and, where they were not, the reasons for this.

Can Do Community Fund

- ◆ The groups discussed the experience of volunteer-run local groups, who work hard in their community and find it challenging to compete for funding against larger organisations who have paid staff. It is felt that this imbalance is having a direct impact, leading to a reduction in vital services that local people rely on within their community. The group proposed the following:

- ◆ Split the funding differently, with smaller allocations specifically ring-fenced for small community groups. This would ensure greater transparency in how funding is divided and allow smaller groups delivering meaningful, high-impact projects to sustain their work, rather than having to compete for every available funding stream. This is particularly important for groups delivering activity within Neighbourhood Planning areas, where there is a statutory duty on partners to support the delivery of Neighbourhood Plans, and to build resilience within these communities. Without appropriate funding, this work cannot continue to flourish.
- ◆ **Partner Update:** As already noted above for Can Do Fund. However, in addition, noting for future consideration that the needs for community based voluntary groups in the third sector are described as different from larger service providing organisations that work across the area or with a shared characteristic community.

Community Policing

- ◆ Concerns were raised about the lack of community police cover across the area spanning Larkhall, surrounding villages, and as far as Lesmahagow. Currently, this entire area is covered by only two community police officers, both of whom do not work on Mondays. This limited provision leaves communities feeling unsettled and vulnerable should issues arise during periods with no community policing presence.

Partner update:-

In relation to Community Policing, Police Scotland has confirmed that:-

- ◆ Resources covering the area in relation to Community Policing who are responsible for identifying and resolving Community issues as well as patrols of the area consists of: 1 Sergeant and 4 Police Constables. There is a Priority Policing Team who are responsible for this subdivision including Hamilton, Larkhall and Lanark areas and dealing with priority crimes and any issues which require immediate response/police action for the area, consists of: 1 Sergeant and 9 Police Constables.
- ◆ In relation to Response Policing, the Hub at Larkhall is responsible for 24/7 coverage of the area which includes Larkhall, Lesmahagow, Douglas, etc. There are 5 shifts comprising of: 1 Sergeant and 8 Police Constables.
- ◆ Reviewing incidents across this area is a responsibility on a daily, weekly, and monthly basis to identify crime trends and community issues and subsequently ensure that a proportionate policing response is provided. Community Policing Team work with internal and external partners including the local authority, local businesses, Community, and voluntary sector groups to ensure that problems are addressed in an efficient and effective manner and that the needs of the local community are met. Police Scotland resources are allocated based on demand with each area allocated officers accordingly.
- ◆ Although the Community team do not work on Monday's as per their current shift pattern, the area is still covered by Response Officers who will complete any immediate police action required and provide details to the Area Inspector's department if any follow up work is required.
- ◆ If any specific group or member of the public feels unsettled or vulnerable, the Area Inspector would be happy to meet with them, discuss any issue, and provide support and reassurance regarding the service we provide in the area.

Environmental issues

- ◆ Discussions focused on flooding and the provisions in place to manage it. Concerns were raised about sewage waste entering local waterways, which poses a significant risk to residents. Regular, updated reports from SEPA would

help identify affected areas and support local communities in understanding the appropriate protocols and responses.

Community Planning Partners

- ◆ Discussion took place around the lack of partner attendance at meetings and the absence of shared weekly or monthly reports that could be disseminated with the group. While the group actively encourages volunteer and community groups to attend meetings to support partnership working, build trust, and contribute to addressing inequalities experienced daily, this effort must be matched by stronger engagement from partners at senior levels. Improved communication, greater buy-in, and consistent attendance from decision-makers particularly those in strategic roles would help ensure that meetings are informed, transparent, and grounded in the lived experiences of people in deprived communities. Such changes would support the CPPG to thrive and encourage wider participation, ensuring that community voices are heard, valued, and acted upon.

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

Top five priorities: - Cambuslang/Rutherglen

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

Top five priorities: - Hamilton/Larkhall/Blantyre

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

Top five priorities: - East Kilbride South

1. Outdoor green space
2. Play Park improvements
3. Community Activities
4. Local economy
5. Health and Wellbeing

- 5.2. There is currently no Neighbourhood Plan in place within the Clydesdale area. These findings will be shared with the Clydesdale CPP to help inform and address issues that are similar to those identified in other areas.
- 5.3. Appendix 1 provides an update on the common areas of activity across the four locality partnerships for information. Appendix 2 sets out progress on the activities to deliver the Community Partnership Development Plan.

6. Employee Implications

- 6.1. The Partnership's Community Development Officer is contracted on a full-time basis until 31 March 2027. The development requirements of the volunteers and building community cohesion within the partnership continues to be an intensive area of work for the officer.

7. Financial Implications

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

8. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

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

9. Other Implications

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

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

10. Integrated Impact Assessment and Consultation Requirements

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

Paul Manning
Chief Executive
South Lanarkshire Council

25 February 2026

Contact for Further Information:

If you would like further information, please contact:-

Heather Robertson, Community Planning Partnership Community Development Officer,
South Lanarkshire Community Planning Partnership
Tel: 0303 123 1017
Email: heather.robertson2@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Common Areas Identified Across All Four Community Partnerships

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

- ◆ Environmental issues
- ◆ Local funding opportunities
- ◆ Planning applications (infrastructure needs)
- ◆ Transport
- ◆ Funding streams

Continuing to use the themes identified through the Neighbourhood Plans will support the activities and work required for Community Partnerships to better align priorities and outcomes.

Community Partnership Development Plan

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

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

Appendix 3

Cambuslang and Rutherglen Case Study

Burnhill Neighbourhood Planning Area

It is exceedingly difficult to capture the essence of community work, delivered by many of our communities. The following sets out the excellent work being carried out in the Burnhill area of Rutherglen, which has a significant influence on the local community and beyond.

The Burnhill area of Rutherglen has been identified as an area of multiple deprivation. In response, the council's Community Engagement Team was tasked with co-producing a local Neighbourhood Plan to identify local priorities and support residents and community groups to address persistent inequalities within the community.

Five years into the plan, the progress and positive change achieved has been remarkable. Community participation has grown significantly, with volunteers gaining momentum and establishing sustainable activities that consistently respond to the key themes identified by local people year after year.

This case study highlights the contribution of two family members, Lizzy and Tony McDonald, whose dedication and leadership have been central to the success of the Highbacks charity. Through their continued commitment, they have played a vital role in supporting local people and addressing the ongoing needs of the Burnhill community.



Burnhill's "Mending Minds" Men's Group Builds Skills, Confidence and Connection

Conversation flows naturally when men come together to share skills, knowledge, and experience and that's exactly what's happening at a new men's group in the Burnhill area of Rutherglen.

Burnhill's Mending Minds group, based at The High Backs community space, provides men of all ages with the opportunity to meet up, learn practical skills and support one another in an informal, welcoming environment. The group is designed to build confidence, reduce isolation and improve wellbeing, while allowing participants to both learn and pass on skills they already have.

The group is led by local man Tony McDonald, who was encouraged to get involved by his sister, Lizzy McDonald, the lead volunteer at The High Backs. The organisation recently achieved charity status, marking a major milestone in its development.

The High Backs was formed following a community clean-up of a vacant, fly-tipped site in Burnhill four years ago. What began with just eight children, Lizzy and another volunteer have since grown into a thriving multi-purpose community space. Today, the site includes several timber sheds, a coffee hut, a stage, and community gardens, all created and maintained through volunteer effort.

Lizzy said:

"It was an abandoned bit of land where people were fly tipping. I volunteered with the clean-up group which started off with eight kids, myself, and another volunteer. It's phenomenal, it just blows me away how massive it's become in the space of four years.

Myself and six other volunteers now run different groups. We're just trying to get the word out as best we can about what we do."

The men's group recently held an open night to gather ideas for activities, with Tony emphasising that the group will be shaped by those who attend. Tony who has been involved in running Rutherglen Glencairn 20s football team for several years, will be supported behind the scenes by Lizzy when needed.

Tony said:

"There's nothing like this in the Burnhill area. It's a deprived area and a lot of people are struggling with drink, drugs, and mental health.

We've got joiners, electricians and plumbers interested in coming down to help and share and teach practical skills.

But it's also about getting people out and talking. Wee things can make a big difference."

He added:

"I spoke to one guy who's been waiting six months for an NHS appointment to talk about his mental health, so he's coming along.

We had four men the first week, then 12 to 14 the following week, and now we've grown to over 50 members. We've got people aged from 18 right up to 64."

In 2025 the charity secured £6,000 in funding through South Lanarkshire Council's Participatory Budgeting process. This funding will support the construction of a new purpose-built hut at The High Backs, a large working men's shed measuring 8m by 4.2m to host activities including joinery, gardening, cycling, and general repairs.

Tony said:

"Right now we have funding for a big hut for the men - a working man's shed. It's massive."

The group has also created its own logo and adopted the motto: **"Always here to lend an ear."**

Burnhill's Mending Minds aims to support men who may be experiencing mental health challenges, addiction, loneliness, or isolation as well as those who simply want to get out of the house and socialise.

Lizzy said:

"It gets people out the house for a few hours with like-minded people. Some think it's going to be 'kumbaya' round a campfire sharing your stories, but it's not that. Conversations happen naturally, and skill-sharing gives people a starting point. Groups like this are worth their weight in gold. It's open to anyone from any area, and it's a safe space for men to come to."

The group meets every Tuesday evening from 7pm at The High Backs, 23 Penman Avenue, Rutherglen, Glasgow G73 1HP.

Community Planning Partnership Board Executive Summary

Date of Meeting:	18 March 2026
Subject:	Community Planning Partnership Budget and Expenditure Report
Report by:	Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council
Contact for Further Information:	Jen Kerr, Community Engagement Manager, South Lanarkshire Council Tel: 0303 123 1017 Email: Jennifer.Kerr1@southlanarkshire.gov.uk
Purpose of the Report:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ to provide the Partnership Board with an update on the Community Planning Partnership Budget and Expenditure as of 23 January 2026 (Period 11); and ◆ to advise partners of the intention of South Lanarkshire Council to issue the invoices for the annual partnership contribution for 2026/2027.
Community Planning Delivery Partners:	All partners
Key Recommendations/Decisions/Action Required from Partners:	The Board is asked to approve the following recommendations:- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) that the content of the report be noted; and (2) that the intention to issue the invoices from South Lanarkshire Council for partnership contributions to the shared budget for 2026/27, be noted.
Risks/Challenges:	Risks identified in the Partnership Risk Register that are associated with the impacts of financial challenges are set out in section 11.
Links to Community Plan Ambitions/Principles:	◆ All ambitions/principles.
Summary of Report:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Section 4 details the budget for the year, projected spend, and actual expenditure as of 23 January 2026; ◆ Section 5 outlines an update on the specific spend as at Period 11; and ◆ Section 6 notes the intention of South Lanarkshire Council to issue the invoices for the annual contributions to the 2026/2027 budget.

Report

Report to:	Partnership Board
Date of Meeting:	18 March 2026
Report by:	Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council

Subject:	Community Planning Partnership Budget and Expenditure Report
----------	---

1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ provide the Partnership Board with an update on the Community Planning Partnership Budget and Expenditure as of 23 January 2026
- ◆ advise partners of the intention of South Lanarkshire Council to issue the invoices for the annual partnership contribution for 2026/2027

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the content of the report be noted; and
- (2) that the intention to issue the invoices from South Lanarkshire Council for partnership contributions to the shared budget for 2026/27, be noted.

3. Background

3.1. Details of the South Lanarkshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Budget and Expenditure are reported to every Partnership Board meeting. This provides partners with an opportunity to seek clarification on the budget and sums spent during the relevant period.

4. Budget and Expenditure

4.1. The total available budget for 2025/2026 is £89,651. This consists of a funding balance carried forward of £44,301 and the annual income of £45,350.

4.2. The actual expenditure at the end of Period 11 is £51,825 and a breakdown is provided at Appendix 1 to the report.

4.3. The projected spend for the year is approximately £70,440 (underspend of £19,211) as noted by the Board on 9 December 2025.

5. Expenditure during 2025/2026

5.1. Specific spend within this period relates to salary costs, Learning and Development, Community Planning Events, general IT renewal costs and the Lived Experience Fund.

6. Income and Expenditure 2026/2027

- 6.1. As part of the annual budget setting process, the Board is asked to note that the partners listed in the table below have all been contacted to confirm their contribution for this financial year and advised that there is no proposed change to the contribution levels from 2025/2026.

Partner	Annual contribution £
NHS Lanarkshire	18,350
South Lanarkshire Council	22,000
Police Scotland	5,000

- 6.2. Following the end of the financial year, the 2026/2027 budget will be set and reported to the Board at their meeting on 17 June 2026.

7. Employee Implications

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

8. Financial Implications

- 8.1. The financial implications are detailed in Sections 4 to 7 of this report.

9. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

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

10. Other Implications

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

Risk Card Reference	Risk Classification	Risk Summary
CPP/2018/001	Very High	Failure to achieve the outcomes of the Community Plan 2022-2032
CPP/2018/002	Very High	Ineffective engagement and collaborative working with communities
CPP/2018/004	High	Financial Challenges

11. Integrated Impact Assessment and Consultation Requirements

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

Paul Manning
Chief Executive
South Lanarkshire Council

25 February 2026

Contact for Further Information:

If you would like further information, please contact:-

Jen Kerr, Community Engagement Manager, South Lanarkshire Council

Tel: 0303 123 1017

Email: Jennifer.Kerr1@southlanarkshire.gov.uk



Community Planning Budget 2025/26				
Opening Balance April 2025		£44,301	£44,301	£44,301
Income 2025/2026				
Partner Contributions		Budget	Forecast	Actual to Date (23 Jan 2026)
NHS Lanarkshire		£18,350	£18,350	£18,350
South Lanarkshire Council		£22,000	£22,000	£22,000
Police Scotland		£5,000	£5,000	£5,000
Total Income		£45,350	£45,350	£45,350
Total Available Funding 2025/2026		£89,651	£89,651	£89,651
		£	£	£
Expenditure 2025/2026		Proposed Expenditure	Forecast	Expenditure (23 Jan 2026)
Community Plan Delivery		£8,000	£1,523	£1,470
Community Planning Events		£5,000	£1,917	£1,108
Learning and Development		£5,000	£2,000	£1,065
Lived Experience Fund		£13,500	£11,000	£6,000
Printing/Stationery/General		£6,000	£2,000	£224
Salaries		£52,000	£52,000	£41,958
Travel		£151	£0	£0
Total Expenditure		£89,651	£70,440	£51,825
(Over)/under spend		£0	£19,211	£37,826

Community Planning Partnership Board Executive Summary

Date of Meeting:	18 March 2026
Subject:	Age Friendly South Lanarkshire Update Report
Report by:	Chairperson, Seniors Together in South Lanarkshire
Contact for Further Information:	Christine Calder, Manager, Seniors Together, South Lanarkshire Council Tel: 07385370051 Email: christine.calder@southlanarkshire.gov.uk
Purpose of the Report:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ to provide the Partnership Board with an update on the development of Age Friendly South Lanarkshire; and ◆ provide a draft plan setting out the actions required by the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) to assist the process to move forward.
Community Planning Delivery Partners:	All partners
Key Recommendations/Decisions/Action Required from Partners:	<p>The Board is asked to approve the following recommendations:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) that the Age Friendly South Lanarkshire Action Plan, as detailed in the attached Appendix, be endorsed; (2) that ongoing delivery of the Action Plan be supported; and (3) that the role of Ageing Well Ambassadors in delivering the success of Age Friendly South Lanarkshire and request for nominations from the CPP Board members be approved.
Risks/Challenges:	There are no risks or challenges associated with this report.
Links to Community Plan Ambitions/Principles:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Caring, connected communities; ◆ Good quality, suitable housing for everyone; and ◆ People live the healthiest lives possible.
Summary of Report:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Section 3 provides the background to Seniors Together which is a South Lanarkshire Council project in association with South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership which aims to improve the quality of life of older people living in South Lanarkshire; and ◆ Section 4 details the creation of a baseline profile of South Lanarkshire with various focus groups and the proposal to identify employees to be Age Friendly Ambassadors to promote Age Friendly Practices within respective resources or services across the partnership.

Report

Report to:	Partnership Board
Date of Meeting:	18 March 2026
Report by:	Chairperson, Seniors Together in South Lanarkshire

Subject:	Age Friendly South Lanarkshire Update report
----------	---

1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ to provide the Partnership Board with an update on the development of the Age Friendly South Lanarkshire approach; and
- ◆ provide a draft plan setting out the actions required by the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) to assist the process to move forward

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the Age Friendly South Lanarkshire Action Plan, as detailed in the attached Appendix, be endorsed;
- (2) that ongoing delivery of the Action Plan be supported; and
- (3) that the role of Ageing Well Ambassadors in delivering the success of Age Friendly South Lanarkshire and request for nominations from the CPP Board members be approved.

3. Background

3.1. In March 2023, South Lanarkshire became the first Age Friendly Community in Scotland. It was agreed that in South Lanarkshire this would be delivered in partnership between South Lanarkshire Council and Seniors Together in South Lanarkshire.

3.2. Seniors Together is a South Lanarkshire Council project in association with South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership. It is aimed at improving the quality of life for older people living in South Lanarkshire. The project connects older people to their peers and provide information events with links to other services and organisations that may help people age well and prevent loneliness and isolation.

3.3. An Age Friendly Community is one in which people of all ages can actively participate in activities and where everyone is treated with respect, regardless of their age. It is community led with older people being at the centre of service design and development. It is a place that makes it easy for older people to stay connected to people that are important to them, and it helps people stay healthy and active even at the oldest ages and provides appropriate support to those who can no longer look after themselves. The important feature of the approach is that it puts older people at the heart of decision making.

- 3.4. In South Lanarkshire, older people have led the way through the Seniors Together project, who approached the Leader of the Council with their plan to co-produce Age Friendly South Lanarkshire, after undertaking research into other Age Friendly Communities across the UK, looking at how to begin, who to involve and the benefits to all who live there.
- 3.5. South Lanarkshire had already a well-established structure for engaging with older people through the Seniors Together project. They have been providing a collective voice for older people in the local authority area since its original format of Better Government for Older People since it was first established in 1997. Through its members, who are representatives of older people groups and clubs across the localities of South Lanarkshire, that meet on a quarterly basis to progress priorities for the older people community. Larger gatherings are organised by the project on behalf of South Lanarkshire Council to engage older people with senior officers of statutory and voluntary organisations so that they can hear first-hand about changes in services or new developments that will have an impact on their lives. They can also use this gathering as an opportunity to take part in the decision-making process by having their views heard on the proposed changes.
- 3.6. Members felt that older people in South Lanarkshire were well placed to take the lead in moving forward in co-producing an Age Friendly community due to these structures as being a stage one requirement for developing an Age Friendly Community.
- 3.7. Ageism is the most prevalent form of discrimination in the UK, and the development of an Age Friendly Community would go a long way to remove this discrimination in South Lanarkshire.
- 3.8. Being an Age Friendly Community is about taking the decision to make improvements to your place at whatever pace you can. Being Age Friendly means designing services and facilities with older people, not for them. The [World Health Organisation's Age Friendly Cities Framework](#) acts as a guide for communities to achieve this goal.
- 3.9. There are eight domains that make an Age Friendly Community which link with current work of the CPP at both a local and strategic level which includes the Marmot Place Programme. The Age Friendly approach also considers how health is shaped by social factors and the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age, and therefore aligns well with the eight Marmot Principles.

The eight Age Friendly domains are:

- ◆ Community and Health Care;
- ◆ Transport
- ◆ Housing
- ◆ Social participation
- ◆ Outdoor spaces and buildings
- ◆ Respect and social inclusion
- ◆ Civic participation and employment
- ◆ Communication and information

- 3.10. This report provides an update on the development of age friendly practice in South Lanarkshire so far and sets out a draft action plan with the next steps for partners to consider for endorsement. This will support the roll out of age friendly practice across the South Lanarkshire area, working with the CPP.

4. Age Friendly South Lanarkshire Update

- 4.1. To support the delivery of an Age Friendly approach in South Lanarkshire, an action plan has been developed using the World Health Organisation's (WHO) implementation guidance. The draft plan sets out a range of actions relating to for example, the meaningful engagement of older people; key steps for partnerships, leadership and strategic thinking, building capacity, and also includes a process implementation assessment. The Seniors Together Community are seeking the support of the CPP to embed the delivery of age friendly practices across South Lanarkshire. The draft action plan can be found at Appendix 1.
- 4.2. Using the WHO checklists to create age friendly standards for South Lanarkshire, Seniors Together consulted with older people in a series of focus groups held in October 2023 to discuss the eight domains that make up an Age Friendly Community. The checklists were used to assess how older people felt South Lanarkshire measured up against each of the eight domains and to add any gaps which they felt were missing for South Lanarkshire.
- 4.3. Seniors Together members who participated in these focus groups agreed the checklists were a good fit for South Lanarkshire and could be a valuable tool in helping communities become more age friendly and for the council and its partners to use when measuring how age friendly they are.
- 4.4. Following on from the focus groups, Seniors Together then held an engagement event to share findings from the focus groups with colleagues and partners to ensure they were aware of South Lanarkshire becoming an Age Friendly Community, how it would impact on their service and their expected role in the development.
- 4.5. South Lanarkshire Council colleagues and partners with responsibility for each of the eight domains, were invited to attend, learn, discuss and assess their own domain. An important aspect of the event was that older people who participated in the focus groups were present at each table to discuss and share their views with colleagues. This ensured that older people were sharing their knowledge with officers and keeping them at the centre of the engagement and delivery of the event.
- 4.6. As part of the development and delivery of the Age Friendly approach in South Lanarkshire, Ageing Well Ambassadors will be crucial. 'Ageing Well' Ambassadors, seek to both communicate key messages around ageing well with peers, and help shape activities, services and strategies in their workplace. This role was developed initially around older people's forums, groups and assemblies; however, this has been well established by Seniors Together and is a key part of how the project is structured. Local champions help to spread the word about Age Friendly South Lanarkshire and phase two of the Ageing Well Ambassadors programme may see a name change to include them in this programme.
- 4.7. The Board is asked to identify Ambassadors from each of their respective resources or services who would embed the Age Friendly approach and be the voice of older people within their service ensuring key messages included the older people's community. The officer would also be asked to attend at least one of the community-led Seniors Together Executive meetings to provide an update on progress from their service and to keep up to date on developments as the Age Friendly journey is developing in South Lanarkshire.

4.8. As South Lanarkshire Council continues on its journey in co-producing an Age Friendly Community with Seniors Together, it is imperative that staff in all services and partners consider older people in their approach and their role in making South Lanarkshire ‘a great place to grow older’.

5. Employee Implications

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

6. Financial Implications

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

7. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

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

8. Other Implications

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

9. Integrated Impact Assessment and Consultation Requirements

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

Catriona Mason
Chairperson
Seniors Together in South Lanarkshire

25 February 2026

Contact for Further Information:

If you would like further information, please contact:-

Christine Calder, Manager, Seniors Together, South Lanarkshire Council
Tel: 07385370051
Email: christine.calder@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Meaningful engagement of older people			
No.	Action	Person(s) responsible	Progress to date/Comments
1	Review and adapt World Health Organisation (WHO) checklists to ensure that they are relevant for South Lanarkshire	Seniors Together Manager and Seniors Together Community Supported by the relevant Service providers	Three Focus Groups held with Seniors Together members and representatives of Older People Groups in South Lanarkshire on 2, 9, 16 October 2024. All participants given a copy of the Bristol Toolkit at the end of Focus Group 3. A workshop was then held with key partners and stakeholders on 22 April 2025 where older people reported back on their findings and shared their vision of Age Friendly South Lanarkshire with participants.
2	Co-produce a community toolkit for local activists to use. See example: Neighborhood-Toolkit-for-ISSU.pdf (who.int) . Consideration to be given to other local toolkits such as local place plans.	Seniors Together Manager and Seniors Together Community supported by the Community Engagement and Planning Teams	The Bristol Toolkit has been shared with members as the preferred one after a review of those available and is currently under discussion regarding which sections should fit our purposes.
Key steps for partnerships, networking, and stakeholders			
No.	Action	Person(s) responsible	Comments
3	Complete Stakeholder Analysis	Seniors Together Community and Seniors Together Manager	The Ageing Well Ambassadors Programme is under development and when endorsed and established, we will work with this officer's group to begin the stakeholder analysis.
4	Understand the influence of each Stakeholder Group	Seniors Together Manager with support from the Community Planning Progress Group	Following completion of analysis, support from the CP Progress Group and wider partnership to understand the influence of each Stakeholder Group.
5	Negotiate and establish roles, responsibilities and accountability	Seniors Together Community and Seniors Together Manager with support from the Community Planning Progress Group	Request for Age Friendly Ambassadors to be identified from across the Community Planning Partnership. Work will continue to further progress this action.

Key steps for leadership and strategic thinking			
No.	Action	Person(s) responsible	Comments
6	Create information for partners on Age Friendly Cities and communities and develop a shared vision or common purpose or consider introducing a lens for partnership plans and activity	Seniors Together Community and Seniors Together Manager Supported by the Community Planning Progress Group	Age Friendly Implementation Toolkit available including co-produced checklists (Seniors Community and Partnership Officers) for the eight Age Friendly Domains, which set out the standard for delivery of an Age Friendly Service. Work will continue to increase awareness and embed these within services across the partnership.
7	Engage with strategic planners across the partnership to increase awareness of Age Friendly requirements	Seniors Together Manager	April 2025 workshop held with key stakeholders to share the findings of the Checklists Focus Groups and gather their feedback.
8	Develop guidance/training for the Planning Service in creating Age Friendly environments. See example: AFI-Principals-and-Guidelines-for-Planning-Authority.pdf (agefriendlyireland.ie)	TBC, any national activity around this that aligns with the new National Performance Planning Framework 4 (NPF4)?	5 September 2024 co-produced a Consultation Event with colleagues from Planning and Building Standards around the Local Development Plan 3. This was the culmination of several focus groups in this process, and a strong partnership has been developed with this service.
9	Engage with local community groups who prepare community plans to increase awareness of Age Friendly considerations	Seniors Together Community supported by council's Community Engagement Team	Action to be progressed.
10	Share national information on developing Age Friendly practice and policy alignment with the partnership	Seniors Together Manager	Seniors Together Manager attends the Progress Group and has already provided an update. She will continue to do this as Age Friendly South Lanarkshire develops.
11	Consider how age friendly leadership can be promoted across the partnership and within communities. See example: Age friendly Champions (volunteers) - Age-Friendly World (who.int)	Seniors Together Community and Seniors Together Manager supported by the Community Planning Progress Group	The Seniors Together Community have identified locality community champions. Request for Age Friendly Ambassadors to be identified from across the Community Planning Partnership. Work will continue to further progress this action.

Key steps for capacity-building			
No.	Action	Person(s) responsible	Comments
12	Develop a communications plan/calendar of events which reaches all sectors, community, public, third and private	Seniors Together Community and Seniors Together Manager Supported by the Community Planning Progress Group	Community Calendars example available from UK Network that can be developed in South Lanarkshire.
13	Consider Learning and Development skill and knowledge needs and develop relevant learning and development interventions for employees	Seniors Together Manager and Learning and Development Manager	One Learn Online Module already developed for staff on the subject of Ageism. The development of Ageing Well Ambassadors within each of the council departments and key stakeholders will assist in enhancing employees learning of Age Friendly communities and the needs of the Older People Community.
14	Work with the partnership's Progress Group to identify skill and knowledge needs of the wider partnership and agree a delivery approach	Seniors Together Manager, Community Planning Progress Group	Action to be progressed
15	Seek relevant technical expertise required for delivery of Age Friendly approaches across all sectors, community, public, third and private	Seniors Together Community and Seniors Together Manager Supported by the Community Planning Progress Group	Action to be progressed
16	Consider an approach/ approaches to facilitate sharing and learning within and across communities in South Lanarkshire	Seniors Together Community and Seniors Together Manager	Action to be progressed
17	Develop and establish opportunities for cross-sectoral learning, peer support and joint problem-solving	Seniors Together Community and Seniors Together Manager supported by the Community Planning Progress Group	Action to be progressed
Key steps for knowledge, research and innovation			
No.	Action	Person(s) responsible	Comments
18	Embrace, advocate for and encourage co-research with older people, including those in marginalised groups, ensuring their meaningful engagement in knowledge production (including Academic institutions)	Seniors Together Community and Seniors Together Manager supported by the Community Planning Progress Group	Action to be progressed

19	Foster innovation through working collaboratively with older people to ensure their involvement in decision-making processes and in the design and delivery of services	Seniors Together Manager supported by the Community Planning Progress Group	Good practice example demonstrated through Checklist Focus Groups and consultation with colleagues working on the Local Development Plan 3.
Key steps for monitoring and evaluation			
No.	Action	Person(s) responsible	Comments
20	Develop a monitoring and evaluation process to measure and report on progress	Seniors Together Community and Seniors Together Manager supported by the Community Planning Progress Group	Draft indicators have been developed for consideration. Work will continue to progress this.
Principles and steps for creating an age friendly environment			
No.	Action	Person(s) responsible	Comments
21	Complete process implementation assessment and identify additional implementation actions required (see Appendix 1).	Seniors Together Manager supported by the Community Planning Progress Group	In progress

Process Implementation Assessment

Category	Action	Person(s) responsible	Completed/Comments
Engage and Understand	Set up a committee/working group	Seniors Together Manager	Seniors Together and the South Lanarkshire Older Peoples Assembly are both suitable structures already in place for engaging with older people across South Lanarkshire.
	Complete a participatory assessment		This will be undertaken in conjunction with Ageing Well Ambassadors.
	Create a baseline profile		An initial audit of activity was undertaken by the Seniors Together Community.
	Disseminate findings		Initial audit findings shared.
	Gain political commitment		Cllr Fagan and Cllr Logan (Age Friendly Champions).
Plan Strategically	Unite Partners behind a common vision	Seniors Together Community with Seniors Together Manager and support from CPP Progress Group	See implementation Action No. 6.
	Analyse strengths and weaknesses		To be progressed.
	Develop a comprehensive strategy		Consider mainstreaming within existing strategies, work is ongoing.
	Get approval	Strategy leads with support from Seniors Together Manager	Mainstreaming of the Age Friendly approach to be approved by relevant plan stakeholders, work is ongoing.
	Define responsibilities	Seniors Together Community with Seniors Together Manager and support from CPP Progress Group	See Implementation Plan Action No. 5 with regards to the Age Friendly Ambassadors.
Act and implement	Make an action plan	Strategy leads with support from the Seniors Together Manager	Actions to be included in relevant strategic plans and policies.
	Consult on plans and involve older people		In progress, Planning Services and checklist engagement undertaken.
	Secure support and resources	Seniors Together Community with Seniors Together Manager and support from CPP Progress Group	Across all sectors, community, public, third and private. To be progressed.
	Implement an operational plan	Seniors Together Manager with support from strategy leads	Identify tests of change. To be progressed.

Category	Action	Person(s) responsible	Completed/Comments
	Scale up successful action	Test of change leads with Seniors Together Community with Seniors Together Manager	Evaluate tests of change, refine and roll out. To be progressed.
Evaluate	Create partnerships	Strategy leads and Seniors Together Manager	Partnerships in place and consider any other essential partnerships. Age Friendly guidance also available on evaluating partnerships.
	Monitor progress		Monitor progress through agreed monitoring framework specific to each plan,
	Outcome and impact evaluation	Test of change leads with Seniors Together Community and Seniors Together Manager with support from the CPP Progress Group	To be progressed.
	Sustain and improve action	Test of change leads with Seniors Together Community with Seniors Together Manager	To be progressed.
	Exchange practice nationally	Seniors Together Community and Seniors Together Manager	Ongoing: Exchanging good practice examples with UK Network of Age Friendly Communities and the Scottish Network of Age Friendly Communities.

Community Planning Partnership Board Executive Summary

Date of Meeting:	18 March 2026
Subject:	Local Child Poverty Action Report
Report by:	Director, Health and Social Care, South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership and Executive Director (Education Resources), South Lanarkshire Council
Contact for Further Information:	<p>Kevin Mullarkey, Children's Services Partnership Planning Manager, South Lanarkshire Council Tel: 07795453122 Email: kevin.mullarkey@southlanarkshire.gov.uk</p> <p>Jen Kerr, Community Engagement Manager, South Lanarkshire Council Tel: 0303 123 1017 Email: Jennifer.Kerr1@southlanarkshire.gov.uk</p>
Purpose of the Report:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Update the Partnership Board on the content of the South Lanarkshire Child Poverty Action Report for 2024/25.
Community Planning Delivery Partners:	All partners
Key Recommendations/ Decisions/Action Required from Partners:	<p>The Board is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-</p> <p>(1) that the progress in developing the latest Child Poverty Action Report be noted.</p>
Risks/Challenges:	Reducing resources available to meet the needs of children and families.
Links to Community Plan Ambitions/Principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Improving health and tackling inequalities; ◆ Promoting sustainable and inclusive communities and opportunities for all through life; ◆ Ensuring sustainable economic recovery and development; and ◆ Tackling poverty.
Summary of Report:	<p>Update on progress of the Local Child Poverty Action Report 2024-25 since the implementation of the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017.</p> <p>The report contains highlights of the partners' activity to mitigate child poverty for South Lanarkshire's children, young people and families.</p>

Report

Report to:	Partnership Board
Date of Meeting:	18 March 2026
Report by:	Director, Health and Social Care South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership and Executive Director (Education Resources) South Lanarkshire Council

Subject:	Local Child Poverty Action Report
----------	--

1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ update the Partnership Board on the content of South Lanarkshire's Child Poverty Action Report for 2024-2025.

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the progress in developing the latest Child Poverty Action Report be noted.

3. Background

3.1. The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 introduced a new requirement for local authorities and relevant health boards to prepare and publish Local Child Poverty Action Reports (LCPAR) as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of each reporting year.

3.2. The purpose of the LCPARs is to describe any measures taken in the area of the local authority during the previous 12 months and set out planned activity for the year ahead that seek to address and mitigate child poverty.

3.3. The work described in the report is expected to contribute to the four national income-based child poverty reduction targets to be achieved by 2030:

- ◆ Less than 10% of children are in relative poverty
- ◆ Less than 5% of children are in absolute poverty
- ◆ Less than 5% of children are in combined low income and material deprivation
- ◆ Less than 5% of children are in persistent poverty

3.4. The Scottish Government made it clear that the introduction of the requirement to produce LCPARs signalled an aspiration to undertake new activity and a new approach to tackling Child Poverty. Where local partners are continuing with existing

activity, they should be clear about the supporting evidence base indicating its effectiveness.

- 3.5. Feedback on South Lanarkshire's LCPAR (for 2023-2024 provided by Public Health Scotland) continues to be overwhelmingly positive.
- 3.6. South Lanarkshire Council and NHS Lanarkshire agreed at the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board meeting of 6 June 2018 to produce a single LCPAR, recognising that a collective effort would be more effective.
- 3.7. The Child Poverty Working Group established in 2018 continues to be the main mechanism used to produce the report and to identify potential areas of added value. This group meet at least on a quarterly basis to ensure that the work around the plan remains relevant and focussed on the key actions to address child poverty in South Lanarkshire.
- 3.8. In 2023, the Working Group were successful in applying to the Scottish Government's Child Poverty Accelerator Fund (CPAF). This funding stream provided the resources to test a new way of working with families where there is a disability. One of the priority groups articulated in the current national Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan (Best Start, Bright Futures).
- 3.9. The national delivery plan is due to be refreshed in 2026 and colleagues from South Lanarkshire participated in the engagement process to identify its potential key themes.

4. The Report and Ongoing Activity

- 4.1. A copy of the LCPAR for 2024-2025 is attached (see Appendix 1) and highlights the range of work delivered across South Lanarkshire to address poverty challenges faced by families. The report reflects the aspirations of the Child Poverty Commitment, and the work going forward is embedded in much of what we do across a wide range of planning and service delivery strands.
- 4.2. As planning evolves and resourcing allows, we will continue to focus on areas for improvement, identified by the Working Group and from engagement processes with children, young people, families and the wider community.
- 4.3. We will continue to monitor challenges that arise to mitigate an increase in child poverty and will ensure any new evidence and research informs our work and decision making.
- 4.4. As part of our approach to developing activity, listening to the voices of families and communities experiencing poverty issues will be crucial and be a feature of future design of services.
- 4.5. It should be noted that South Lanarkshire Council (via its Money Matters Advice Service) were successful in an application for CPAF funding for 2026-2027. This funding will be used to support families where children have neurodiverse conditions and will be delivered in partnership with the Autism Resources Co-ordination Hub (ARCH).

5. Next Steps

- 5.1. Partners will align the understanding and analysis developed as part of the Marmot/Collaboration for Health Equity in Scotland (CHES) to the continued work of the Child Poverty Working Group and in working towards the refresh of South Lanarkshire's Child Poverty Commitment and supporting transformational change activity.
- 5.2. A lens of child poverty will be applied to actions developed under the Marmot/ CHES banner and in particular the planned Burnbank place based, early years prevention project.

6. Employee Implications

- 6.1. There are no immediate employee implications arising from this report.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1. Any financial implications will be met within existing budgets.

8. Other Implications

- 8.1. The LCPAR continues to be a point of local and national scrutiny. This could have positive and/or negative impacts on perceptions of the council and its partners, and proactive PR approach will be required.

9. Integrated Impact Assessment and Consultation Requirements

- 9.1. In developing the new LCPAR, a new Equality Impact Assessment will be completed along with a Children's Rights Wellbeing Impact Assessment.

10. Children's Rights Considerations

- 10.1. A Children's Rights Wellbeing Impact Assessment will be completed as part of the work to develop the East Kilbride South Neighbourhood Plan.
- 10.2. Engaging children, young people and families in developing this work is central to our continuing commitment to the UNCRC and in particular the following Articles:-
 - ◆ **Article 6 (life, survival and development)** every child has the right to be kept safe from harm, the right to be alive, survive and develop through life
 - ◆ **Article 12 (respect for the views of the child)** every child has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters affecting them, and to have their views considered and taken seriously
 - ◆ **Article 13 (freedom of expression)** every child must be free to express their thoughts and opinions and to access all kinds of information, as long as it is within the law
 - ◆ **Article 27 (adequate standard of living)** every child has the right to a safe place to live, food and clothing.

Soumen Sengupta

Director (Health and Social Care)

South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership

Lyndsay McRoberts

Executive Director (Education Resources)

South Lanarkshire Council

25 February 2026

Contact for Further Information

If you would like further information, please contact:-

Kevin Mullarkey, Children's Services Partnership Planning Manager, South Lanarkshire Council

Tel: 07795453122

Email: kevin.mullarkey@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Jen Kerr, Community Engagement Manager, South Lanarkshire Council

Tel: 0303 123 1017

Email: Jennifer.Kerr1@southlanarkshire.gov.uk



South Lanarkshire
Partnership
Stronger together

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

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





Content section

Section 1.	Foreword	4
Section 2.	The current context	6-8
Section 3.	Our plan and its progress	
	• Income from benefits	9-13
	• Cost of living	14-19
	• Income from employment	20-23
Section 4.	Monitoring of progress and delivering on our ambitions	24-25
Section 5.	Our priorities for 2025/26	26



Section 1 - Foreword

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

The foundation of our work continues to be built upon:

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

We firmly endorse our child poverty commitment that:

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

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

Our commitments

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

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

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

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

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



Cllr Joe Fagan
Leader of South Lanarkshire Council



Martin Hill
Chair of NHS Lanarkshire Board

Section 2 - The current context

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

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

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

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



Child Poverty in South Lanarkshire

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

Chart one

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

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

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

Chart two

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

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

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

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

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

Lone parent families

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

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

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

Families with young children, under one year

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

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

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

Large families, three or more children

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

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

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

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

⁴Source: DWP Stat Xplore - Households on Universal Credit

Section 2 - The current context

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

Families with disabled children or adults

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

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

Families headed by a young mother – under 25

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

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

Ethnic Minority Families with children

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

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



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

⁶Source Public Health Scotland

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

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

Section 3 - Our plan and its progress

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

Driver 1:

Progress on increasing income from benefits

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

Support from the Citizen's Advice

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

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



Money Matters Advice Service

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

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

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

Lone parent families

Financial gain £4.4 million

Families with a disabled parent or child

Financial gain £1.7 million

Families with three or more children

Financial gain £1.6 million

Families with children under the age of one

Financial gain £666,000

Minority ethnic families

Financial gain £363,000

Families with a younger mother (under 25)

Financial gain £164,000

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

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

Section 3 - Our plan and its progress

Case study – Money Matters Advice Service

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Expanding the Routine Enquiry approach

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

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

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

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

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



Glasgow Royal Hospital for Children Project

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

28 families

£149,000

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

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

GP Community Link Worker Programme

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

Social Security Scotland benefits and actions

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

The result of this work can be seen below:

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

Section 3 - Our plan and its progress

Paths Away From Poverty – COVEY

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

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

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

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

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

Relational Mentoring – The Wise Group

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

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

Case Study – Sanman’s Story

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

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

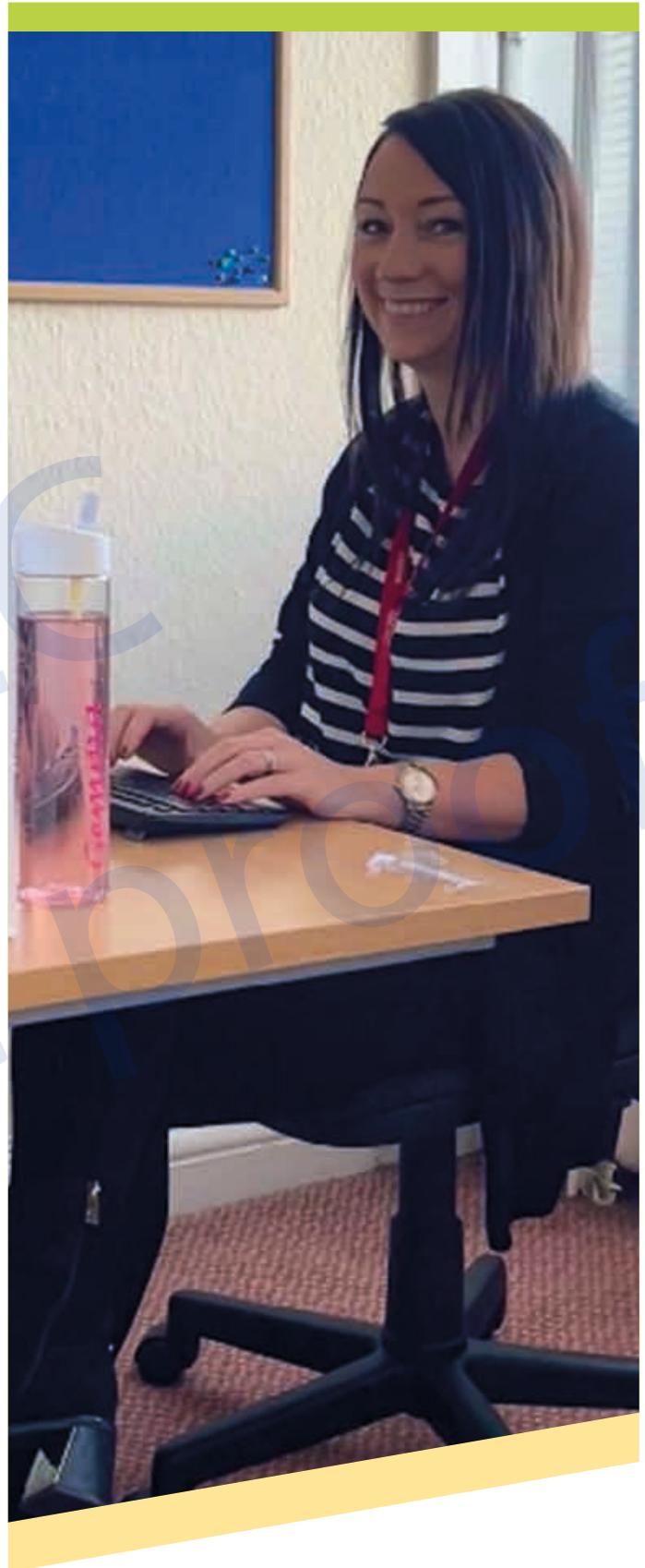
Sanam’s sons have noticed how hard their mother has been working, and things have been improving at home. She laughed as she shared how they have started to clean the house, recognising the effort she is making to give them a better life

Supporting Care Experienced Young People manage money better

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

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

14 young people **£14,500**



Section 3 - Our plan and its progress

Driver 2:

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

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

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

Reducing the cost of the school day initiatives

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

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

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

Case Study - Carluke High School

Uniform, Winter Clothing and Prom Packages

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

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

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

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

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

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



Participatory Budgeting in Schools

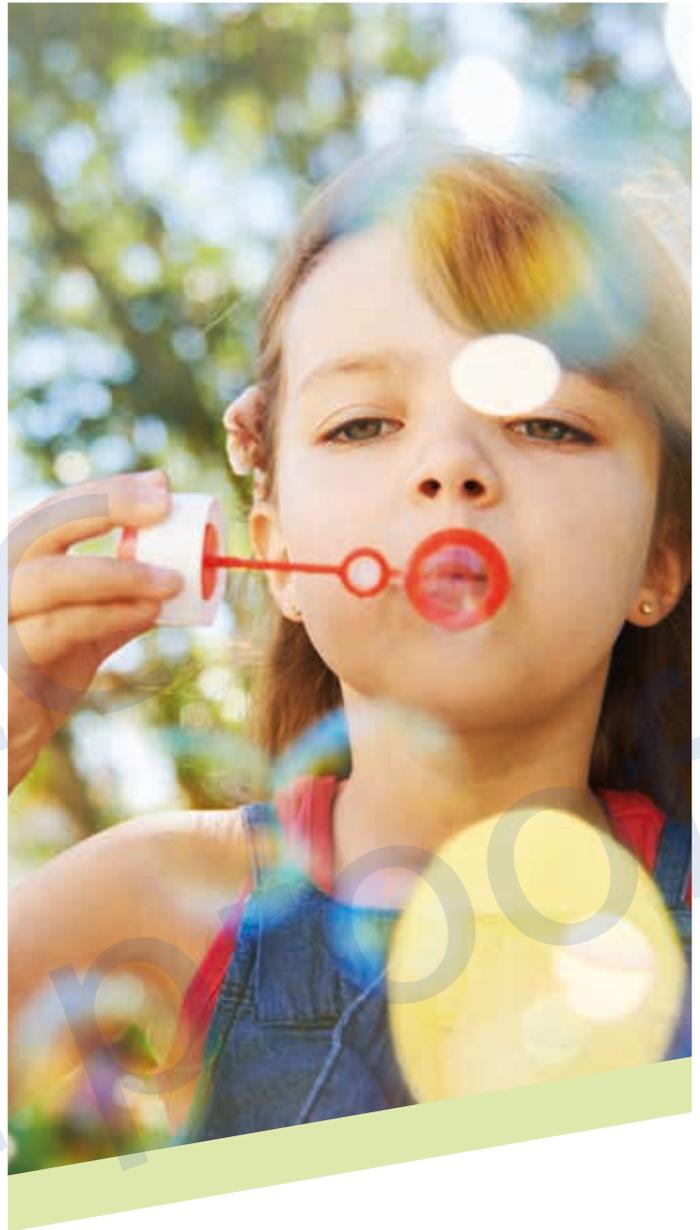
All South Lanarkshire schools who receive Pupil Equity Funding (PEF) have continued to contribute at least 5% to participatory budgeting activities this year and helps put children and young people's voice at the heart of our work to challenge poverty.

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

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

142 schools

£565,000



Section 3 - Our plan and its progress

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

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

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

Promoting Active Travel among young people

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

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

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

Breakfast Clubs

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

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

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

The Machan Trust

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Maintaining affordable rents for council tenants

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

Supporting the housing needs of minority groups

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

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

Asylum seeking families **4**

Reducing energy costs for families

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

2810 families **£522,639**

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

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

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

Tenancy Sustainment Fund

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

122 families **£80,000+**

Improved digital inclusion amongst families in the most deprived areas

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

Section 3 - Our plan and its progress

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

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

Reduced food poverty

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

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

8 foodbanks	27,509 food parcels
1,344 energy vouchers	7% increase
1,116 cash first vouchers	489 sim cards

Winter Wishes

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

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

Young people told us:

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

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

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

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

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

Promoting healthy living among children and families living in poverty

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

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

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

4 Make A Meal Of It sessions
48 parents/carers
2,131 food bags
5,075 people
700 participants

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

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

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

Reduce costs associated with health harming behaviours

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

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

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

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

Breastfeeding

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

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

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



Section 3 - Our plan and its progress

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

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

Local Employability Partnership

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

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

Employability Service

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

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

Supporting Families

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

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

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

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



Case Study – Supporting Families

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

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

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

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

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

Participant Feedback:

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

Making It Work

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

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

340 parents and carers an 88% increase on previous year

- Lone parent families **174**
- Families with a disabled adult or child **132**
- Families with three or more children **122**
- Minority ethnic families **94**

Outcomes

- Employment **125** - 238% increase on previous year
- Further training **56**
- Demonstrator programme **11**

Demonstrator

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

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

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

26 Parents and carers 45% increase on previous year

- Lone parent families **11**
- Families with a disabled adult or child **11**
- Minority ethnic families **11**

Outcomes

- 17** Employment
- 6** Further Education

Section 3 - Our plan and its progress

Case study – Demonstrator

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

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

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

In Work Upskilling / Aim 2 Achieve

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

59 parents and carers a 104% increase on previous year

Lone parent families **19**

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

Families with three or more children **4**

Young mothers **2**

Outcomes

Job searches **13**

Training **11**

Further education **4**

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

Developing the Young Work Force into Positive Futures

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

Care experience young people

Positive destination **91.2%**

All young people (16-19)

Positive destination **93.8%**

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

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

Community Wealth Building

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

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

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

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

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



Section 4 - Monitoring of progress and delivering on our ambitions

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

Our commitment to continuous improvement is informed by:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Collaboration for Health Equity in Scotland (CHES)

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

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

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

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

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



How will we achieve this?

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



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

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

Useful links

The Local Housing Strategy 2022-2027

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

South Lanarkshire's Community Plan

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

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

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

Children and Young People's Health Plan Lanarkshire

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

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

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

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

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

Community Wealth Building Strategy

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

'Connect' the Council Plan

www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/council-plan

South Lanarkshire Works

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

For further information:

Key contacts:

Children's Services Partnership Planning Manager,
Education Resources, South Lanarkshire Council
Floor 13, Council Offices, Almada Street,
Hamilton ML3 0AE
Email: education.inclusion@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Community Engagement Manager,
Corporate Resources, South Lanarkshire Council,
Floor 1, Council Offices, Almada Street,
Hamilton ML3 0AE
Email: Jennifer.kerr1@southlanarkshire.gov.uk



If you need this information in another language or format,
please contact us to discuss how we can best meet your needs.
Phone: 0303 123 1015
Email: equalities@southlanarkshire.gov.uk
www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Produced by Communications and Strategy. 068656/Jan26



Community Planning Partnership Board Executive Summary

Date of meeting:	18 March 2026
Subject:	'The Voice' – Engaging Children and Young People
Report by:	Executive Director (Education Resources), South Lanarkshire Council
Contact for Further Information:	Kevin Mullarkey, Children's Services Partnership Planning Manager, South Lanarkshire Council Tel: 07795453122 Email: kevin.mullarkey@southlanarkshire.gov.uk
Purpose of the Report:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ to inform the Partnership Board of work to engage children and young people as part of South Lanarkshire Council's budget setting process and to help inform other strategic planning processes.
Community Planning Delivery Partners:	All partners
Key Recommendations/ Decisions/Action Required from Partners:	The Board is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):- (1) that the content of the report be noted.
Risks/Challenges:	There are no risks or challenges associated with this report.
Links to Community Plan Ambitions/Principles:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Ambition 1 - we will invest in people by finding ways to share power and resources. ◆ Ambition 2 - we will make progress by investing in learning together and how we can do things better. ◆ Ambition 3 - we will invest in our planet by putting local areas at the centre of our work. ◆ Principles: Added Value and Continuous Improvement; Communication and Empowerment; and Embracing Change.
Summary of Report:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Section 3 details Article 12 of the UNCRC which has two key strands to consider when it comes to the policy decision-making process – the right for children and young people to share views; and the right for those views to be given due weight (or taken seriously); ◆ Section 4 highlights the engagement carried out with children and young people through the Child Voice Project; and ◆ Section 5 details the next steps for the partnership.

Report

Report to:	Partnership Board
Date of Meeting:	18 March 2026
Report by:	Executive Director (Education Resources), South Lanarkshire Council

Subject:	'The Voice' – Engaging Children and Young People Report
----------	--

1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ inform the Partnership Board of work to engage children and young people as part of South Lanarkshire Council's budget setting process and to help inform other strategic planning processes

2. Recommendation(s)

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

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

3. Background

3.1. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024 introduces new requirements for public sector bodies, summarised here:-

- ◆ A compatibility duty that makes it unlawful for public authorities to act incompatibly with the UNCRC requirements;
- ◆ Children and young people have a new ability to use the courts to enforce their rights. It is expected that public bodies put in place child friendly complaints procedures to provide resolution before complaints reach this stage;
- ◆ A requirement to report on how they are giving further and better affect with regards to children's rights; and
- ◆ A requirement to ensure the views of children and young people are included in all relevant planning processes.

- 3.2. The UNCRC consists of 54 articles that set out children's rights and how governments should work together to make them available to all children. Under the terms of the convention, governments are required to meet children's basic needs and help them reach their full potential. Article 12 has 2 key strands to consider when it comes to the policy decision-making process - the right for children and young people to share views; and the right for those views to be given due weight (or taken seriously).
- 3.3. The Children' and Young People's Voice project provided an early and successful contribution to delivering on requirements of the UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024 and, in particular, supporting children and young people's participation in decision making at the highest level through a peer led process reflecting the implementation of article 12.

4. Recent Activity

- 4.1. A multi-agency group of children's services partners co-ordinated the Child Voice Project. This involved the children and young people helping to design the engagement tool and delivering the key messages contained within it. This builds on the work that created the staff training webinar 'Understanding the UNCRC', which was part funded by the CPP and has been well received.
- 4.2. The project made innovative use of video to creatively engage children and young people in a novel approach and make them clearly visible in the council budget setting process and ensure that their views, and experiences were heard by decision makers.
- 4.3. Each child or young person participated using a smart phone/iPad/Chromebook or something similar. In total, 47 educational establishments, projects, groups and partner organisations participated resulting in around 1,300 children and young people from across the authority giving their views on proposed savings in particular and public services in general adding substantial weight to the budget setting process and their responses are contained in the report attached as Appendix 1.
- 4.4. The report on their voices was published on the council's webpages and made available to elected members as part of the engagement process. As a result, council officers and elected members heard the views of the children and young people when they were making crucial decisions about the delivery of public services, such as school transport, green spaces, sport and leisure and in particular the council budget setting process for 2025/2026 and beyond.
- 4.5. In addition to the visibility and success in articulating the views of so many children and young people, the project included an important learning outcome, where children and young people heard about the role of the council in general and elected members in particular, and which organisations deliver broader public services.
- 4.6. A follow up questionnaire (using a similar model to the main engagement tool) was carried out with elected members. Around 25% of all elected members responded to the survey and shared their perspectives on the voices they had heard. Most said that the views of children and young people young people helped convince them they we were making the right budgeting decisions.
- 4.7. The project contributes in a significant way to the council's step change approach to meeting the requirements of the UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024 and positively impacting on outcomes that make best use of available resources and

informs a number of different planning process in addition to council budgets e.g. Children's Services Plan, Local Plan and Child and Young Person's Health Plan that improve efficiency, effectiveness or address unmet needs.

- 4.8. Elected members said that they were impressed by the emphasis young people placed on education, sports, transport, sustainability infrastructure, music and learning in order to maintain their health and wellbeing and the health and wellbeing of others. They also emphasised the value of the voices of children and young people and that they should keep doing this and they will keep listening and acting to help them.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1. As a partnership, we are committed to embracing a comprehensive rights-based approach to our work, however, we know that even more requires to be done to increase awareness and understanding of the rights of children across South Lanarkshire. The aforementioned staff webinar will go some way to developing this awareness.
- 5.2. The originality of 'The Voice' approach has provided an opportunity to further develop a sustainable strategy which places children and young people at the heart of strategic engagement and decision making in South Lanarkshire. This was evidenced by the elected members who provided feedback to young people on the experience of hearing their views and what they did as a result.
- 5.3. In progressing the children's rights-based approach to engagement and participation we will also:-
- ◆ Reconvene the multi-agency group of partners to discuss the 2025/206 phase of participation and how this can further dovetail with strategic planning and decision-making processes
 - ◆ Ensure the co-production ethos is (as far as possible) central to the work with children and young people in designing and delivering future services
 - ◆ Support the use of the Children's Rights Wellbeing Impact Assessment (CRWIA) approach in developing relevant local plans and strategies affecting children and young people.

6. Employee Implications

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

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1. There are no financial implications associated with this report.

8. Other Implications

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

9. Integrated Impact Assessment and Consultation Requirements

- 9.1. As no specific service is being proposed, Equality Impact and Children's Rights Wellbeing Impact Assessments are not required.

Lyndsay McRoberts
Executive Director (Education Resources)
South Lanarkshire Council

25 February 2026

Contact for Further Information

If you would like further information, please contact:-

Kevin Mullarkey, Children's Services Partnership Planning Manager, South Lanarkshire Council

Tel: 07795453122

Email: Kevin.mullarkey@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Children and Young People's Voices Consultation Initial Findings Report



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

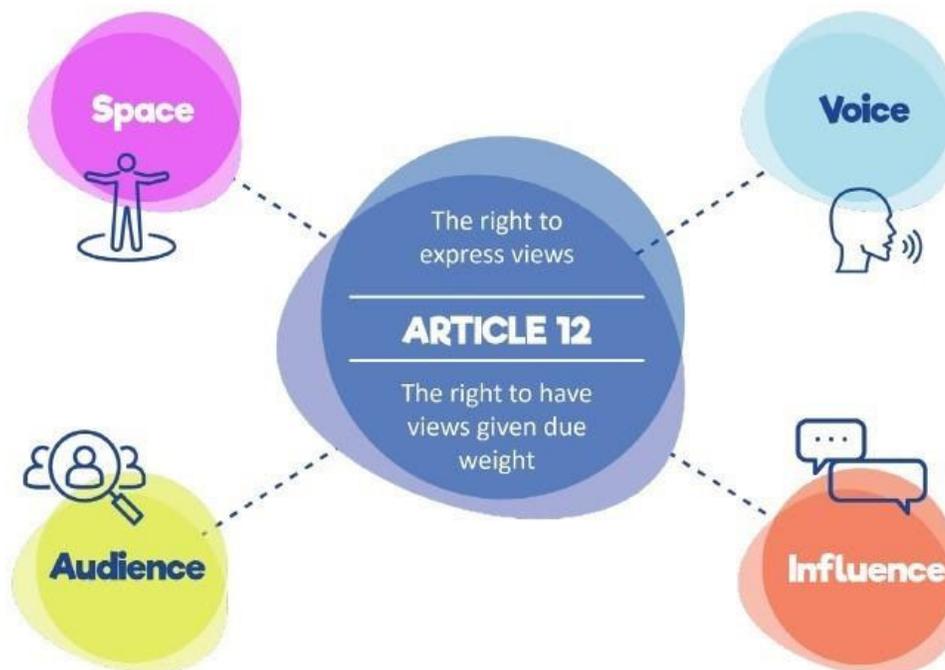
© Crown copyright

A report on the findings from the children and young people's voice consultation on public services including the council budget proposals for 2025-26

Context for the project and UNCRC (Article 12) – I have the right to be listened to and be taken seriously

The Scottish Government recently passed the UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024 in parliament, that means public authorities have to listen to the voices of children and young people when making decisions about what services they deliver and how they deliver them. This project is about helping to make this happen in South Lanarkshire.

The project's approach is informed by the Lundy Model of participation.



At the heart of this approach is supporting the voice of children and young people and ensuring their voice is heard. Which has been central to this project.

Space - We created a safe, inclusive and child and young person friendly space for South Lanarkshire's children and young people to share their views and opinions using an individual, interactive link with adult/teacher support

Voice - We worked with staff to encourage children and young people to share their thoughts and opinions through giving them the information, learning and support to provide informed responses to key issues and the freedom to decide how they want to express themselves.

Audience - Decision makers are asked to carefully listen to what children and young people say and to genuinely commit to hearing and responding to these views and making decisions in the best interest of the child.

Influence – The views of children and young people should have a real and tangible impact on decision-making. Decision-makers should consider their opinions carefully and support feedback on how their views were considered and how this made an impact on decisions made.

Purpose of the project

The Children and Young People's Voice Project aims to make sure that the views of children and young people are heard at the highest level by council officers and elected members when they are making crucial decisions about the delivery of public services, such as school transport, green spaces, sport and leisure and in particular the council budget setting process for 2025/26 and beyond.

While the recent activity is intended to help inform decisions on the budget for 2025/26, we also aim to raise children and young people's awareness and understanding of what the council does, public services in general and emphasise the importance of children and young people's voices informing these crucial decisions.

A key part of the project will be reporting back to children and young people what impact their participation has had on final decisions made. While we are still planning how best to do this, the use of video in the project was well received and using a video response would provide a consistent end to the process.

Project activity

An interactive Mentimeter engagement tool was created for use with children and young people. The tool was designed to gather their views on what they think is important in South Lanarkshire in general and proposed council budget savings in particular. The Mentimeter consultation was open from mid-December until 17th January.

We designed the consultation with children and young people and through the use of video presentations children and young people asked the questions to which responses are articulated in this report.

The questions we asked:

1. How would you feel if there were fewer Christmas lights and holiday events in town?
2. The council might stop cutting grass, picking up litter, and spraying weeds as often. Do you think this is okay?
3. The council might clean schools less often. Would this change anything for you at school?
4. If school meals became more expensive, £2.17 to £2.62 in primary, and £2.40 to £2.83 in secondary. Would this change anything for you at school?
5. Would you pay £1.50 for the breakfast club (it would still be free if you get free school meals), or do you think it should stay free for everyone?
6. What are your views if the council was to do less gritting of icy roads and footpaths on icy or snowy days?
7. If you could choose one thing the council should spend more money on to help children and young people like yourself, what might that be?
8. There might be fewer music teachers, some children may not get to learn an instrument. How important do you think music lessons are?

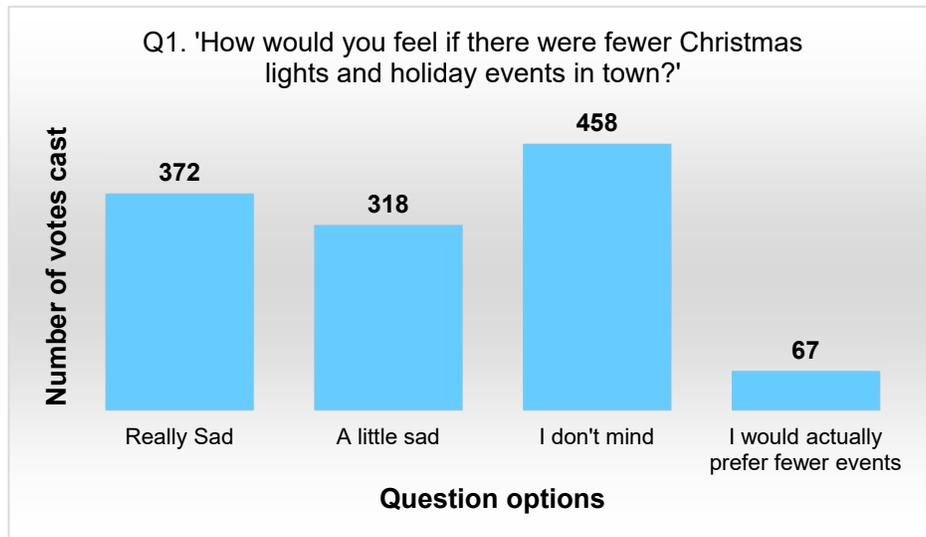
9. Improving our community - If you could use some of the council's money to make one big improvement in South Lanarkshire, what would you do?

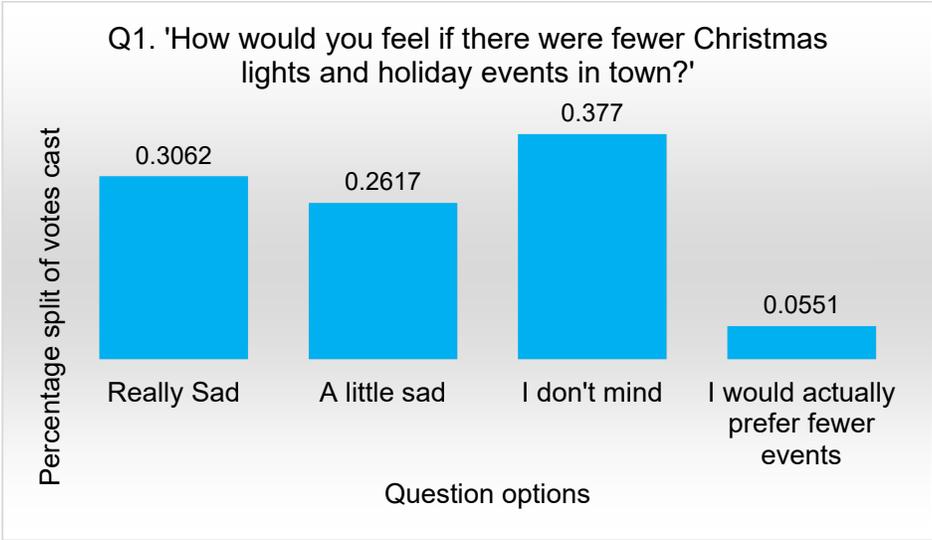
Each child or young person participated using a smart phone/ipad/chromebook or something similar. In total 47 educational establishments, projects, groups, and partner organisations participated resulting in at least 1,200 children and young people from across the authority giving their views on proposed savings in particular and public services in general.

Findings

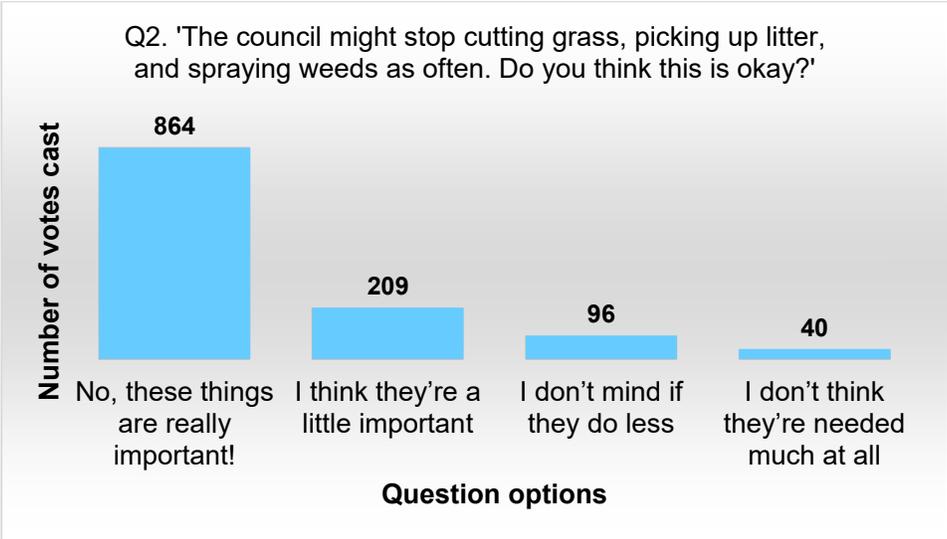
The findings for each of the questions asked are displayed below both numerically and by percentage. Specific comments from children and young people have been themed and are summarised below, and further detailed themes are provided as appendix 1. The source data is available on request.

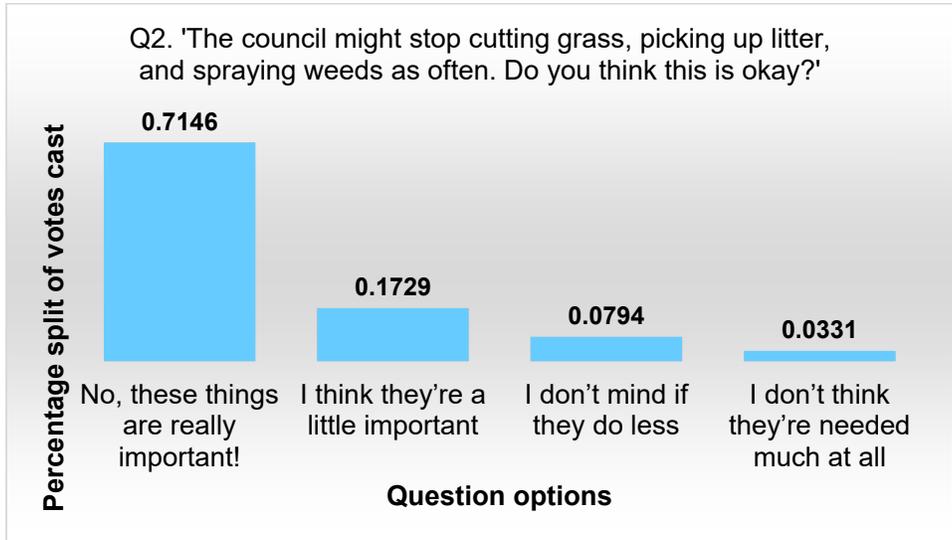
Question 1



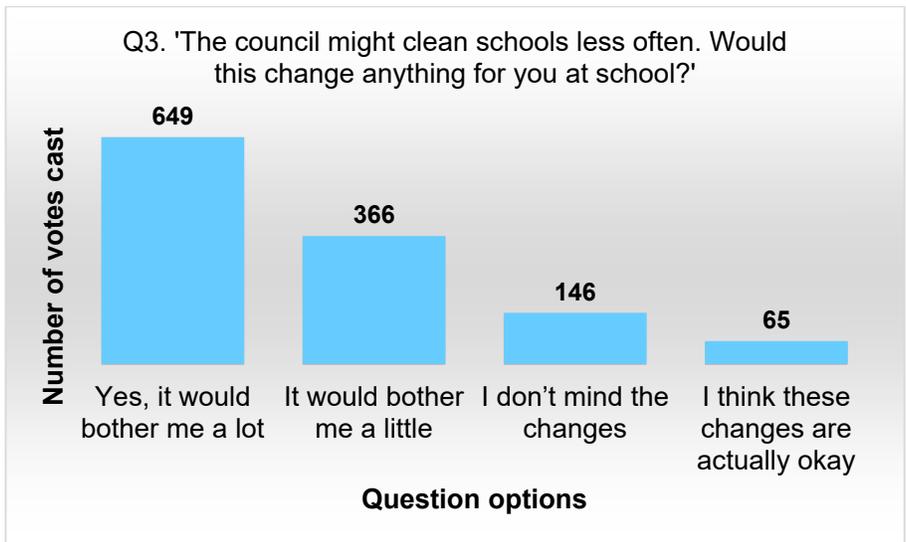


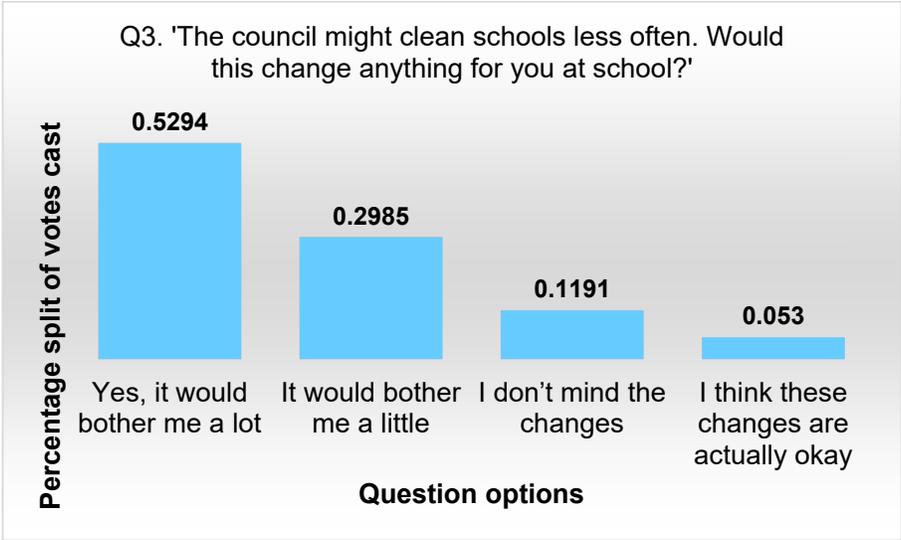
Question 2



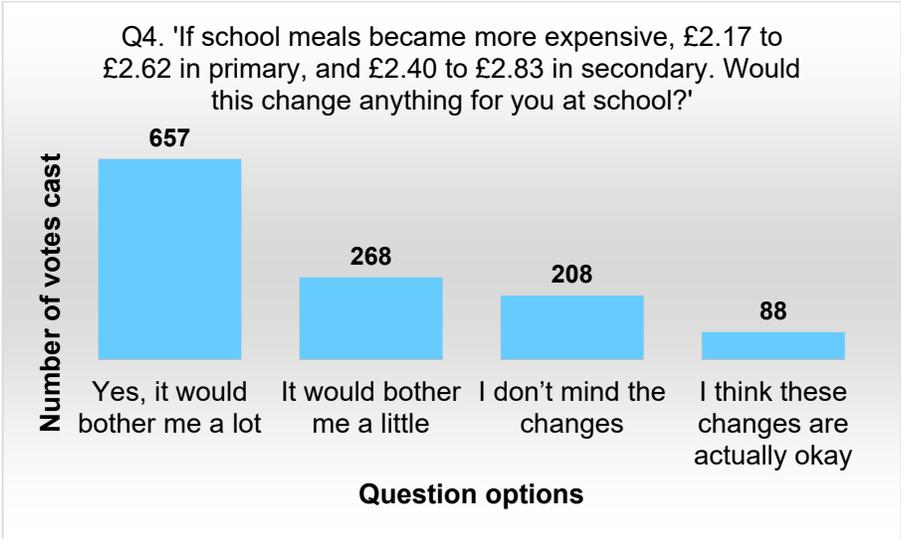


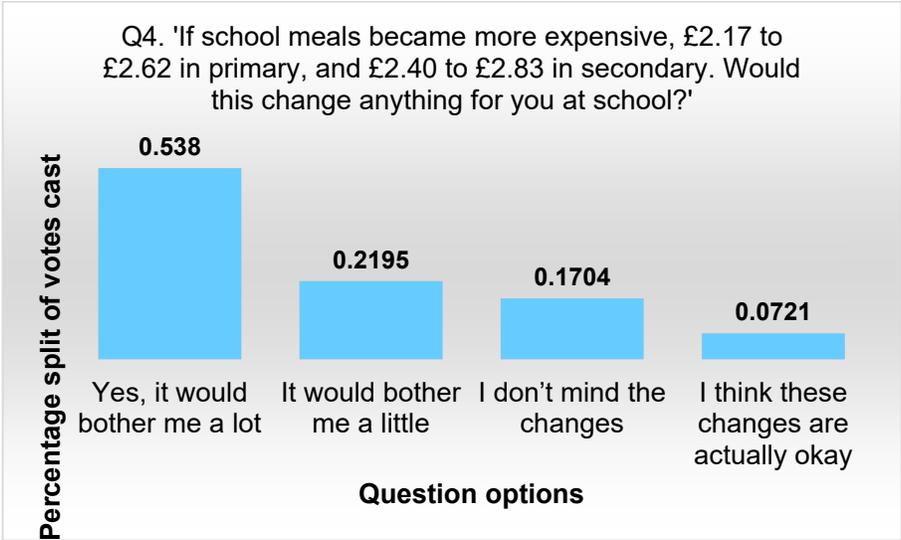
Question 3





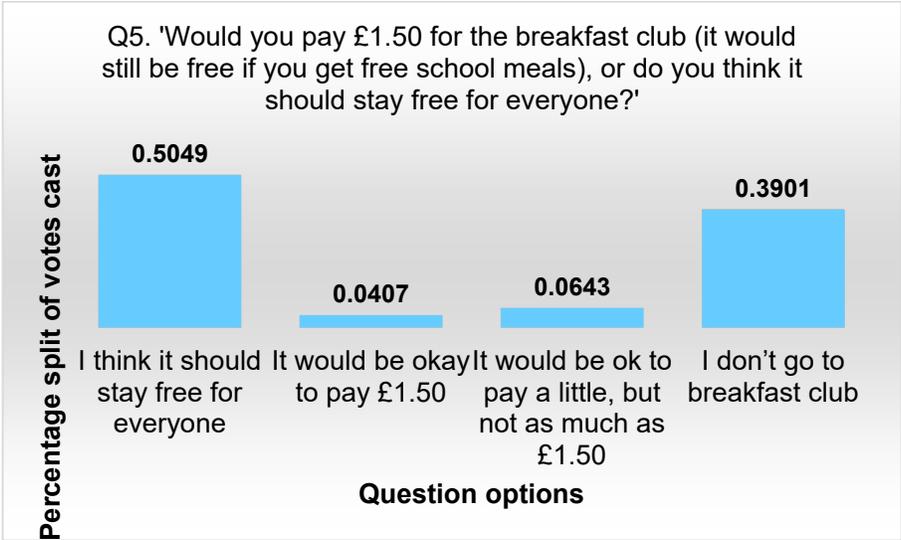
Question 4



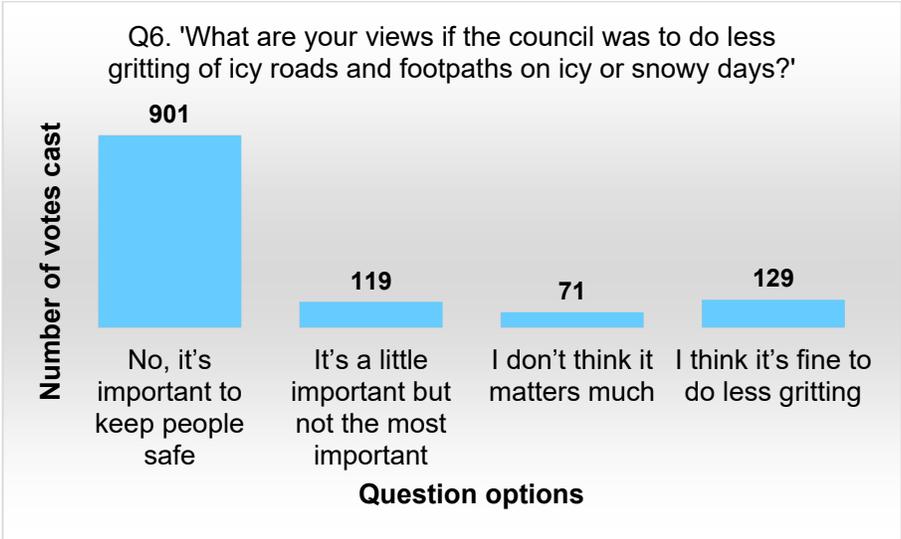


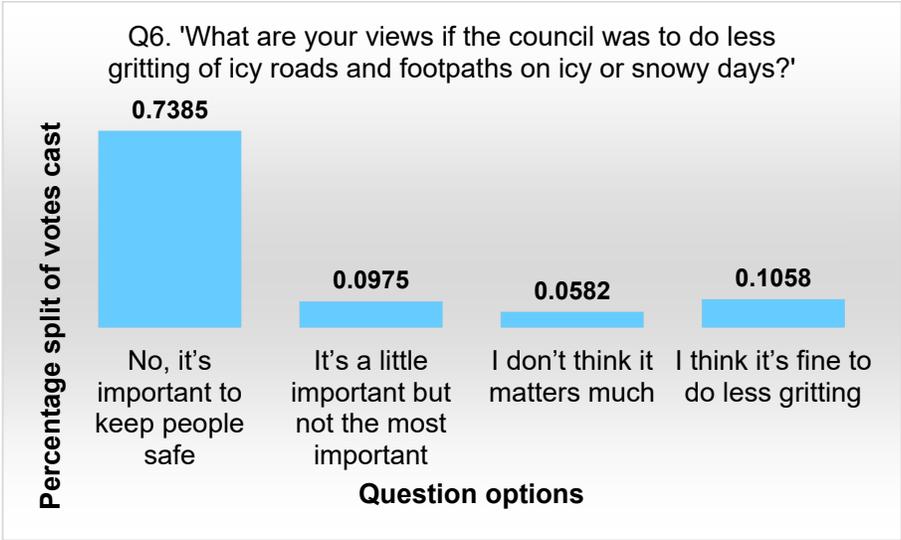
Question 5



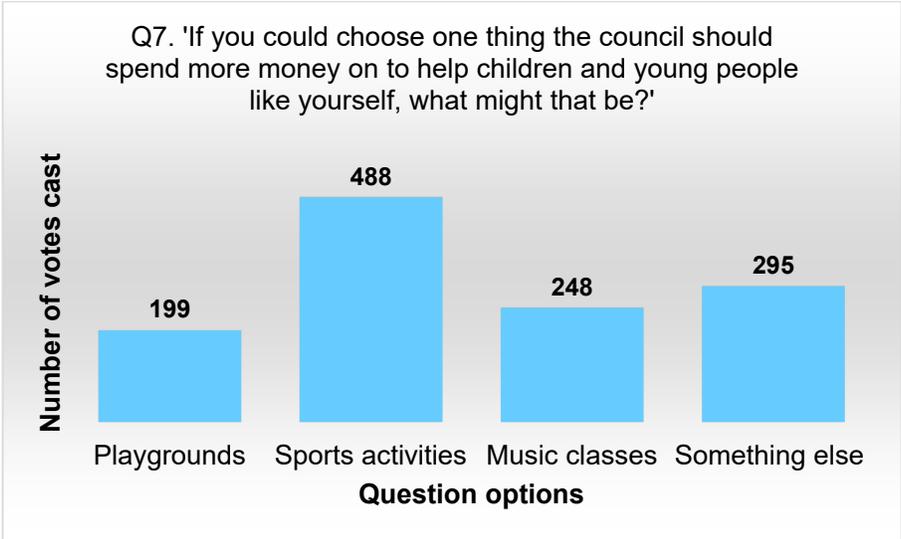


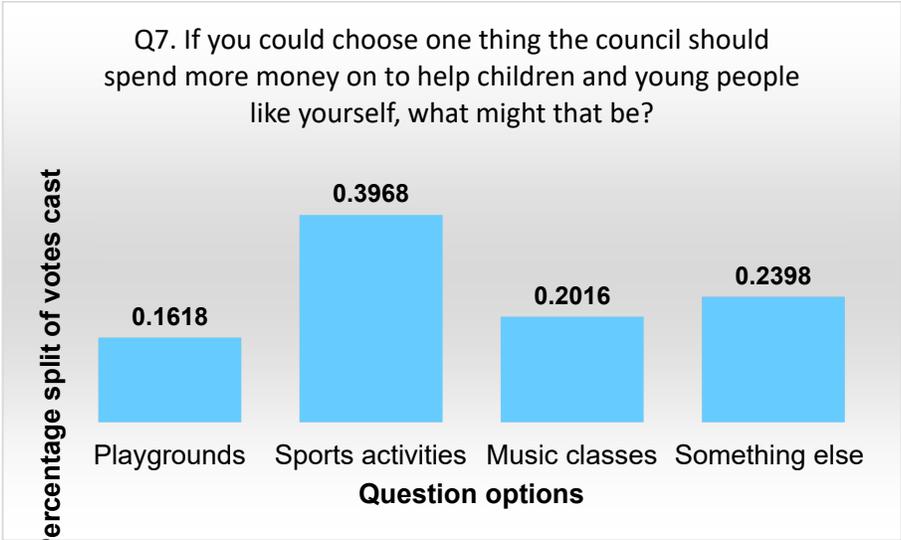
Question 6



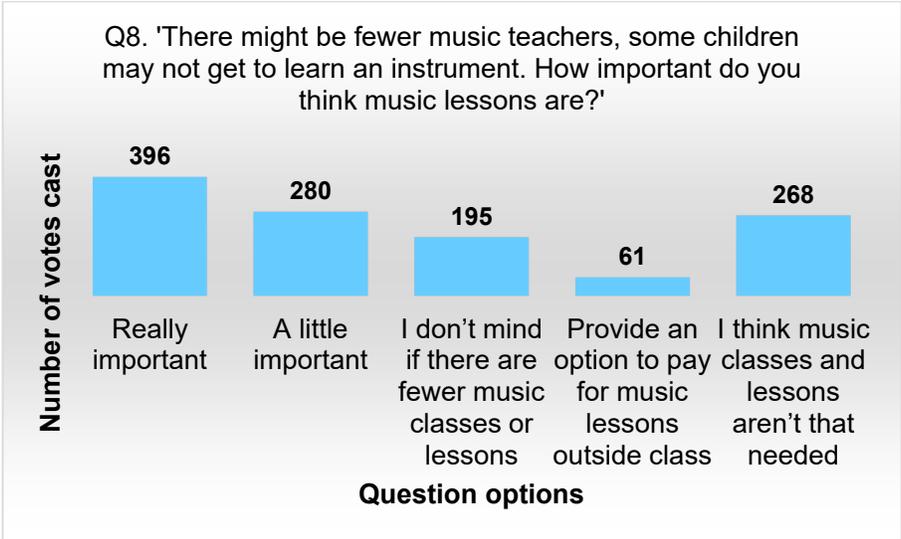


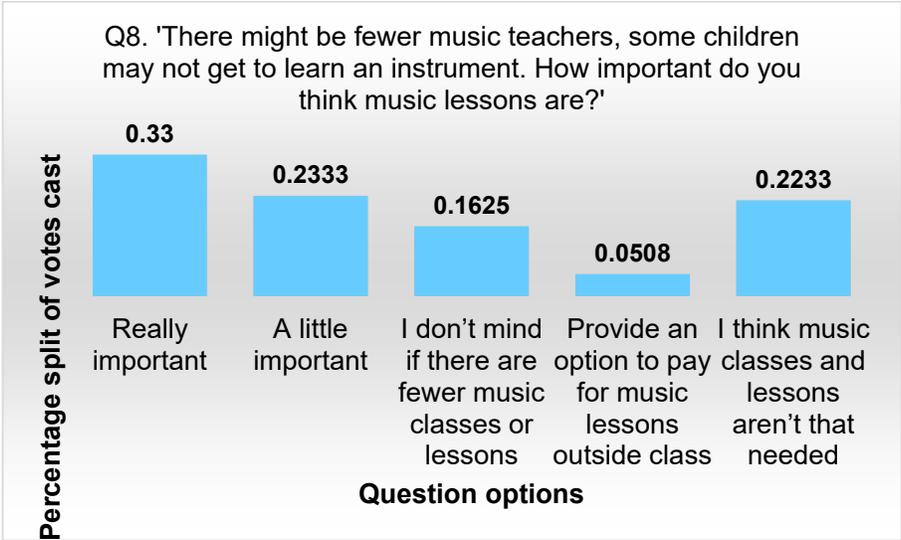
Question 7



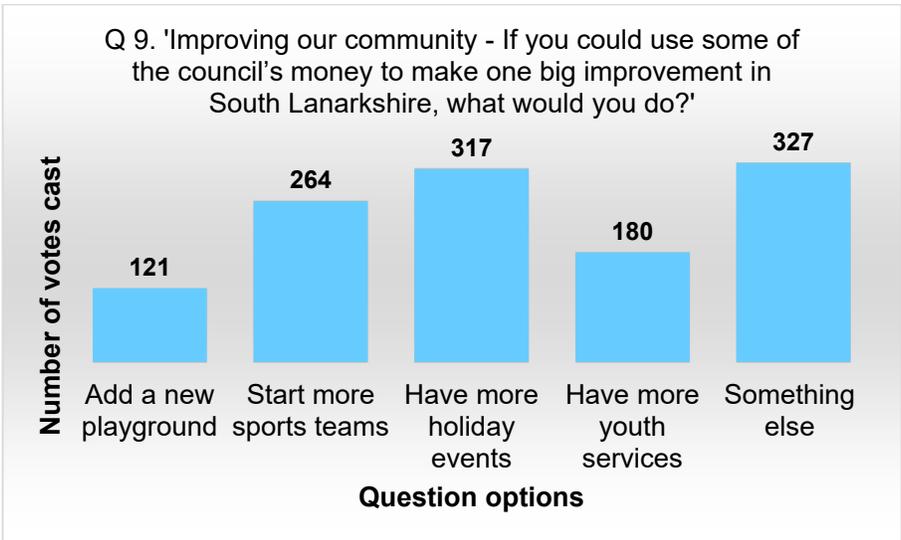


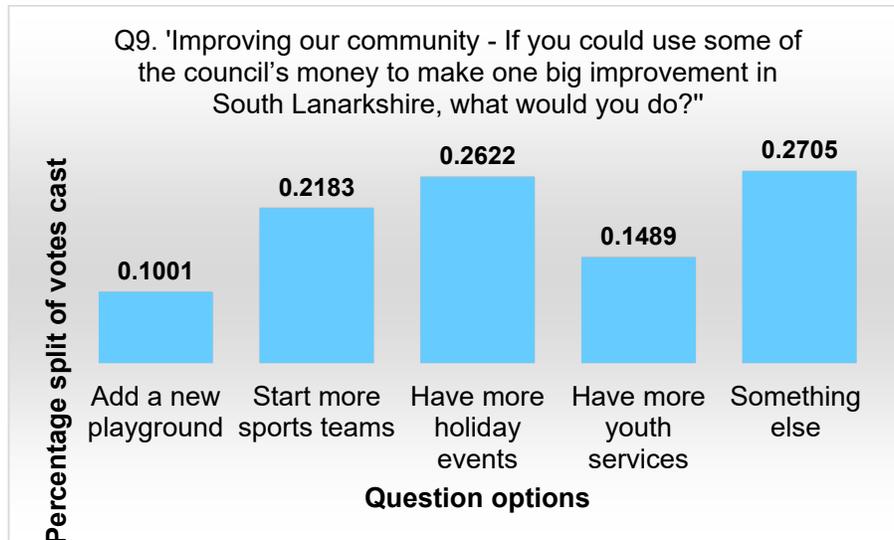
Question 8





Question 9





Themes from the responses

The themes below are summarised but have been taken from the responses to questions where children and young people were asked their views on broader public services. That is, the 'something else' option. The source data is available on request and the fuller scope of themed responses is provided as appendix 1.

1. **Improve the availability of staff and resources in schools and make them clean, warm, healthy and safe places.** This includes ensuring subjects are well resourced for example sport, science, art, music classes. Develop flexible approaches to school/ life balance and protect transport to school and offer extracurricular clubs.
2. **Make our communities safer, cleaner, more inclusive and better resourced** with access to emergency services, sports, green spaces to play, places to meet and things to do with less vandalism and crime.
3. **Improve services for those that need them most** (affordable housing, libraries, youth work and better employment opportunities, support to those suffering homelessness and people at risk of poverty, young carers and people with a disability).
4. **Improve health and wellbeing for example,** for children who are in hospital, more access to counselling and therapies, address health harming behaviours, and ensure availability of ambulances.
5. **Improve transport,** more and safer public transport with fewer potholes in the roads.
6. **Sustainability,** protect areas that flood, offer better Wi-Fi, encourage support for local shops and small businesses, and places to buy food and drink.

Presenting the views

Responses are being shared with senior council officers developing savings proposals and elected members who are tasked with making the final budgetary decisions. Our ask of you is to give due consideration to the views that South Lanarkshire's children and young people are on the proposed budget considerations prior to making the final decisions (Article 12) and make decisions in the best interest of the child (Article 3).

Next steps

Once the final decisions have been made in relation to the council's budget for 2025/26, will feedback to children and young people about what we have done with their information and the difference that their participation in this project has made in informing final decisions and in planning of future public services. This will be done by telling them about what decisions were made and what difference their contributions made to the process. The exact method of this response has still to be decided.

There is strong commitment to further embedding participation of children and young people in our work, building on the many good practice examples that have taken place in recent years.

Additional uses for the responses in this participation will be to inform our planned Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, which will inform our next statutory Children's Services Plan (due in April 2026), and the work of the council and its partners through the Community Planning Partnership.

Longer term, the visibility and participation of children and young people in our planning and decision-making processes will be improved through more consistent activity such as this.

Children and young people have told us that they like the format we used in this project and that the Mentimeter tool and the use of videos to articulate the questions asked has been meaningful and fun. We plan to use Mentimeter again in other engagement activity.

Feedback to children and young people and questions for Elected Members

One of the most important principles of the UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) 2024 Act is that the voice of children and young people is heard when making decisions regarding future public services (UNCRC Article 12) and that it is clear what influence that voice has had in the decision-making process. To this end we ask Elected Members to take a little time to respond to the following questions.

Responses (anonymised) will form part of our feedback reporting to children and young people. The Act says that adults should take account of children's views when making decisions that affect them, and we ask you give due regard to their views in this process.

- 1. How helpful has 'hearing' the views of children and young people been to you?**
- 2. Did anything in particular resonate with you?**
- 3. Did anything surprise you?**
- 4. What did you do differently because of what our children and young people had to say?**

Once the budget process has been completed, we will provide a separate Mentimeter link to allow you to respond to the above questions and help with our feedback to children and young people.

Appendix 1

Themed responses for each of the additional questions

In **Question 7** we asked children and young people, if you could choose one thing the council should spend more money on to help children and young people like yourself, what might that be?

The free text responses are themed below.

1. In School:

More resources and equipment- Pencils, jotters, rubbers, ICT, paper towels, hand driers **(very frequently cited)**. Sport, science, art, music supplies (and music classes/ teachers) **(very frequently cited)**

Clean, accessible, healthy and safe toilets **(frequently cited)**

Warmer schools

Better range of food, warm drinks, energy drinks

Free school trips

Extra-curricular activities- Lego, quiz clubs, gaming, languages, knitting, chess, darts

Playground equipment

2. Around the Community:

Accessible and safe football pitches **(very frequently cited)**

Leisure Centres **(frequently cited)**

Other sports (swimming, basketball, dance, ice skating, rock climbing, tennis, skateparks, Gaelic football)

Youth workers, youth clubs and pathfinders **(frequently cited)**

Things to do in the street

Bins and littering

Keep libraries

Cheaper housing, help for homelessness

Help for charities

Paid jobs

3. Health and wellbeing:

Help for children who are in hospital, have a disability, don't have a lot of money, are homeless

Keep NHS free

Mindfulness and calm classes

Less vaping

In **Question 9** we asked children and young people if you could use some of the council's money to make one big improvement in South Lanarkshire, what would you do?

In addition to the same themes that were pulled out in the previous question, some new themes emerged below.

1. Upkeep of facilities/ areas

New schools and leisure centres required that are fit for purpose and have running tracks

Fix football parks, potholes in the road, areas that flood

Make the streets look better, less vandalism and have safer outdoor spaces

Fines for people not picking up dog poo

Better Wi Fi

Big enough affordable council houses for larger families

2. School/ life balance

4-day week

Start school later, finish early on Friday

Ensure breaks in double period classes

Comfortable chairs at school

Get paid to attend school

Get paid for apprenticeships or volunteering- young people could help to cut the grass, do weeding and other jobs

Keep music classes and have more music extravaganza's (**frequently cited**)

3. Transport

More busses and trains between 3-4 as very busy and can be unsafe.

4. Mental health

More general support, counselling, having therapy pets allowed at school.

5. Support for others

More homeless shelters, support for charities, those who don't have as much money, animal shelters, pay people more, more support for local shops and small businesses, support for ethnic cultures and children with a disability.

6. Fun things to do!

More fun things to do (**very frequently cited**), such as concerts for under 18's, sports and music clubs.

In **Question 10** we asked what is one thing in your school or neighbourhood that you think should not be changed, even if it costs more to keep it? Why is it important?

Themes below:

▯ . Outdoor spaces

Playgrounds, swings, wooded areas where people play, plants, grit boxes, clean areas.

- 1. Computers and WiFi**
- 2. School Bus**
- 3. Music Service and lessons**
- 4. Staff- janitor, cleaners, lollipop men/ ladies, teachers, police**
- 5. Football pitches**
- 6. Ramps and BSL classes**
- 7. Stopping violence**
- 8. Libraries**
- 9. Clubs – Youth clubs, sport clubs, art clubs, school clubs**

In **Question 11** we asked do you have anything else you would like to tell us about living in South Lanarkshire and what you think is important?

Themes below:

- 1. Violence, crime (stabbings) and safety is a concern**
- 2. Drugs, alcohol, vaping and smoking is a concern**
- 3. Cleanliness is a concern (streets, schools)**
- 4. Safe bus travel is a concern**
- 5. Potential cutting of music services is a concern**
- 6. Racism at school**
- 7. Free breakfast clubs are important**
- 8. Young carers and children living with a disability are important**
- 9. Police and ambulances are important**
- 10. Sports clubs are important**
- 11. Having local places to buy food and drink we like is important**
- 12. Parks and wooded areas are important**
- 13. Being able to meet up with others from different schools is important and friends**
- 14. Football pitches are very important**

Further information

If you would like further information about the project, or what will happen next, please contact:

Children's Services Partnership Planning Manager kevin.mullarkey@southlanarkshire.gov.uk
07795453122

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

Phone: 0303 123 1015

Email: equalities@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Community Planning Partnership Board Executive Summary

Date of Meeting:	18 March 2026
Subject:	Youth Forum on Climate Change and Sustainability Update
Report by:	Executive Director (Education Resources), South Lanarkshire Council
Contact for Further Information:	Gillian Reilly, STEM and Sustainability Development Officer, Education Resources, South Lanarkshire Council Tel: 07384809666 Email: Gillian.reilly2@southlanarkshire.gov.uk
Purpose of the Report:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ to provide the Partnership Board with an update in relation to progressing the Youth Forum's action plan and outcomes from the development session between members of the Youth Forum and the CPP Board held on 22 October 2025.
Community Planning Delivery Partners:	All partners
Key Recommendations/ Decisions/Action Required from Partners:	The Board is asked to approve the following recommendation(s): - (1) that the content of the report be noted.
Risks/Challenges:	Section 10 provides a summary of the risks and challenges as set out in the Partnership Risk Register relating to Nature and Climate.
Links to Community Plan Ambitions/Principles:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Ambition 1 - we will invest in people by finding ways to share power and resources. ◆ Ambition 2 - we will make progress by investing in learning together and how we can do things better. ◆ Ambition 3 - we will invest in our planet by putting local areas at the centre of our work. ◆ Principles: Added Value and Continuous Improvement; Communication and Empowerment; and Embracing Change.
Summary of Report:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Section 3 provides background information on the agreement to deliver an annual development session between the CPP Board and young people, focusing on climate change and sustainability. ◆ Section 4 outlines the key topics discussed during the Board development session held on 22 October 2025 and details progress made in relation to these areas. ◆ Section 5 highlights the strategic role of the Youth Forum in supporting youth participation across the South Lanarkshire area and promoting a rights-based approach aligned with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Report

Report to:	Partnership Board
Date of Meeting:	18 March 2026
Report by:	Executive Director (Education Resources), South Lanarkshire Council

Subject:	Youth Forum on Climate Change and Sustainability Update
----------	--

1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ provide the Partnership Board with an update in relation to progressing the Youth Forum's action plan and outcomes from the development session between members of the Youth Forum and the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board held on 22 October 2025.

2. Recommendation(s)

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

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

3. Background

3.1. Following agreement by the Partnership Board to the creation of a separate, yearly development session with young people of the South Lanarkshire School Youth Forum on Climate Change and Sustainability, the third of these sessions took place on 22 October 2025. The session was led by members of the South Lanarkshire Youth Council and the South Lanarkshire School Youth Forum on Climate Change and Sustainability.

3.2. This report sets out updates in relation to the outcomes from the Board session.

4. Progress to date.

4.1. Youth Forum Engagement with the Community Planning Partnership

South Lanarkshire Council's Youth Forum on Climate Change and Sustainability delivered a presentation to the Community Planning Partnership on 22 October 2025. The presentation provided an overview of key achievements during the 2024–2025 academic year, including participation in the Learning for Sustainability Teacher Conference, delivery of the Teach the Teacher initiative, and involvement in tree planting activities in Rutherglen.

4.2. **Walk to School Campaign**

At the October 2024 meeting, the Walk to School campaign was identified as a priority area for development. While limited progress has been made in advancing this work during the current academic year, Forum members have reaffirmed their commitment to progressing the campaign as a key priority moving forward.

4.3. **Environmental Action and School-Led Initiatives**

4.3.1. Young people outlined their main targets and priorities for the 2025–2026 academic year. A significant focus of the meeting was the progress being made by individual schools in relation to environmental action. Four secondary schools have successfully organised litter-picking events within school grounds and across surrounding local communities. These activities were supported through partnership working with the council's Waste Services, which provided equipment and operational support.

4.3.2. Now in its second consecutive year as a priority for the Youth Forum, this target continues to demonstrate the strong commitment of young people to environmental stewardship. Forum members also challenged CPP partners to consider how further support could be provided to community-led environmental initiatives, including tree planting projects, community clean-up events, and partnership approaches to strengthening local environmental awareness and engagement.

4.4. **School Uniform Recycling Initiatives**

4.4.1. There continues to be significant interest in uniform recycling across secondary schools. Following the Youth Forum's previous engagement on this issue, £20,000 of funding from the Scottish Government Climate Emergency Fund (2025–2026) has been distributed across secondary schools, with each school receiving £1,000 to strengthen and expand existing uniform recycling initiatives.

4.4.2. Feedback and progress updates will be gathered at the Youth Forum meeting scheduled for 19 February 2026. Forum members are also keen to progress the offer of support from the council's Unpaid Workforce Team to assist schools with laundering donated uniforms, recognising this as an important step in improving both the quality and accessibility of recycled clothing for pupils.

4.5. **Youth Engagement in National and Local Events**

Youth engagement in local authority and national events was also highlighted as a priority area. Forum members referenced their participation in events delivered by Keep Scotland Beautiful in October 2024, where they shared practice and engaged with young people from across Scotland. They confirmed their intention to participate in the event again in March 2026.

4.6. Future Engagement and Partnership Development

- 4.6.1. Forum members recognised that these actions represent positive progress, however, they emphasised that further opportunities exist to strengthen collaborative working with council services and external partners. They highlighted that sustained and meaningful engagement with young people is essential to supporting their involvement in decision-making processes. Meaningful engagement with young people is essential to supporting their involvement in decision-making processes.
- 4.6.2. The Youth Forum has been invited to present at the council's Executive Management Team meeting on 17 March 2026, providing a further opportunity to share priorities and engage with senior leadership.

4.7. Conference of Schools Programme

- 4.7.1. Since its establishment, the Youth Forum has successfully delivered three Conference of Schools events, providing opportunities for young people across South Lanarkshire to collaborate, share learning, and lead climate and sustainability discussions.
- 4.7.2. Planning is currently underway for the fourth Conference of Schools event, scheduled to take place between 25-27 March 2026. The theme for this year's event is GREEN, focusing on supporting young people to Grow, Rethink, Empower, Enrich and Nurture sustainability action across school communities.
- 4.7.3. A financial contribution of £1,000 has been allocated to Education from the CPP to support the ongoing work of the Youth Forum. This funding will be used to contribute towards the delivery of Conference of Schools 4.

5. Impact Of Engagement Through Youth Forum Participation

5.1. Youth Participation and Influence

The Youth Forum on Climate Change and Sustainability continues to strengthen youth participation and influence across the South Lanarkshire area. The Forum provides structured opportunities for young people from secondary schools, including Additional Support Needs establishments, to contribute to the development and review of climate and sustainability priorities. This supports the partnership's commitment to recognising young people as key stakeholders in shaping environmental policy and action.

5.2. **Rights-Based Approach**

The Forum's work supports a rights-based approach aligned with the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. In particular, the Forum promotes meaningful participation by providing opportunities for young people to share their views on issues that affect them and contribute to planning, service delivery, and partnership working.

5.3. **Leadership Development and Inclusive Engagement**

Participation in the Youth Forum supports the development of leadership skills, confidence, and the ability to engage in constructive dialogue around environmental and societal challenges. The Forum promotes inclusive engagement by supporting representation across school communities and encouraging approaches that help reduce barriers to participation.

5.4. **Partnership Working and Community Impact**

The Youth Forum supports collaborative working across Education, council services, and community partners. Youth-led initiatives continue to support schools and local communities to deliver environmental projects, increase awareness of climate-related issues, and encourage sustainable behaviours.

5.5. **Wider Impact**

The Youth Forum continues to provide meaningful opportunities for young people to influence climate and sustainability priorities across South Lanarkshire. Through youth-led initiatives, partnership working, and engagement with council decision-making structures, the Forum supports the development of leadership skills, promotes environmental responsibility, and strengthens collaboration between schools, communities, and council services. The continued growth of Forum activity demonstrates the value of youth participation in shaping sustainable practices and supporting local and national climate ambitions.

6. **Future Development**

6.1. The Youth Forum will continue to strengthen opportunities for young people to contribute to council governance and partnership activity. Planned work includes expanding engagement with senior leadership, supporting youth-led environmental initiatives, strengthening cross-service collaboration, and further developing evaluation approaches to demonstrate the impact of youth participation on policy and service development.

7. **Employee Implications**

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

8. **Financial Implications**

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

9. **Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications**

9.1. There are no direct climate change, sustainability, or environmental implications arising from the information contained within this report.

10. Other Implications

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

Risk Card Reference	Risk Classification	Risk Summary
CPP/2022/001	Very High	National and Global Challenges relating to Biodiversity Loss; Climate Action Failure; and Extreme Weather Events
CPP/2018/003	Very High	The Partnership does not deliver on its priority to take an integrated approach to the Climate and Nature emergencies and deliver its outcomes in a way which is consistent with the principles of sustainable development
CPP/2018/001	High	Failure to achieve the outcomes of the Community Plan 2022-2032
CPP/2018/002	High	The CPP fails to engage effectively with communities (as required in the Community Empowerment Act and as a requirement to deliver the new Community Plan) in the planning, design and delivery of improved outcomes and inequalities

11. Integrated Impact Assessment and Consultation Requirements

11.1 There are no Integrated Impact Assessment or consultation requirements associated with this report.

Lyndsay McRoberts
Executive Director (Education Resources)
South Lanarkshire Council
25 February 2026

Contact for Further Information:

If you would like further information, please contact:-

Gillian Reilly, STEM and Sustainability Development Officer, South Lanarkshire Council
Tel: 07384809666
Email: Gillian.Reilly2@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Community Planning Partnership Board Executive Summary

Date of Meeting:	18 March 2026
Subject:	Population Health Framework Action Plan
Report by:	Director of Public Health and Health Policy and Acting up Consultant in Public Health, NHS Lanarkshire
Contact for Further Information:	<p>Professor S. Josephine Pravinkumar, Director of Public Health and Health Policy, NHS Lanarkshire Email: Josephine.Pravinkumar@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk</p> <p>Dr. Nick Riches, Acting up Consultant in Public Health, NHS Lanarkshire Email: nick.riches@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk</p>
Purpose of the Report:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ to provide the Partnership Board with an update on the implementation of the Population Health Framework (PHF); and ◆ outline the proposed approach aligning NHS Lanarkshire (NHSL) and Community Planning Partnership (CPP) activities for implementing the PHF.
Community Planning Delivery Partners:	NHS Lanarkshire, North and South Lanarkshire CPP
Key Recommendations/ Decisions/Action Required from Partners:	<p>The Board is asked to approve the following recommendations:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) that the strategic intent, scope and structure of the PHF Action Plan be noted; (2) ongoing alignment of NHS and CPPs' prevention activity with national PHF drivers be supported; and (3) that a more detailed plan, including refined actions and an agreed monitoring approach will be brought to NHSL and CPP Board meetings be acknowledged.
Risks/Challenges:	Whilst many of the wider determinants of health sit beyond the direct control of the NHS, Health Boards and HSCPs have a critical leadership and delivery role across all areas of the PHF; including in relation to prevention, early intervention and ensuring equitable access to health and care services.
Links to Community Plan Ambitions/Principles:	◆ All Community Plan Ambitions/Principles
Summary of Report:	<p>The report provides an update on the implementation of the PHF and outlines the proposed approach of aligning NHSL and CPP activities for implementing the PHF.</p> <p>Primary responsibility for many PHF actions sits outwith NHSL and HSCP structures or requires coordinated whole-system leadership.</p>

	<p>The NHSL PHF Action Plan is therefore intended to inform and connect with the planned joint CPP PHF collaborative. This pan-Lanarkshire, whole-system forum will support shared leadership, coordination and appraisal of system-wide approaches to delivering the PHF across Lanarkshire. With the clear intention to improve life expectancy and reduce health inequalities through a prevention-focused, whole-system approach across Lanarkshire.</p>
--	--

Report

Report to:	Partnership Board
Date of Meeting:	18 March 2026
Report by:	Director Public Health and Health Policy, NHS Lanarkshire and Acting up Consultant in Public Health, NHS Lanarkshire

Subject:	Population Health Framework Action Plan
----------	--

1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ provide the Partnership Board with an update on the implementation of the Population Health Framework (PHF); and
- ◆ outline the proposed approach aligning NHS Lanarkshire (NHSL) and Community Planning Partnership (CPP) activities for implementing the PHF.

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the strategic intent, scope and structure of the PHF Action Plan be noted;
- (2) ongoing alignment of NHS and CPPs' prevention activity with national PHF drivers be supported; and
- (3) that a more detailed plan, including refined actions and an agreed monitoring approach will be brought to NHSL and CPP Board meetings be acknowledged.

3. Background

3.1. Scotland's Population Health Framework (2025–2035)¹ sets a clear national direction to improve life expectancy and reduce health inequalities through a prevention-focused, whole-system approach. It recognises that improvements in health outcomes require coordinated effort across public services, communities, the third sector and national policy, sustained over time.

3.2. A PHF Action Plan is being developed to align existing activity, clarify accountability, and strengthen governance across NHS and Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) structures. Much of the work contributing to the PHF is already underway across NHS Lanarkshire, HSCPs and the wider system involving Community Planning partners, but is dispersed across multiple strategies. The Action Plan will consolidate this into a single, coherent assurance and planning framework overseen by the Population Health Committee (PHC) for actions pertaining to NHSL and by the CPPs for joint actions.

¹ **Scottish Government and COSLA (2025)**. *Scotland's Population Health Framework 2025–2035*. Edinburgh: Scottish Government. Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotlands-population-health-framework/> (accessed 8 January 2026).

- 3.3. Early discussions have commenced on potential actions and metrics to support future monitoring of progress against the PHF, with an overview of this work provided in the appendices.
- 3.4. The report on the CPP Joint Event Report was brought to the CPP Board on 9 December 2025. This paper is a further update to the implementation of PHF. The paper is a proposed approach aligning NHSL and CPP activities for implementing the PHF.
- 3.5. The PHF identifies five interconnected drivers of health and wellbeing:-
 - ◆ A prevention-focused system
 - ◆ Social and economic factors
 - ◆ Places and communities
 - ◆ Enabling healthy living
 - ◆ Equitable health and care
- 3.6. Appendix 1 lists the 32 key actions which sit underneath these 5 drivers; and also the two 'super-priorities' which the PHF recommends are particularly prioritised during the initial PHF implementation period; namely: embedding prevention in our systems and enabling healthy weight.
- 3.7. While many of the wider determinants of health sit beyond the direct control of the NHS, Health Boards and HSCPs have a critical leadership and delivery role across all areas of the PHF, including in relation to prevention, early intervention, and ensuring equitable access to health and care services.
- 3.8. Within Lanarkshire, many services already directly contribute to PHF actions, for example, through maternity and early years pathways, screening and immunisation, health protection, health improvement, anticipatory care and inequalities-focused service design. However, this contribution is currently described across multiple strategies and plans, making it difficult to present a coherent account of NHS Lanarkshire's collective role in supporting population health outcomes.
- 3.9. The NHSL PHF Action Plan is therefore intended to sit beneath the national framework, translating its drivers into a clear statement of what NHSL and HSCPs are accountable for, how this aligns with existing plans (including Marmot work in South Lanarkshire), and how progress will be governed through the Population Health Committee.
- 3.10. Development to date has been led by Public Health, drawing on existing NHS and HSCP strategies, national policy and available intelligence. Engagement with wider NHS Departments and HSCP colleagues is at an early stage, and detailed actions, ownership and metrics will be developed as the plan matures.
- 3.11. Primary responsibility for many PHF actions sits out with NHSL and HSCP structures or requires coordinated whole-system leadership. The NHSL PHF Action Plan is therefore intended to inform and connect with the planned joint CPP PHF collaborative. This pan-Lanarkshire, whole-system forum will support shared leadership, coordination and appraisal of system-wide approaches to delivering the PHF across Lanarkshire.
- 3.12. A report on the proposed CPP Board Development Session which is due to be held on 13 May 2026 regarding the Marmot Place Programme and PHF will also be submitted to the CPP Board on 18 March 2026. This session will set out the proposed next steps for the Marmot Place Programme through considering how this work can

complement delivery of the PHF. This includes prevention and reducing health inequalities across the drivers of health and the outcomes will be used to develop the future Community Plan Outcomes Framework and Delivery Plan.

4. Assessment

4.1. Cross-cutting themes from the Joint CPP event included:-

- ◆ Whole-system leadership and governance
- ◆ Long-term, multi-year investment
- ◆ Shared data and intelligence
- ◆ Workforce culture and capacity
- ◆ Community empowerment
- ◆ Equity and proportionate universalism

4.2. The following were identified as immediate system priorities:-

- ◆ Leadership: Maintain visible commitment to prevention at CPP and Board meetings
- ◆ Governance: Establish the joint CPP PHF Collaborative in alignment with existing governance structures
- ◆ Strategic Alignment: Map all existing prevention and inequality programmes (PHF, Marmot, Anchor, Child Poverty, LOIPs)
- ◆ Measurement: Develop shared system-level dashboards tracking prevention and inequality indicators
- ◆ Workforce: Embed prevention and inequality objectives within all partner training and performance frameworks
- ◆ Community Engagement: Implement neighbourhood prevention forums and invest in community capacity
- ◆ Communication: Develop a joint prevention narrative and communication plan to sustain engagement and visibility

4.3. These actions will enable Lanarkshire's CPPs and NHS partners to operationalise the PHF and strengthen shared accountability for health and wellbeing outcomes.

5. PHF Action Plan Structure

5.1 The PHF Action Plan will interpret national PHF drivers into local areas of NHS and HSCP accountability. Example action tables are included in Appendix 2 to demonstrate how each driver will be operationalised.

5.2. Metrics will be selected for each PHF action, drawing on existing Integrated Performance and Quality Report (IPQR) measures and developing new indicators where necessary. The metrics will align with national outputs and have quantitative and qualitative metrics and include process measures as well.

5.3. We propose presenting a sub-section of metrics at the PHC meetings as an overview, continuing this for the period of the PHF, to monitor trends over time. Detailed scrutiny would continue through existing topic-specific reports to the committee, or to other relevant governance routes, where fuller analysis and assurance are required. Given the breadth of the framework's 30 headline actions, this approach is intended to balance comprehensive coverage with a manageable and focused reporting model.

5.4. The PHF Action Plan will include clear and proportionate accountability within NHSL's statutory remit. Areas of activity that sit within HSCP or Integration Joint Board (IJB) accountability (e.g. health improvement functions) are included to support alignment of activities, rather than to imply agreement or delegated responsibility at this stage. Engagement with CPPs and IJBs will inform the further development of actions, ownership and assurance arrangements.

6. Employee Implications

6.1. There are no immediate employee implications associated with this report.

7. Financial Implications

7.1. The PHF emphasises an action around investing in preventative approaches and it is vital that a shift to prevention focus activities remain a priority to ensure positive outcomes.

8. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

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

9. Other Implications

9.1. Risk Assessment/Management/Sustainability:-

- ◆ Sustaining leadership and cross-sector momentum amid financial pressures and workforce constraints;
- ◆ Fragmented data and governance arrangements that limit shared accountability and measurement; and
- ◆ Short-term funding cycles undermining innovation, continuity and workforce stability.

10. Integrated Impact Assessment and Consultation Requirements

10.1. There are no Integrated Impact Assessment or consultation arrangement implications associated with this report.

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

Doctor Nick Riches
Acting up Consultant in Public Health,
NHS Lanarkshire

25 February 2026

Contact for Further Information:

If you would like further information, please contact:-

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

Email: josephine.pravinkumar@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk

Dr. Nick Riches, Public Health Registrar, NHS Lanarkshire

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

Appendix 1 - List of Population Health Framework actions

Driver	Actions
Super-priority (2025-27)	SP1. Embedding prevention in our systems
	SP2. Improving healthy weight
1. Prevention Focused System	PFS1. Preventative investment
	PFS2. Accountability
	PFS3. Health in all policies
	PFS4. Community planning
	PFS5. Collaboration for Health Equity in Scotland
	PFS6. Digital population health
	PFS7. Research and innovation
	PFS8. Evaluation and learning
2. Social and Economic Factors	SEF1. Early years and child development
	SEF2. Education
	SEF3. Economic activity
	SEF4. Income maximisation
	SEF5. Community wealth building
3. Places and Communities	PAC1. Community and voluntary sector
	PAC2. Social prescribing
	PAC3. Planning
	PAC4. Housing
	PAC5. Climate change and nature
4. Enabling Healthy Living	EHL1. Food environment and nutrition
	EHL2. Physical activity
	EHL3. Tobacco free generation
	EHL4. Drugs and alcohol
	EHL5. Preconception and pregnancy
	EHL6. Healthy digital use
	EHL7. Gambling harm
5. Equitable Health and Care	EHC1. Healthcare inequalities
	EHC2. Vaccination and immunisation
	EHC3. Screening
	EHC4. Health protection
	EHC5. Sexual health and blood borne virus

Appendix 2 - Examples of NHSL PHF Action Plan tables

The following examples demonstrate how NHS Lanarkshire intends to operationalise its contribution to each driver through a local action plan overseen by the Population Health Committee. One action table is presented for each driver; the final NHSL PHF action plan will contain action tables for all 32 actions and super-priorities listed in Appendix 1. These examples are illustrative only and do not represent finalised delivery or reporting commitments.

DRIVER 1: PREVENTION-FOCUSED SYSTEM

PFS2: Improve whole system accountability for primary prevention	
Scope of NHS/HSCP accountability	NHS Lanarkshire and HSCPs are accountable for how prevention and inequalities are embedded within their own governance, planning and prioritisation processes. This includes ensuring that prevention is explicitly considered within NHS Board, IJB and HSCP decision-making, while recognising that wider system accountability extends beyond the NHS.
Current activity	Board-level oversight of some preventative activities, health inequalities, screening, immunisation and early-years outcomes through NHS Lanarkshire Population Health Committee. Integrated prevention governance within HSCP Strategic Commissioning Plans, Directions and Locality Planning. Statutory cross-sector reporting on prevention, poverty, early years and inequalities through Children's Services Plans and Child Poverty Action Reports. Data-led assessment / review on prevention and inequalities through PHIL and Marmot Data Group locality dashboards. Clinical governance oversight of prevention through routine reporting on screening, immunisation and early diagnosis. Chief Executive Performance Reviews: quarterly HSCP indicators for breastfeeding, tobacco quits, cervical screening, alcohol brief interventions.
Exemplar actions (under consideration)	Strengthen the visibility of primary prevention within NHS and HSCP planning and reporting cycles Ensure population health and inequalities intelligence is routinely used to inform strategic decisions Align NHS and HSCP prevention reporting to support oversight through the Population Health Committee
Key stakeholders	NHS Lanarkshire Board and Executive Team Integration Joint Boards and HSCP Senior Management Teams Directorate of Public Health
Metrics	For discussion – e.g. Tracking progress of Action Plan by Board and CPPs

DRIVER 2: SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC FACTORS

SEF1: Early years and child development	
Scope of NHS / HSCP accountability	NHS Lanarkshire and HSCPs are accountable for delivery of universal and targeted early years health pathways, including child health surveillance and follow-up support. While action on some wider determinants of child development sit beyond the NHS, early identification and appropriate response are core responsibilities.
Current activity	<p>Children’s Services Planning alignment across NHS, HSCPs, education, social care and third sector on early-years outcomes.</p> <p>Universal child health surveillance and developmental review through health visiting.</p> <p>Targeted early-years support for vulnerable families facing adversity, including Health Visitor referral pathways to tackling poverty services.</p> <p>Early learning and childcare partnership input to developmental monitoring, intervention and support</p> <p>Parenting and early-relationship provision supporting social, emotional and language development.</p>
Exemplar actions (under consideration)	<p>Ensure early identification and timely follow-up and referral for children with identified developmental concerns.</p> <p>Intensified early intervention and support in high-need areas.</p> <p>Strengthen alignment of health visiting and HSCP family support pathways.</p>
Key stakeholders	<p>Health Visiting Services</p> <p>Family Nurse Partnership</p> <p>NHSL Specialist Children’s Services Unit</p> <p>HSCP Children and Families Services</p> <p>Children’s Services Planning Partnerships (North and South)</p> <p>Directorate of Public Health and Health Improvement service</p>
Metrics	<p>27-30 month child health review, % children with a concern</p> <p>Stillbirth Rate</p> <p>Breastfeeding Initiation</p> <p>Drop-Off in breastfeeding by 6-8 week review</p>

DRIVER 3: PLACES AND COMMUNITIES

PAC2: Social prescribing	
Scope of NHS / HSCP accountability	NHS Lanarkshire and HSCPs are accountable for implementing social prescribing and community link approaches within local services; for ensuring equitable access through primary care and HSCP pathways; and for supporting Community Link Workers and wider delivery partners in the community and voluntary sector.
Current activity	<p>Established social prescribing Community Link Worker networks across HSCPs, primary care and third-sector partners.</p> <p>Community infrastructure for referral, including Community Solutions, Locality Anchors, leisure, green-health and third-sector provision.</p> <p>Integration of link workers within primary care and mental health pathways.</p> <p>Digital community directories and referral tools supporting social prescribing.</p> <p>Place-based outreach and link worker activity focused on high-inequality communities.</p> <p>Distress brief interventions to support people experiencing emotional distress below the threshold for referral to secondary mental health services.</p>
Exemplar actions (under consideration)	<p>Support delivery of social prescribing through primary care and HSCP-commissioned services.</p> <p>Strengthen links between NHS services, HSCPs and community organisations.</p> <p>Use locality intelligence to improve reach in communities with greatest need.</p> <p>Digital solutions for social prescribing referrals.</p>
Key stakeholders	<p>Primary Care</p> <p>HSCP Locality Teams and Health Improvement</p> <p>Community and Voluntary Sector</p> <p>Directorate of Public Health</p>
Metrics	<p>General Practice - community link workers report on referral rate per 1000 population, by locality.</p> <p>General Practice - Community Link worker referrals reporting isolation as reason for referral.</p>

DRIVER 4: ENABLING HEALTHY LIVING

EHL2: Physical activity	
Scope of NHS / HSCP accountability	NHS Lanarkshire and HSCPs are accountable for supporting physical activity through healthcare pathways, anticipatory care and community-based services, rather than for wider environmental or legislative action.
Current activity	Active travel and transport partnership working across councils, NHS Lanarkshire, HSCPs and Sustrans. Green health and outdoor activity promotion through the Lanarkshire Green Health Partnership. Leisure and HSCP collaboration on targeted physical activity programmes to aid prevention and support prehabilitation/ rehabilitation programmes. Physical activity promotion within schools and early-years settings. Workplace physical activity and wellbeing initiatives within NHS Lanarkshire.
Exemplar actions (under consideration)	Further embed physical activity advice and referral within NHS and HSCP services. Increase capacity for local physical activity provision to enable strengthened links with healthcare pathways. Target support towards populations experiencing the poorest health outcomes.
Key stakeholders	Primary and Community Care HSCP Commissioning Teams Leisure and Physical Activity Partners Public Health
Metrics	Summary activity levels (options: very low activity, low activity, some activity, meets recommendations). Whether meets MVPA (moderate to vigorous physical activity) and muscle strength recommendations (options: meets neither, meets MVPA recommendations only, meets muscle strength recommendations only, meets both). Active travel - mode of travel to work.

DRIVER 5: EQUITABLE HEALTH AND CARE

EHC2: Vaccination and immunisation	
Scope of NHS / HSCP accountability	NHS Lanarkshire has direct accountability for delivery of vaccination programmes, with HSCPs supporting access, engagement and equity through local services and partnerships.
Current activity	Transition towards a single lifespan vaccination service with strengthened governance and clinical assurance. Inequalities-focused vaccination improvement activity targeting low-uptake communities. Operational planning and delivery of seasonal vaccination programmes across multiple settings. Primary care, school-age and early-years vaccination delivery through coordinated local pathways. Data-driven monitoring, quality assurance and governance of vaccination programmes.
Exemplar actions (under consideration)	Deliver vaccination programmes in line with national standards Use local data to identify and address inequalities in uptake, including for care experienced children and young people. Implement targeted approaches for underserved populations. Work with Education Departments to strengthen education around vaccination in schools.
Key stakeholders	Vaccination and Immunisation Services HSCPs Primary Care Directorate of Public Health
Metrics	Vaccination uptake rate for various programmes by locality, SIMD and specific groups.

Community Planning Partnership Board Executive Summary

Date of meeting:	18 March 2026
Subject:	Community Planning Partnership Board Development Session – Marmot Place Programme and Population Health Framework
Report by:	Chief Executive, NHS Lanarkshire and Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council
Contact for Further Information:	<p>Carol Stewart, Public Health Consultant, NHS Lanarkshire Tel: 01698 752952 Email: carol.stewart@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk</p> <p>Aileen Murray, Community Planning Adviser, South Lanarkshire Council Tel: 0303 123 1017 Email: aileen.murray@southlanarkshire.gov.uk</p>
Purpose of the Report:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ to provide the Partnership Board with an update on the proposed Partnership Board ‘Marmot Place Programme and Population Health Framework’ Development Session which will take place on 13 May 2026; and ◆ to seek the Board’s approval on this proposal and the draft programme set out at Appendix 1.
Community Planning Delivery Partners:	All partners
Key Recommendations/ Decisions/Action Required from Partners:	<p>The Board is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-</p> <p>(1) that the outline and programme for the ‘Marmot Place Programme and Population Health Framework’ Development Session be approved.</p>
Risks/Challenges:	There are no risks or challenges associated with this report.
Links to Community Plan Ambitions/Principles:	◆ All ambitions/principles
Summary of Report:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Section 3 sets out the background to the Marmot Place Programme and the Population Health Framework. ◆ Section 4 provides an outline of the proposed Development Session scheduled to take place on 13 May 2026. ◆ Appendix 1 sets out a draft programme for the session.

Report

Report to:	Partnership Board
Date of Meeting:	18 March 2026
Report by:	Chief Executive, NHS Lanarkshire Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council

Subject:	Community Planning Partnership Board Development Session – Marmot Place Programme and Population Health Framework
----------	--

1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ provide the Partnership Board with an update on the proposed Partnership Board 'Marmot Place Programme and Population Health Framework' Development Session which will take place on 13 May 2026
- ◆ to seek the Board's approval on this proposal, and the draft programme set out at Appendix 1

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the proposed approach to the 'Marmot Place Programme and Population Health Framework' Development Session be approved.

3. Background

3.1. Public Health Scotland (PHS) has joined with the University College London (UCL) Institute of Health Equity (IHE) for a 2 year Collaboration for Health Equity in Scotland (CHES). Working with Professor Sir Michael Marmot, who is the director of the Institute, this collaboration will strengthen and accelerate the action already underway to improve Scotland's health, promote wellbeing and address health inequalities. In South Lanarkshire this work is also known as the Marmot Place Programme.

3.2. In November 2025, South Lanarkshire Council's expression of interest through the Community Planning Partnership to participate in the Scottish Marmot Place pilot in partnerships with PHS was successful. The partnership between PHS and IHE has been created to support public service reform and covers two key areas:

- ◆ Work at a national level to provide new insights into the most effective ways to progress health equity in Scotland through Marmot's 8 principles
- ◆ Work in partnership with local authorities and NHS boards across Aberdeen City, North Ayrshire and South Lanarkshire to develop and implement strategies to enhance health equity.

- 3.3. The Population Health Framework (PHF) is a long-term, cross government and cross sector approach to improving population health and reducing health inequalities, with an emphasis on primary prevention and action on the drivers of health. It reflects the need for shared responsibility for health outcomes, beyond health and care services alone. The PHF is structured around key drivers of population health including social and economic factors; places and communities; healthy living; and equitable health and care. This reflects the evidence that social and economic factors have a greater influence on health outcomes than health care alone, and that preventing ill health is more effective than responding to it once established.
- 3.4. When we consider the two together, the PHF sets out a whole system prevention approach across the drivers of health; and the Marmot approach provides a practical method for delivering this locally, by organising action on the social determinants of health and embedding health equity into routine planning and service delivery. In South Lanarkshire, the Marmot Place Programme strengthens PHF delivery in 3 ways:-
- ◆ It provides a structured delivery mechanism across the PHF drivers, not only through health care activity but across the wider determinants (for example income, education, employment, housing, environment and community conditions)
 - ◆ It strengthens collective accountability, by moving from data and engagement to shared outcomes, partner commitments and routine reporting
 - ◆ It supports prevention focused systems, including early intervention and place-based targeting, informed by analysis and service intelligence
- 3.5. On 9 December 2025, NHS Lanarkshire presented an update to the Board on the outcomes from the Joint Community Planning Partnership Event – Building a Prevention-Focused System through collective delivery of the Population Health Framework which took place in October 2025. This work will support the delivery of the action to align CPP strategic priorities, governance and investment to embed prevention and tackle inequalities through mapping all current prevention and inequality programmes (PHF, Marmot, Anchor, Child Poverty, Community Plan and Neighbourhood Plans) to identify overlaps and shared outcomes.
- 3.6. The purpose of this report is to provide the Board with an outline for the Development Session including the draft programme.
- 3.7. A further report on the current progress of delivering the Population Health Framework will also be presented to the Board.

4. Development Session Outline

- 4.1. The purpose of the development session is to:-
- ◆ provide the national context for the national Collaboration for Health Equity (CHES) programme and consider how it should be applied locally through the principle of proportionate universalism
 - ◆ provide the local context for the programme, data and the early years approach
 - ◆ set out the proposed next steps for the South Lanarkshire Marmot Place Programme through considering how this work can complement delivery of the Population Health Framework (PHF) (as set out at section 3.4.), including prevention and reducing health inequalities across the drivers of health; the outcomes of which will be used to develop the future Community Plan Outcomes Framework and Delivery Plan

- 4.2. The outputs of the session will support the development of actions to embed the Marmot approach and will provide the foundation for the development of a CPP Outcomes Framework and inform the Community Plan Delivery Plan. This will help to ensure that it becomes business as usual across the Community Planning Partnership and is reflected in routine planning, engagement, prioritisation and service redesign.
- 4.3. In preparation for the session, meetings have been held with colleagues in NHS Lanarkshire, the Community Planning Progress Group and Outcomes Leads Group. Feedback from these meetings has highlighted further linkages for consideration between the Marmot Place Programme and Population Health Framework for further discussion with the Board.
- 4.4. A draft programme for the session is attached at Appendix 1.

5. Employee Implications

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

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. There are no financial implications associated with this report.

7. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

- 7.1. There are no implications for climate change, sustainability or the environment in terms of the information contained within this report. As one of the eight key principles of delivering a Marmot Place approach is to pursue environmental sustainability and health equity together, embedding this across the partnership is likely to have a positive impact.

8. Other Implications

- 8.1. There is a risk associated with not fully embedding the Marmot Place approach as business as usual across the Community Planning Partnership. When more detailed action plans have been developed, a risk workshop will be held to further consider risk implications.
- 8.2. There are no sustainability issues associated with this report.

9. Integrated Impact Assessment and Consultation Requirements

- 9.1. There are no Equality Impact Assessment implications associated with this report.
- 9.2. Consultation has taken place with officers as set out in section 4.2. of this report.

Louise Long
Chief Executive
NHS Lanarkshire

Paul Manning
Chief Executive
South Lanarkshire Council

25 February 2026

Contact for Further Information

If you would further information, please contact:-

Carol Stewart, Public Health Consultant, NHS Lanarkshire

Tel: 01698 752952

Email: carol.stewart@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk

Aileen Murray, Community Planning Adviser, South Lanarkshire Council

Tel: 0303 123 1017

Email: aileen.murray@southlanarkshire.gov.uk



South Lanarkshire Community Planning Board Development Session

Wednesday, 13 May 2026 at 1.00pm
in Committee Room 1, Almada Street, Hamilton

(Draft) Programme

1.00pm to 1.05pm	Welcome and introduction by the Chair
1.05pm to 1.15pm	National Context: Population Health Framework Public Health Scotland: Paul Johnston, Chief Executive Officer (TBC)
1.15pm to 1.25pm	Local Context: Population Health Framework Josephine Pravinkumar, Director of Public Health, NHS Lanarkshire Nick Riches, Acting Consultant of Public Health, NHS Lanarkshire
1.25pm to 1.55pm	National Context: Collaboration for Health Equity in Scotland (CHES)/Marmot Place Programme Programme Context: Paul Johnston, Public Health Scotland (TBC) Proportionate Universalism: Dr Jessica Allen, Deputy Director, Institute of Health Equity (TBC)
1.55pm to 2.15pm	Local Context: Collaboration for Health Equity in Scotland (CHES)/Marmot Place Programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Programme Leadership Group: Speaker (TBC) • Marmot Data: Carol Stewart, Public Health Consultant, NHS Lanarkshire • Early Years approach: Lyndsay McRoberts, Director of Education Resources, South Lanarkshire Council
2.15pm to 2.55pm	Moving forwards, actions for the CPP (group discussion)
2.55pm to 3.00pm	Closing Remarks by the Chair

Community Planning Partnership Board Executive Summary

Date of meeting:	18 March 2026
Subject:	Marmot Place Programme - Collaboration for Health Equity in Scotland (CHES) – Data Update Report
Report by:	Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council
Contact for Further Information:	<p>Carol Stewart, Public Health Consultant, NHS Lanarkshire Tel: 01698 752952 Email: carol.stewart@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk</p> <p>Aileen Murray, Community Planning Adviser, South Lanarkshire Council Tel: 0303 123 1017 Email: aileen.murray@southlanarkshire.gov.uk</p>
Purpose of the Report:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ to inform the Partnership Board of the progress made by the Marmot Place Programme Data Group and outline key messages from the data analysis to date.
Community Planning Delivery Partners:	All partners
Key Recommendations/ Decisions/Action Required from Partners:	<p>The Board is asked to approve the following recommendations:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) that the progress of the South Lanarkshire Marmot Data Group and the work completed to date in developing the local evidence base, be noted; (2) that the headline findings from the analysis to date, including that there is an overall pattern which demonstrates how people living in more deprived circumstances generally have poorer outcomes, be noted; and (3) that the infographics attached as Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 be approved for wider publication, to illustrate the gaps in outcomes experienced between local communities.
Risks/Challenges:	Risks or challenges associated with this report are detailed in Section 11.
Links to Community Plan Ambitions/Principles:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ All ambitions/principles
Summary of Report:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Section 3 provides the background to the Collaboration for Health Equity in Scotland (Marmot) Programme approach;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Section 4 highlights key messages from the publication of the Institute of Health Equity's two National Data Reports;◆ Section 5 provides an update on the work of the Local Data Group to date; and◆ Section 6 provides a summary of the programme.
--	--

Report

Report to:	Partnership Board
Date of Meeting:	18 March 2026
Report by:	Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council

Subject:	Marmot Place Programme - Collaboration for Health Equity in Scotland Data Update Report
----------	--

1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ inform the Partnership Board of the progress made by the Marmot Place Programme Data Group and outline key messages from the data analysis to date.

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the progress of the South Lanarkshire Marmot Data Group and the work completed to date in developing the local evidence base be noted;
- (2) that the headline findings from the analysis to date, including that there is an overall pattern which demonstrates how people living in more deprived circumstances generally have poorer outcomes, be noted; and
- (3) that the infographics attached as Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 be approved for wider publication, to illustrate the gaps in outcomes experienced between local communities.

3. Background

3.1. Marmot Place is an evidence-based, place approach where partners collaborate to reduce inequalities in a defined 'place'. The 'place' could be a town, a neighbourhood or a whole authority.

3.2. South Lanarkshire Council, in partnership with NHS Lanarkshire and the Community Planning Partnership (CPP), is one of three Scottish areas participating in a national pilot known as the Collaboration for Health Equity in Scotland (CHES). CHES is a two-year partnership (2024 to 2026) between Public Health Scotland (PHS), University College London's Institute of Health Equity (IHE), led by Professor Sir Michael Marmot, and the three participating places, Aberdeen City, North Ayrshire and South Lanarkshire.

3.3. The Marmot approach is based on proportionate universalism, which in practice means maintaining strong universal services for all residents while targeting additional support and investment to communities and groups experiencing the greatest disadvantage, in order to reduce the gradient (difference) in people's outcomes.

- 3.4. Health inequalities are the unfair and avoidable differences in health and life chances between communities, with those who live in the more deprived communities experiencing poorer outcomes. The Partnership Board has previously noted the rationale for adopting the Marmot approach in South Lanarkshire, recognising that life outcomes and health inequalities are largely shaped by the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age.
- 3.5. Reducing inequalities requires action across all partner services, not only health services. The key goals for the programme are to reduce inequalities in life circumstances - and so, ultimately, inequalities in health - by improving outcomes for individuals and families with the greatest need, while maintaining support for all. This will create the conditions that allow individuals and communities to take meaningful control over their own lives, addressing the causes of inequality through prevention and early intervention.
- 3.6. The CHES programme has three practical phases supported by shared learning throughout: Phase 1 (data and evidence analysis); Phase 2 (system analysis of the local health equity system); and Phase 3 (recommendations and action planning). The South Lanarkshire programme is currently building on Phase 1 outputs and has moved into Phase 2, where the evidence base is being applied to support decision-making and identify priorities for action.
- 3.7. A further report on the agenda of this meeting of the Partnership Board provides an update on the Marmot Programme for South Lanarkshire. That report outlines progress made and includes recommendations, for approval, in terms of the partnership's role going forward.
- 3.8. To deliver the data and evidence commitments within Phase 1, a South Lanarkshire multi-agency data group was established to collate, analyse and present local and national data to complement the work of the IHE, and to support local prioritisation and action. Membership of the group includes representatives from various council services, partner organisations and data analysts from PHS and the IHE. The group has been working to develop a new approach for analysing local and national data; and an approach for embedding the Marmot principles across the CPP, which includes communications and learning and development. This work includes producing eight local data packs for internal management use which are aligned to the Marmot approach. This work should be complete by April 2026. Data highlights from the packs will be published on the [Collaboration for Health Equity \(CHES\) information pages](#).
- 3.9. In June 2025, the proposed prioritisation of the local Marmot Place programme on child poverty and family support in the early years was established, to maximise learning and impact across the eight Marmot principles, and to align with existing local priorities and reporting arrangements.
- 3.10. This report provides an update on the Data Working Group's progress to date and summarises the headline messages emerging from published and publishable data. The intention is to support a shared understanding of inequalities in South Lanarkshire, and to inform the next phase of the Marmot Place programme.

4. National Data Reports

- 4.1. IHE has published two national CHES reports which provide the national context for local work and highlight why a stronger, locally usable evidence base is required. The [first report](#) confirms that although there are areas of improvement, health inequalities in Scotland are widening, with clear gradients by deprivation across life expectancy,

healthy life expectancy, and a range of health outcomes. It also highlights limitations in available data, including that much health data is not routinely available below Intermediate Zone level (small, fixed geographic areas used for statistical reporting in Scotland, each of which typically contains between 2,500 and 6,000 residents; there are 82 Intermediate Zones in South Lanarkshire), and that healthcare activity data does not always reflect true level of need in the population.

The report concludes that the gap in outcomes between communities is significant but that inequalities can be challenged, and that services and investment should be targeted and scaled to reflect need, both across council areas and within them.

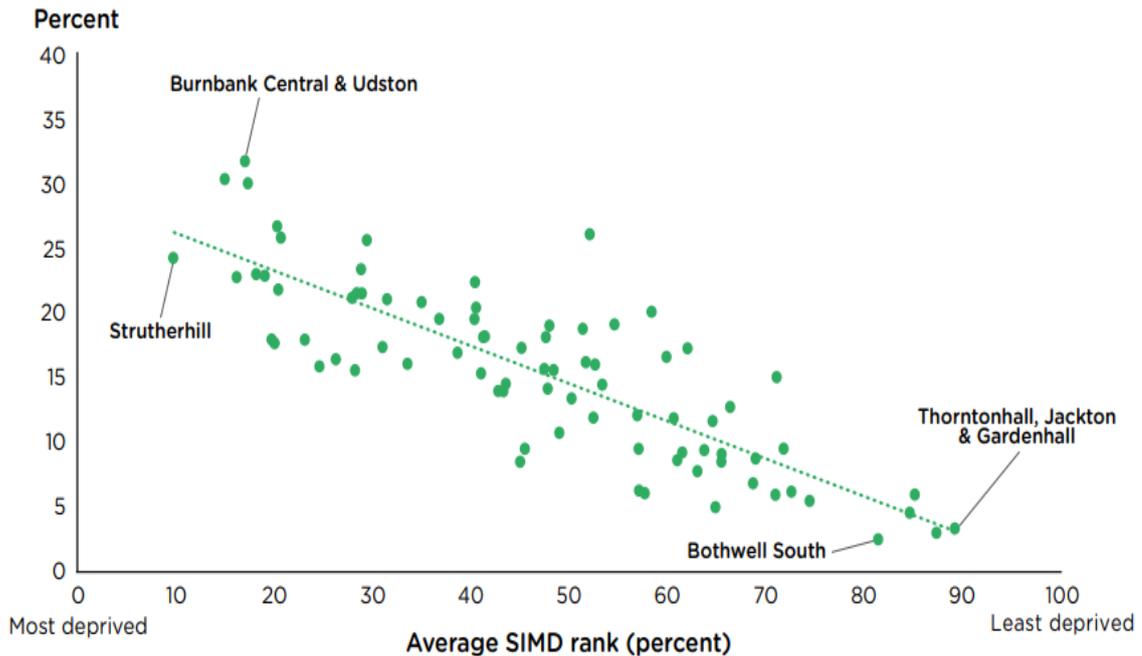
- 4.2. The [second report](#) focuses on inequalities in the factors that shape health, organised around the eight Marmot Principles (see below). It compares patterns across Scotland and looks in more detail at the three participating Marmot Places. It shows that people in more deprived communities experience worse outcomes across all eight areas reviewed. The report highlights persistent inequalities in early years development, child poverty and educational attainment, and the impacts of poor-quality and unaffordable housing. It also presents early analysis suggesting that the current ways of sharing out resources and levels of funding across Scotland are not sufficient to reduce long-standing inequalities and that more work is needed to assess whether support and investment is adequate to change outcomes for the communities with the greatest need.

The eight Marmot principles referred to are:-

- ◆ Give every child the best start in life
- ◆ Enable all children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and control their lives
- ◆ Create fair employment and good work for all;
- ◆ Ensure a healthy standard of living for all;
- ◆ Create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities
- ◆ Strengthen the role and impact of ill health prevention
- ◆ Tackle discrimination and racism, and their outcomes
- ◆ Pursue environmental sustainability and health equity together

- 4.3. The diagram at Figure 1 shows Children Living in Poverty in the South Lanarkshire area by levels of social deprivation.

Figure 1: Relative Child Poverty (before Housing Costs)



Source: UK Government (2025) [40]

4.4. In South Lanarkshire the average proportion of children living in poverty (before housing costs) is 14.4%, which is slightly lower than the average in Scotland, 16.3%. Figure 1, which has been extracted from the IHE’s second report shows that nearly half, 38 of 82, of Intermediate Zones have a rate higher than the Scottish average. The highest rate of relative child poverty is in Burnbank Central and Udston, at 31.8%, with the lowest in Bothwell South, at 2.5%. On the graph the average SIMD rank (percent) means the lower the score, the higher the level of deprivation; the dotted line shows the deprivation gradient, which shows that the more deprived areas have much higher child poverty.

5. Local Data Group Update

5.1. The Marmot Place approach is a developmental process that aims to address health inequalities through a systematic and coordinated effort. As part of this work, the Data Group has brought together national and local data and looked at how outcomes are different between more and less deprived communities, using the IHE’s deprivation ranking to make comparisons consistent. This has been commended by the IHE and provides a richer understanding of the areas where local inequalities are experienced the most.

5.2. Early indications from the data analysis shows that there is an overall pattern consistent with a social gradient (the more deprived, the poorer the outcomes are likely to be). However, there are several exceptions which indicate that levels of deprivation alone do not fully explain outcomes. Further work will be carried out to better understand these findings, and they will be interpreted alongside local context and other indicators, including small population effects, rurality, access to services and health care, housing conditions and underlying health risk factors. The group will continue to undertake analysis to test these early findings to provide a more complete overview of local health inequalities in South Lanarkshire.

- 5.3. Actions which the South Lanarkshire Data Group has undertaken to date include:-
- ◆ Completed the initial phase of a partnership data gathering exercise to assess what information is currently available, and at what geographical level.
 - ◆ Completed a review of existing local reports and resources and identified several resources that describe inequalities at the South Lanarkshire level.
 - ◆ Developed a data prioritisation scoring tool to support consistent selection of indicators across the Marmot Principles.
 - ◆ Undertaken a 'top 5 questions' consultation to inform the focus of analysis and reporting.
 - ◆ Reviewed data reports and background packs produced by other Marmot Places, including Greater Manchester, Leeds, Cheshire and Merseyside, to identify good practice and improve comparability.
 - ◆ Continued to work with the National CHES Data Group to identify gaps in data and opportunities to strengthen local analysis.
 - ◆ Developed a Next Steps Briefing which was approved by the Marmot Leadership Group and sets out an approach to embedding Marmot across the CPP.
 - ◆ Produced an accessible South Lanarkshire Data tool for everyone to use.
 - ◆ Worked with the IHE to produce Life Expectancy and Child Poverty maps to show the differences in communities between the South Lanarkshire junctions of the M74 motorway.

Work is ongoing to:

- ◆ Complete the eight management data packs based on the Marmot Principles, bringing together data at Intermediate Zone or lower geographies wherever possible. Due to be circulated before April 2026.
- ◆ Produce public data packs based on the Marmot Principles, providing a high-level overview of key data highlights suitable for public reporting.
- ◆ Produce a data report which details the work of the Data Group, summarises what the data has shown, and outlines next steps for the data work programme including evaluation.
- ◆ There are planned awareness raising workshops to support interpretation, verification of the evidence base, and discussion of implications for action.
- ◆ Deliver targeted Marmot workshops, starting with Early Years providers. Support service areas to undertake the deep dives as outlined in the next steps briefing, including evaluation with the aim to embed the approach within systems.

- 5.4. A key area of work has been the development of a data tool for South Lanarkshire with the support from our CHES colleagues in Aberdeen City. The tool brings together easily accessible data for the South Lanarkshire area from a range of sources including the Census and the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation. The [data tool](#) is available for everyone to use on the CPP website.

6. **Headline Findings from the Data Analysis**

6.1. To improve local understanding of inequalities, the Data Working Group has used Intermediate Zone (IZ) level data where it is available and appropriate to do so. This provides a consistent geography for exploring differences between communities and for comparing outcomes with deprivation measures. Some indicators are not available below local authority level, and in these cases the analysis is presented at the most appropriate published geography. The summary below sets out the key headline messages from the five data packs that have been completed so far. These provide a clear picture of inequalities at a local level, which will be further enhanced as work continues on the three other data packs (see 6.4 below). All findings presented in this report are based on published or publishable data and are summarised at a level suitable for public reporting.

6.2. Data Pack 1: Give every child the best start in life - Child poverty is the most pressing and cross-cutting issue affecting outcomes for children in South Lanarkshire. While South Lanarkshire performs close to, or above, the Scottish average across many Early Years indicators, Council-wide figures conceal substantial variation between communities. Analysis at Intermediate Zone level shows a wide gap in child poverty rates, and clear social gradients (worse outcomes for people who are more deprived) across several Early Years outcomes, reinforcing the need for a targeted, data-informed approach alongside strong universal provision. Work has been undertaken with the IHE to develop a map which shows Child Poverty data at Intermediate Zone level visually, at the various junctions along the M74 South Lanarkshire junctions (see Appendix 1). If approved, this infographic will be used publicly to illustrate the gaps in outcomes involved. Key messages from the analysis to date include:

- ◆ Nearly one in five children in South Lanarkshire lives in poverty, with much higher rates in some communities.
- ◆ Child poverty rates vary widely across Intermediate Zones, with a 29.3 percentage point gap between the lowest area, with 2.5% of children living in poverty, and the highest area, with 31.8%, of children living in poverty.
- ◆ Clear social gradients are evident for several key indicators, including women smoking in pregnancy, maternal obesity, breastfeeding, child dental health, child healthy weight and developmental concerns at 27-30 months, with poorer outcomes in more deprived communities.
- ◆ Child dental health in P1 has improved considerably. However, rates vary widely across South Lanarkshire, with a 48.4 percentage points difference between the lowest and highest areas. The data shows that the highest area with children who have no evidence of dental decay is 100%, and the lowest area is 58.6%.
- ◆ Immunisation uptake of the 6 in 1 immunisation at 24 months remains generally high across South Lanarkshire, slightly above the Scottish average. There is a 10.2 percentage point variation between the highest and lowest areas. The data shows that there are four areas with highest uptake at 100%, while the area with the lowest uptake is 89.8%.
- ◆ In 2023, 43.9% of live births were to families living in the 40% Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) most deprived areas, underlining the importance of services being responsive to improving outcomes for those experiencing inequalities.

- 6.3. Data Pack 2: Enable all children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives. Key messages from the analysis to date include:
- ◆ Primary school attendance rates ranged from 91.1% in the most deprived areas to 95.7% in the least deprived areas.
 - ◆ Attendance for secondary school pupils varied by deprivation level, from 83.9% in the most deprived areas to 92.3% in the least deprived areas.
 - ◆ 96.9% of school leavers achieved at least one SCQF Level 4 qualification, with a 6.5 percentage point deprivation gap between the most and least deprived areas.
 - ◆ 96.6% of school leavers progressed to an initial positive destination. The deprivation gap between the most and least deprived areas was 3.2 percentage points.
- 6.4. Data Pack 3: Create fair employment and good work for all; Pack 4: Ensure a healthy standard of living for all; and Pack 5: Create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities. These will be completed by the end of March 2026 and updates on key findings will be presented in a later report.
- 6.5. Data Pack 6: Strengthen the role and impact of ill health prevention. Key messages from the analysis to date include:
- ◆ Healthy Life expectancy for men has been declining in Scotland since 2014-2016. South Lanarkshire consistently sits below the Scottish rate. The gap between South Lanarkshire (58.4 years) and Scotland (59.6 years) in 2021-2023 was 1.2 years
 - ◆ Healthy Life expectancy in Scotland has also declined for women, South Lanarkshire consistently sits below the Scottish rate. The gap between South Lanarkshire (58.5 years) and Scotland (60 years) in 2021-2023 was 1.5 years
 - ◆ Male life expectancy in South Lanarkshire ranges from a low of 68.8 years in the most disadvantaged areas to a high of 84.9 years in the most advantaged, creating an inequality gap of over 16 years
 - ◆ Female life expectancy in South Lanarkshire ranges from a low of 73.2 years in the most disadvantaged areas to a high of 88.5 years in the most advantaged, creating an inequality gap of over 15.3 years
 - ◆ Between 2021-2023, the average bowel screening uptake in South Lanarkshire was 65.1%, slightly below the Scottish average of 66.4%. However, there is a wide variation between Intermediate Zones, with 52.4% in the lowest uptake area to 76.8% in the highest uptake area, a difference of 24.4 percentage points.

Work has been undertaken with the IHE to develop a map which shows life expectancy data at Intermediate Zone level visually, at the various junctions along the M74 in South Lanarkshire (see Appendix 2). If approved, this infographic will be used publicly to illustrate the gaps in outcomes involved.

- 6.6.1. Data Pack 7: Tackle racism, discrimination and their outcomes. At present, there is limited routinely published data that can be reported at locality or lower level for South Lanarkshire on experiences of racism, discrimination, or their outcomes. The National CHES programme is seeking, where possible, to strengthen small-area analysis and improve the evidence base, but this is constrained by the availability of robust, publishable datasets.
- 6.6.2. The IHE CHES Second Report highlights that discrimination can occur across multiple dimensions, including ethnicity and disability, and that discrimination and structural racism damage health and are associated with poorer outcomes in key social determinants of health. The report draws on national survey evidence on adults'

experiences of discrimination and shows that reported discrimination varies across council areas, with only a weak association between experiences of discrimination and area deprivation at council level.

- 6.7.1. Data Pack 8: Pursue environmental sustainability and health equity together. At present, there is limited routinely published data that can be reported at locality or lower level for several environmental sustainability indicators. Some relevant datasets are only available at council level or are not consistently available for small-area public reporting. The National CHES programme is seeking, where possible, to strengthen small-area analysis and improve the evidence base, but this is constrained by the availability of robust, publishable datasets.
- 6.7.2. The IHE CHES Second Report highlights that tackling climate change and health inequalities together is essential, so that action to reduce health inequalities does not damage the environment, and action to improve the environment does not worsen health equity. The report notes that the health harms from climate change are expected to affect communities living in the most deprived areas most, and that equity should be considered when designing and implementing green policies so that the worst off do not bear proportionately greater costs.

7. Summary

- 7.1. This report brings together published national and local data to show a clear link between deprivation and the health and life outcomes experienced by people across South Lanarkshire.
- 7.2. Overall, people living in more deprived communities are more likely to experience poorer outcomes from early childhood through to later life. This includes higher levels of child poverty, lower school attendance and attainment, poorer health in adulthood, and shorter life expectancy. While outcomes vary between communities, the overall pattern is consistent: as deprivation increases, outcomes generally worsen. These differences are not inevitable. They reflect the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age, and the opportunities available to them.
- 7.3. The key message from this analysis is that reducing inequality requires joined-up action across services and partners, with strong universal support for all, alongside targeted action focused on communities facing the greatest disadvantage, to narrow the gap and improve outcomes for everyone.

8. Employee Implications

- 8.1. There are no employee implications associated with this report.
- 8.2. As the South Lanarkshire Marmot Framework and pilot projects are evaluated and further implemented, there may be employee implications in the future for all partners organisations working within the scope of a Marmot Place programme approach. This may involve additional support and training for staff in developing new skills and knowledge required to work to a Marmot approach. In addition, reviews of service models could result in changes to roles and/or approaches to practice.

9. Financial Implications

- 9.1. Data work has utilised existing employee resources across the Council, and partner organisations. This has also been supplemented by data analysts from Public Health Scotland, and the Institute of Health Equity; and CHES colleagues from Aberdeen City Council.
- 9.2. The Financial Implications section of the report referenced at Section 9 above includes details of approved funding for the development of the Marmot programme.

10. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

- 10.1. It is expected that there would be positive environmental impacts to a Marmot Place. As noted at 6.7 above, at present there is limited routinely published data on climate justice that can be reported at locality or lower level for several environmental sustainability indicators. Some relevant datasets are only available at council level or are not consistently available for small-area public reporting. The National CHES programme is seeking, where possible, to strengthen small-area analysis and improve the evidence base, but this is constrained by the availability of robust, publishable datasets.

11. Other Implications

- 11.1. Due to governance and data sharing agreements, it is not always possible to collect, share and publish data. There is a risk of not acting on the findings from the data. New and different approaches to improve outcomes for those individuals and families experiencing higher levels of inequalities need to be developed.

12. Integrated Impact Assessment and Consultation Requirements

- 12.1. This report does not introduce a new policy or function, so no Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) is required at this time. Consultation will be carried out as it is essential that the findings from the data analysis is validated by local people and the professionals/services who support them.

Paul Manning
Chief Executive
South Lanarkshire Council

25 February 2026

Contact for Further Information

If you would like further information, please contact:-

Carol Stewart, Public Health Consultant, NHS Lanarkshire
Tel: 01698 752952
Email: carol.stewart@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk

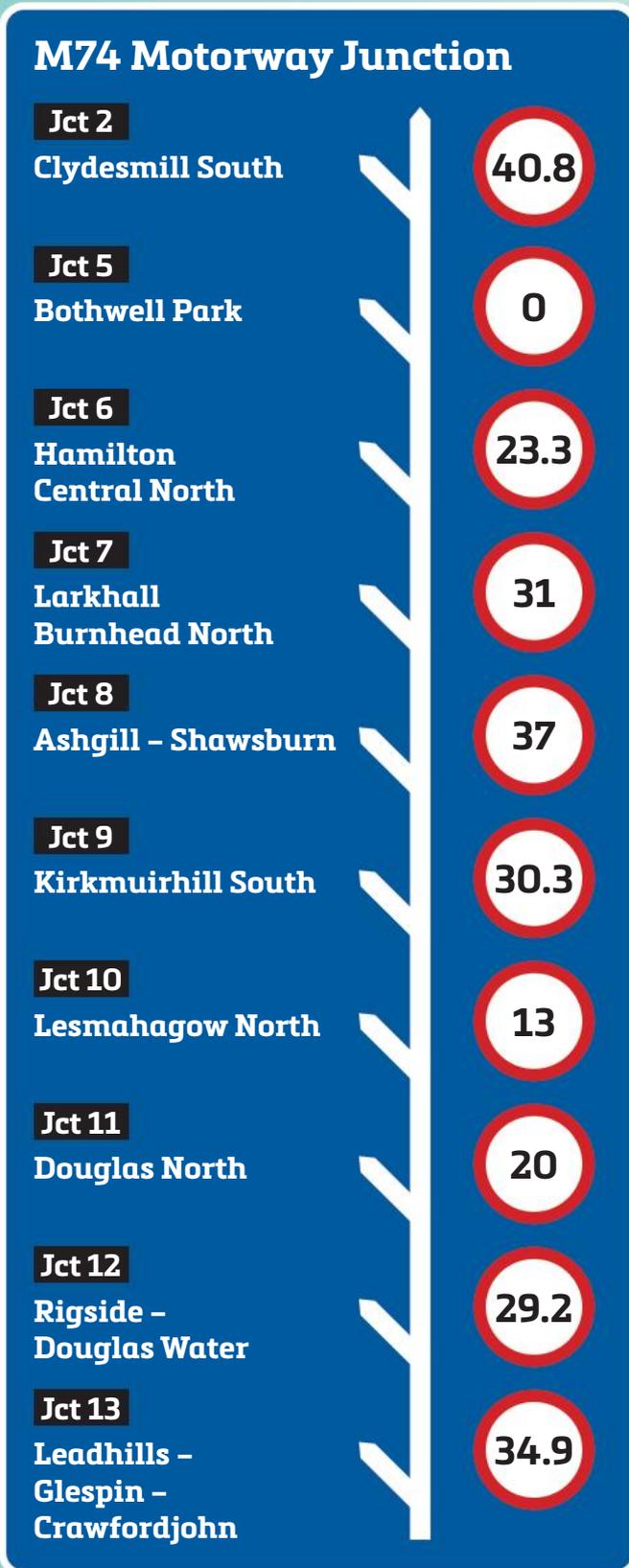
Aileen Murray, Community Planning Adviser, South Lanarkshire Council
Tel: 0303 123 1017
Email: aileen.murray@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

The Road to Equity Child Poverty

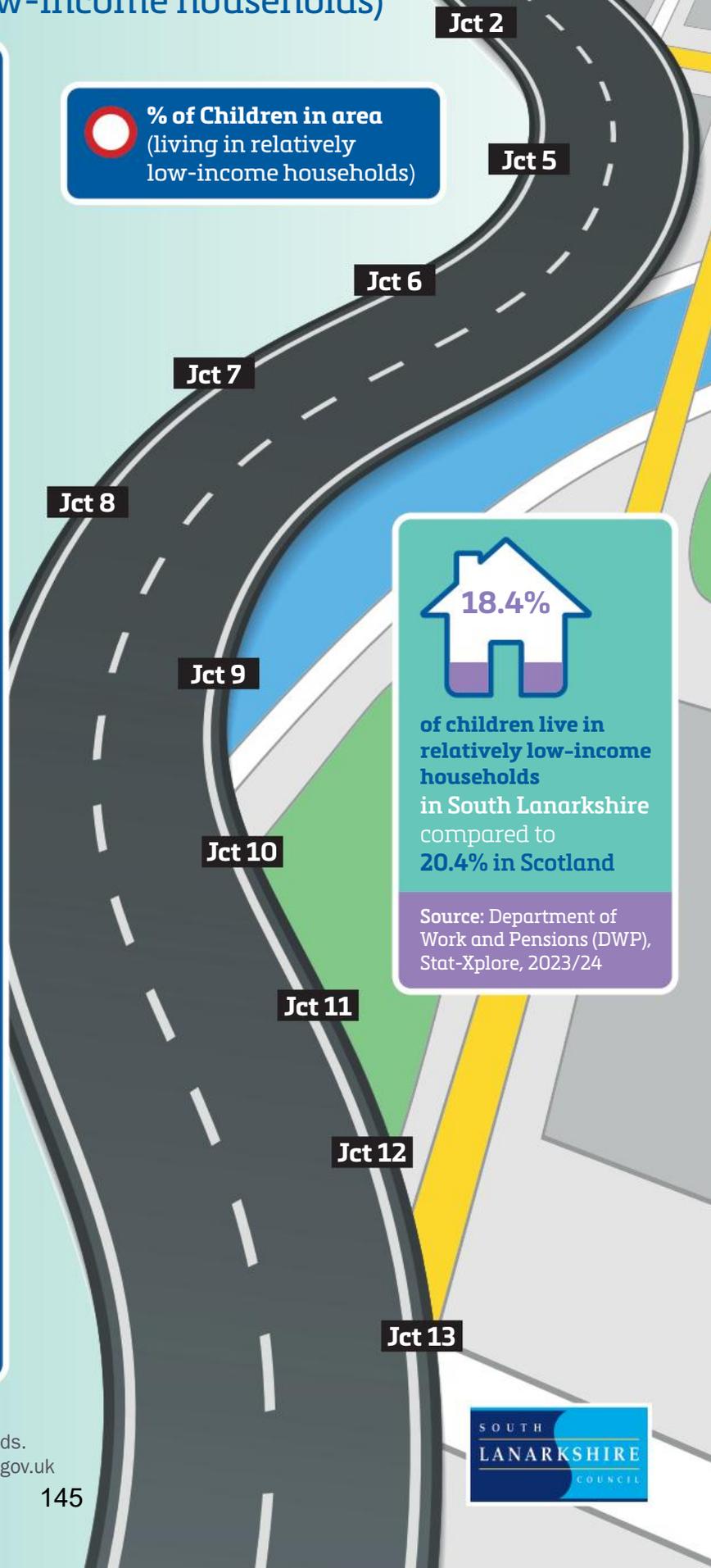
(Children living in relatively low-income households)



South Lanarkshire
Partnership
Stronger together



% of Children in area
(living in relatively
low-income households)



18.4%
of children live in
relatively low-income
households
in South Lanarkshire
compared to
20.4% in Scotland

Source: Department of
Work and Pensions (DWP),
Stat-Xplore, 2023/24

If you need this information in another language or format,
please contact us to discuss how we can best meet your needs.
Phone: 0303 123 1015 Email: equalities@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk



The Road to Equity

Life Expectancy for Males and Females in South Lanarkshire (in years)



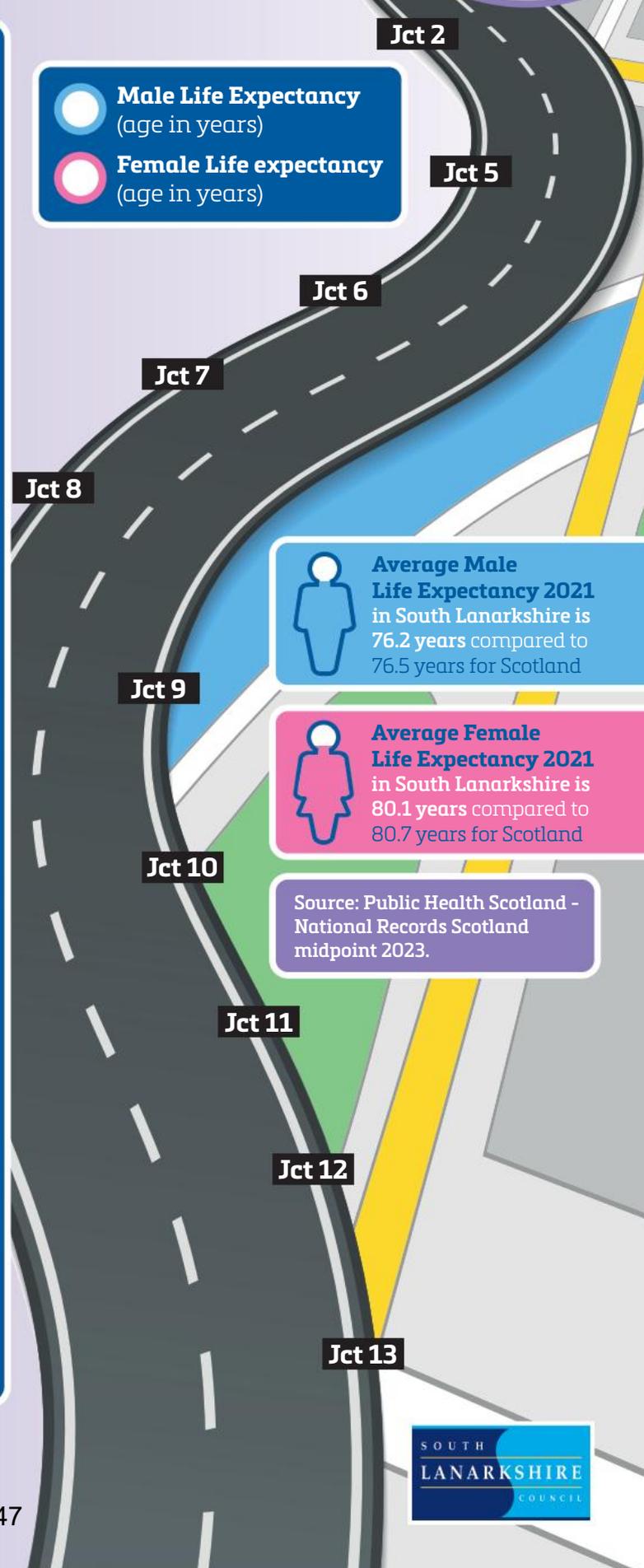
South Lanarkshire
Partnership
Stronger together

M74 Motorway Junction

Junction	Male Life Expectancy (age in years)	Female Life expectancy (age in years)
Jct 2 Farme Cross and Gallowflat	73.2	79.4
Jct 5 Bothwell South	85.9	81.2
Jct 6 Hamilton Centre and Low Parks	75.9	80
Jct 7 Larkhall Central, Raploch, Millheugh and Burnhead	77	80.9
Jct 8 Strutherhill	71.3	77.2
Jct 9 Kirkmuirhill and Blackwood	78.1	81.7
Jct 10 Lesmahagow	75.6	76.4
Jct 11 Hazelbank and Kirkfieldbank	83.6	78.6
Jct 12 Douglas, Coalburn and Rigside	75.6	81.2
Jct 13 Clydesdale South	76.6	N/A

Male Life Expectancy
(age in years)

Female Life expectancy
(age in years)



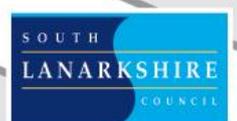
Average Male Life Expectancy 2021
in South Lanarkshire is 76.2 years compared to 76.5 years for Scotland

Average Female Life Expectancy 2021
in South Lanarkshire is 80.1 years compared to 80.7 years for Scotland

Source: Public Health Scotland - National Records Scotland midpoint 2023.

If you need this information in another language or format, please contact us to discuss how we can best meet your needs.
Phone: 0303 123 1015 Email: equalities@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk



Community Planning Partnership Board Executive Summary

Date of meeting:	18 March 2026
Subject:	Marmot Place Programme - Collaboration for Health Equity in Scotland (CHES) – Operational Update Report
Report by:	Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council
Contact for Further Information:	<p>Lyndsay McRoberts, Executive Director, Education Resources, South Lanarkshire Council Tel: 01698 454379 Email: Lyndsay.McRoberts@southlanarkshire.gov.uk</p> <p>Jen Kerr, Community Engagement Manager, South Lanarkshire Council Tel: 0303 123 1017 Email: jennifer.kerr@southlanarkshire.gov.uk</p>
Purpose of the Report:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ to provide the Partnership Board with an update on progress made on the Marmot Place programme and seek approval for an Early Years Transformation Pilot.
Community Planning Delivery Partners:	All partners
Key Recommendations/ Decisions/Action Required from Partners:	<p>The Board is asked to approve the following recommendations:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) that the contents of the report and work undertaken so far be noted; (2) the proposals for the Council to participate in an Early Years Transformation Pilot with partners, through the Community Planning Partnership, be approved; and (3) that the next steps, outlined in section 6 in terms of developing the programme and taking it forward, be noted.
Risks/Challenges:	Risks or challenges associated with this report are detailed in Section 10.
Links to Community Plan Ambitions/Principles:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ All ambitions/principles
Summary of Report:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Section 3 provides the background to the CPP participating in the Collaboration for Health Equity in Scotland (Marmot) Programme; ◆ Section 4 details the development of the South Lanarkshire Marmot framework; ◆ Section 5 highlights the approach to the Early Years Transformation Pilot Model; ◆ Section 6 sets out the CPP workstreams; and ◆ Section 7 provides a summary of the programme and the next steps being taken.

Report

Report to:	Partnership Board
Date of Meeting:	18 March 2026
Report by:	Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council

Subject:	Marmot Place Programme - Collaboration for Health Equity in Scotland (CHES) – Programme Update Report
----------	--

1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ provide the Partnership Board with an update on progress made on the Marmot Place programme and seek approval for an Early Years Transformation Pilot

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the contents of the report and work undertaken so far be noted;
- (2) that the proposals for the Community Planning Partners to participate in an Early Years Transformation Pilot with the council, be approved; and
- (3) that the next steps, outlined in section 6 in terms of developing the programme and taking it forward, be noted.

3. Background

3.1. Public Health Scotland (PHS) and 3 local areas in Scotland are collaborating with the University College London Institute of Health Equity (IHE), led by Professor Sir Michael Marmot. The other 2 Scottish partner areas are Aberdeen City Council and North Ayrshire Council.

3.2. This partnership is a pilot in Scotland and known as Collaborating for Health Equality Scotland (CHES). CHES is adopting a Marmot Framework approach to understanding and addressing inequality in Scotland.

3.3. This report provides an update on our implementation and development of the Marmot approach in South Lanarkshire.

3.4. To briefly recap, the data report shows that South Lanarkshire now has a strong evidence base demonstrating that poverty influences almost every outcome for children, from health and development in early years to school readiness, including nutrition and access to support services as they grow. Furthermore, the strongest inequalities are evident before school age.

3.5. These findings provide partners with the evidence to understand where, and in what neighbourhoods, outcomes vary most for children's health and where preventative action is most needed to give every child a best start in life.

- 3.6. Furthermore, the findings show that using average figures can mask significant inequalities within communities and that service intelligence and local information are an essential element of the data-informed approach that is going to be essential to tackle poverty and reduce health inequalities at a neighbourhood level.
- 3.7. This further report builds on the outcomes of that data analysis by providing the Board with an update on behalf of the multi-partner Marmot Leadership Group, which has provided strategic oversight of the programme. It presents details of proposals to take operational action to test a Marmot, place-based approach in South Lanarkshire. In doing so, it outlines the proposed role and contribution of the council and Community Planning partners.

4. The South Lanarkshire Marmot Place Programme

- 4.1. The Leadership Group has developed a South Lanarkshire Marmot Framework that contains the characteristics of our local approach. We will apply the framework across our pilot projects, as outlined below:

Partners shared vision: Working to reduce health inequalities and to improve healthy life expectancy across South Lanarkshire.

We will do this through:

- ◆ collaborative Leadership
- ◆ improved poverty evidence base
- ◆ improved data literacy at operational and management levels
- ◆ evidence-based decision making
- ◆ whole Systems planning and working around place
- ◆ routinely embedding prevention in service design
- ◆ cultural change and a learning environment
- ◆ transactional process change:
- ◆ collaborative resourcing
- ◆ prevention spend mapping and budgeting
- ◆ proportionate universalism in service design

- 4.2. Having considered the results of the data phase, and applying the principles of this framework, the Leadership Group is proposing a range of actions that can be taken to enable local partners and stakeholders to work better together to close the gap in life expectancy caused by health inequalities in South Lanarkshire. These are outlined in three workstreams that are taking place during the CHES 2 year programme.

<p>Workstream 1: Data and intelligence:</p> <p>Develop and disseminate the evidence base for inequality in South Lanarkshire.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Developing the local evidence base. ◆ Producing local data tools and pack ensuring poverty information is available and accessible to all for use. ◆ Supporting all services and sectors to interrogate their own intelligence by deprivation. ◆ Online, open demographic data tool. ◆ Learning and workshops for all partners staff and stakeholders.
<p>Workstream 2: Strategic Alignment:</p> <p>Ensure core policies supporting Children and families are working to reduce health inequalities based on the Marmot evidence and seek to improve healthy life expectancy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Community Planning Performance Outcomes Framework development. ◆ Refresh of the Integrated Children's Services Plan. ◆ Review of Child Poverty Commitment and Action Plan to reflect learning.
<p>Workstream 3: Action</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Early Years Transformation Pilot. ◆ Neighbourhood Planning Review. ◆ Prevention Spend and Budgeting Pilot.

- 4.3. The Data and Intelligence workstream is well progressed and the results so far are contained in the data report referenced at paragraph 3.4. The data provides a starting point to prioritise and plan our response by outlining where more intense, preventive support is most needed, and it will inform actions for collaborative place planning and the joint resourcing of this.
- 4.4. The Strategic Alignment workstream will see the CPP develop its performance framework by integrating the Population Health Framework and the Marmot Principles into a theory of change for the Community Plan. The Community Plan outcomes will be aligned to the Marmot evidence of poorer outcomes, and the partnership will monitor the impact of actions and interventions.
- 4.5. This new performance framework will incorporate collaborative place outcomes that we co-design with our Neighbourhood Planning communities. Therefore, a review of Neighbourhood Planning will take the Marmot evidence base into communities to involve residents in supporting the solutions and co-designing preventative services.
- 4.6. This process will take place over 3 years and extend beyond the life of the CHES programme. However, given the importance of work to reduce health inequalities and improve outcomes, it is proposed that as an immediate first stage an Early Years Transformation Pilot is undertaken.
- 4.7. The evidence from the data phase has demonstrated that Burnbank and surrounding communities report the highest level of children living in low-income households who are experiencing deprivation-driven low outcomes. It is therefore proposed that the focus of the Early Years Transformation Pilot should be on Burnbank and neighbouring communities, to include Hillhouse, Whitehill and Udston, with further analysis to be carried out to identify other local communities which also utilise family support services in that area.

- 4.8. Partners may be aware, the Council already has a Family Support Hub based in Burnbank, one of a network of 4 such hubs which provide an early intervention response for pregnant women, babies and young people. In 2025, the family hubs received national recognition through a COSLA Excellence Award in the Tackling Inequalities and Improving Health category. The Early Years Transformation pilot will have the advantage of previous experience and excellent community relationships that already exist in the Burnbank area.

5. The Early Years Transformation Pilot Model

- 5.1. Research evidence in the area of prevention and early intervention consistently highlights the wide-ranging benefits of investment in the early years. The early years period (pre-birth to 5) is a period where the foundations of all later learning, health and wellbeing are established. UNICEF highlights that early childhood investment is critical for improving life expectancy and reducing health inequalities.
- 5.2. Over the past 30 years there have been various programmes aiming to support investment in early years across the UK. Evidence from the Sure Start initiative highlighted that financial investment and co-location of services in communities with high concentrations of child poverty narrowed inequalities. Studies following the same subjects over longer periods of time indicate that a Sure Start model has the potential to improve health outcomes, child development, attainment and improve family functioning.
- 5.3. A Sure Start approach is based on focusing investment on neighbourhoods with the highest rates of child poverty and enables universal access to family support services for all families within a geographical area. The model brings together a team of services that often operate separately including early education, health, family support and employability. The integrated model aims to give children a strong start in life and reduce a fragmented service experience.
- 5.4. In South Lanarkshire, the Marmot Place Programme provides a good opportunity to establish a Sure Start approach to support our early years work. The data provided through the programme will enable decisions around areas of investment and support new working models for services supporting families.
- 5.5. A multi-agency steering group has been established that will consider the development of our early years family support approach as we proceed with the Early Years Transformation Pilot in Burnbank and surrounding neighbourhoods.
- 5.6. The steering group will consider current models of early intervention and family support that currently operate through the successful South Lanarkshire Family Support Hub model. This will provide a framework for the development of a place-based approach for early years family support. The work will be centred around our early years settings and will involve the development of a multi-agency place-based approach involving services such as education, social work, health and employability.

- 5.7. The CHES partnership will support the early years work, hosting a partnership workshop which will analyse our local health equity system and develop actions to improve its outcomes. The workshop will help partners to understand both the enablers and barriers to improving health inequalities in our chosen place.
- 5.8. The steering group will work with CHES to determine short and long-term outcomes of the early years programme and will report on progress through the Marmot Leadership group, with regular updates provided to the Partnership Board as appropriate.

6. Community Planning Partnership Workstreams

- 6.1. In addition to the Early Years pilot, there will also be the following Community Planning workstreams, to embed the Marmot Place approach within the Partnership:-
- ◆ community Planning Performance Framework;
 - ◆ review of Neighbourhood Planning; and
 - ◆ embedding the Marmot approach within organisations/services across the partnership.
- 6.2. Work to develop the Community Planning Performance framework will involve integrating the Marmot Principles and Population Health Framework with the Community Plan. The framework will support the partnership to monitor inequality indicators; and the impact of prevention focused collaborations on an ongoing basis, across the broad range of priorities and demographics outlined in the Community Plan. This will be informed by the work of the Marmot Data Group which provides us with a better understanding of the unfair differences across communities. A partnership session to develop the new framework took place on 12 March 2026. The outputs will be presented to the Board at the Development Session on 13 May 2026 for discussion.
- 6.3. There will be a rolling review of all ten statutory Neighbourhood Planning areas. The learning from the work of the Marmot Data Group, and the approach that has been developed for embedding the marmot principles in the work of the CPP, will be used to create a more collaborative place-based model of working.
- 6.4. It is suggested that ensuring the partnership is focused on closing the inequalities gap in South Lanarkshire by embedding the Marmot Place approach within organisations and services across the partnership should be the remit of the CPP Outcomes Leads group. A review of the terms of reference of the group would be required. This would include reviewing the current membership, purpose and remit of the group. Considerations will be brought to CPP Board in future reports.

7. Summary and Next Steps

- 7.1. This report has set out plans to use the local CHES partnership's shared vision of: 'Working to reduce health inequalities and to improve healthy life expectancy across South Lanarkshire'. This involves use of data to target activities in communities with the greatest health inequalities, including use of proportionate universalism in service design.
- 7.2. Work will be taken forward as referenced through section 4 above, through the three workstreams established by the Marmot Leadership Group and into the proposed Early Years Transformation Pilot in Burnbank and its surrounding communities. An Action Plan laying out activities, timescales and responsibilities will be developed to outline that work, and to form the basis for future updates that will be reported to the Partnership Board.

7.3. Successful development and implementation of the approach within Burnbank and surrounding communities will inform the next phase of implementation in other communities across South Lanarkshire. Any developments will be taken forward with full discussion and consultation with affected local communities, including co-design of services.

7.4. In addition to the work to develop the programme into other communities, the pilot will inform how services will be developed to provide wider whole family support beyond early years provision.

8. Employee Implications

8.1. There are no employee implications associated with this report at this time.

8.2. As detailed in the background section of the report, the Leadership Group has developed a South Lanarkshire Marmot Framework, which has been applied across the pilot projects. As the pilots are evaluated and the framework further implemented, there may be employee implications in the future for all partners working within the scope of a Marmot Place programme approach. This may involve additional support and training for staff in developing new skills and knowledge required to work to a Marmot approach. In addition, reviews of service models could result in changes to roles and/or approaches to practice.

8.3. All partners within the Marmot Place programme are part of a system and would be expected to be open to participating in the programme, examining their current resources and staff and be open to considering adapting these resources to support any proposed changes.

9. Financial Implications

9.1. Funding has been approved by the governing bodies of partners who are involved in the project.

9.2. In December 2025, South Lanarkshire Integration Joint Board agreed to invest £2.000 million over three years to support collaborative action with Community Planning partners to focus on child poverty and improve early years outcomes. It is intended that this investment will be aligned to the principles of the South Lanarkshire Marmot Place programme and also the recently agreed Partnership Agreement with the local Third Sector.

9.3. In January 2026, NHS Lanarkshire Board agreed to contribute £2.000 million over a 3-year period to South Lanarkshire CPP to take forward population health actions specifically focused on early years and child poverty to provide practical, evidence-based and collaborative interventions.

9.4. On 4 February 2026 the Council's Executive Committee approved that £1.000 million of underspend from the Revenue Budget 2025/2026 would be transferred to reserves to allow the council to provide financial support to contribute towards the response to questions posed by the Marmot initiative. The report noted that this £1.000 million would allow the council to contribute towards the cost of taking forwards activity to progress Marmot findings, including any required staffing and implementation costs.

9.5. Any further financial implications resulting from the Marmot Place programme will be included in future updates to the Board.

10. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

10.1. It is expected there would be positive environmental impacts to a Marmot Place. It is one of the eight principles to address in the programme.

11. Other Implications

11.1. There are risks associated with this report because success depends on factors in a whole system. Our ability to facilitate collaboration and be systems leaders mitigates this risk.

11.2. The Marmot Principles, which aim to reduce inequality and improve health outcomes for all, would have to be embedded across all of the core functions of the council and partners. The approach would be transformative but would need to be integral to how the council and partners work. This has practical operational considerations for all.

12. Integrated Impact Assessment and Consultation Requirements

12.1. This report does not introduce a new policy or function, so no Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) or consultation arrangements are required at this time. However, if approved, this report points toward potential changes in policy, function or strategy, which would require IIAs and in some cases potentially consultation. Consultation will also take place with key stakeholders in the community.

Paul Manning
Chief Executive
South Lanarkshire Council

25 February 2026

Contact for Further Information

If you would like further information, please contact:-

Lyndsay McRoberts, Executive Director, Education Resources, South Lanarkshire Council
Tel: 01698 454379
Email: Lyndsay.McRoberts@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Jen Kerr, Community Engagement Manager, South Lanarkshire Council
Tel: 0303 123 1017
Email: Jennifer.Kerr1@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Place Director & CPP Charter

As Place Directors and Community Planning Partnerships, we will work together to build trusted and effective relationships between Scottish Government and local leaders to support the delivery of Local Outcome Improvement Plans to reduce inequalities in communities across Scotland.

Place Directors will:

- Build & maintain effective relationships with local leaders including community representatives
- Attend & take an active role in CPP meetings
- Keep partners informed of relevant national policy and funding developments
- Champion 'Place' & local variation in national policy where relevant
- Escalate actions that require national input to support progress on local priorities
- Commit 2 days/month for a term of 3 years

Community Planning Partners will:

- Provide an induction for Place Directors including meetings with local communities
- Facilitate regular access to their local leaders
- Work with Place Directors to identify the national actions required to improve local outcomes
- Share information and insights to keep PDs informed of local issues
- Keep Place Directors sighted on any relevant communications with Scottish Government

Our Shared Commitment: Maintain clear, regular and open communication to ensure information flows both ways.



South Lanarkshire
Partnership
Stronger together



Community Planning Board Bulletin

18 March 2026

www.southlanarkshirecommunityplanning.org  contact@southlanarkshirecommunityplanning.org

Overview and contents

Welcome to the CPP Board Bulletin, providing you with updates on key partnership activity relating to policy, strategy and service delivery.

March 2026 Update Contents

- Community Planning Partnership Risk Register Update (Slides 3-11);
- Community Planning Partnership Website Update (Slides 12-15);
- Joseph Rowntree Foundation – UK Poverty 2026 Report; and (Slides 16-18);
- Public Health Scotland’s New 10 Year Strategy – ‘Together we can’ (Slides 19-21); and
- Winter Wishes 2025 Update (Slides 22-24)

Community Planning Partnership Risk Register Update

- The following provides a summary of the current Community Planning Partnership (CPP) risks and an update on progress in the delivery of the risk control plan;
- The CPP risk register and Risk Control Plan is maintained to formally record, assess and aid management of strategic risks for the Partnership.
- There have been no changes to the CPP Risk Cards, and no new risks have been identified since the last update to the Board on 17 September 2025. The Progress Group, however, will consider the Marmot Place activity as part of their annual review of the Risk Register and Risk Control Plan which will be completed in April 2026;
- The Risk Register includes the following areas of risk:-

Risk Category	Key Risk
<p>1 Very High (15-25)</p>	<p>National and Global Challenges. Partners are required to re-direct resources to respond to local impacts of multiple national and global challenges including: Biodiversity Loss; Climate Action Failure; Cyber Insecurity; Deep Societal Polarisation; Extreme Weather Events; International conflict; Lack of economic opportunity; Misinformation and disinformation; Shortage of skilled workforce; and Ungoverned Artificial Intelligence (AI) Risk Number: CPP/2022/001</p> <p>Failure to meet sustainable development principles and respond collectively to the climate and nature emergencies. Risk Number: CPP/2018/003</p>

Community Planning Partnership Risk Register Update

Risk Category	Key Risk
1 Very High (15-25)	Failure to achieve the outcomes of the Community Plan 2022-2032 Risk Number: CPP/2018/001
	Ineffective engagement and collaborative working with communities Risk Number: CPP/2018/002
2 High (8-12)	Failure to implement integrated locality working structures which take a “whole systems approach” to deliver the priorities of the Community Plan and Neighbourhood Plans Risk Number: CPP/2018/008
	Effective use of data owned by partners to support efficient collaborative working practices; to inform a shared understanding of communities; decision making processes and target resources to those most in need. Risk Number: CPP/2018/006
	Financial Challenges Risk Number: CPP/2018/004

Community Planning Partnership Risk Register Update

- There are 15 actions in the 2025/26 Risk Control plan. The following sets out the progress of the delivery of the actions. Of the 15 actions in the plan: 1 action is complete; 9 are on target to deliver; 0 have not started (waiting for other actions to be completed first); 5 actions have minor slippage; and no actions have major slippage.

Status	Summary
Complete	There is one action completed.
On target	Nine actions are currently deemed to be on target to deliver within the timescale set.
Not started	There are no actions currently on hold.
Minor Slippage	There has been minor slippage for five actions .
Major Slippage	There has been major slippage for no actions .

Community Planning Partnership Risk Register Update

- A summary of the amber indicators are detailed below:

Key Risk	Action	Comments/Progress
Failure to achieve the outcomes of the Community Plan 2022-2032 (CPP/2018/001) Status - Amber	Evaluate the Neighbourhood Planning Approach	The review and evaluation of Neighbourhood Planning has been delayed pending the outcomes of the Marmot Place Programme. The review of the approach will take account of the new local data information and new place-based approaches that may result.
Partner action to improve the outcome:	Partners have agreed to delay this improvement action as above. The timescales will be reviewed.	

Community Planning Partnership Risk Register Update

- A summary of the amber indicators are detailed below:

Key Risk	Action	Comments/Progress
Failure to achieve the outcomes of the Community Plan 2022/2032 (CPP/2018/001) Status - Amber	Completion of the CPP Performance Framework	This activity has been delayed pending the completion of the Marmot data work and the publication of the Population Health Framework to integrate them together with the Community Plan and Neighbourhood Plans.
Partner action to improve the outcome:	Partners and the CPP Board will start workshops and development sessions in March 2026 to develop the Performance Framework.	

Community Planning Partnership Risk Register Update

Key Risk	Action	Comments/Progress
Failure to engage and collaborate effectively with identified communities of place and interest (CPP/2018/002) Status - Amber	Develop a process to support the effective participation of communities in the Marmot Place Programme	Marmot stakeholder communications are in development to inform communities and stakeholders on the findings of the data phase.
Partner action to improve the outcome:	Neighbourhood Planning communities will be engaged in Marmot through a review and evaluation process of Neighbourhood Plans that will take place on a rolling basis across the partnership. This activity will extend beyond the Marmot Place Pilot Programme.	

Community Planning Partnership Risk Register Update

Key Risk	Action	Comments/Progress
<p>Failure to engage and collaborate effectively with identified communities of place and interest (CPP/2018/002)</p> <p>Status - Amber</p>	<p>Refresh the Partnership Community Engagement and Participation Strategy</p>	<p>This action is ongoing and delayed due to Marmot priorities and processes. An initial workshop was hosted in January 2026.</p>
<p>Partner action to improve the outcome:</p>	<p>Feedback from the January 2026 workshop will be analysed to progress the development of the strategy.</p>	

Community Planning Partnership Risk Register Update

Key Risk	Action	Comments/Progress
<p>Failure to engage and collaborate effectively with identified communities of place and interest (CPP/2018/002)</p> <p>Status - Amber</p>	<p>Refresh the Partnership Volunteering Strategy</p>	<p>Initial scoping and early engagement discussions have commenced. Progress is aligned to the agreement of the Marmot Delivery Phase and the re-establishment of NHS Lanarkshire's Volunteering Group, which will help shape the refreshed strategy. In parallel, VASLan has established a Supported Volunteering Programme within the Third Sector, supported by the Local Employability Partnership. The programme currently involves 33 organisations. Continuation beyond 2025/26 will require confirmation of funding for 2026/27.</p>
<p>Partner action to improve the outcome:</p>	<p>VASLan will continue to work with their members via the Supported Volunteering Programme as well as update the Partnership Volunteering Strategy.</p>	

If you would like a copy of the Risk Report or would like further information please contact the Community Planning Team at: contact@southlanarkshirecommunityplanning.org



South Lanarkshire
Partnership
Stronger together

Officer contact detail

Further Information

Jennifer.Kerr1@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Community Planning Partnership Website Update

Background

- In order to align the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) website to the new Community Plan, it was agreed that a review of the website be undertaken.
- In 2021, the partnership's Website Review Group completed the first phase of work which included:
 - Reviewing other Community Planning Websites to inform learning;
 - Developed a website specification which lists the minimum requirements for the website including improved accessibility and other software improvements which could enhance the website;
 - Carried out a targeted community consultation; and
 - Looked into CONSUL software which could be used to support digital community engagement and tested this with the communities who were starting their Neighbourhood Planning journey.

Community Planning Partnership Website Update

Background

- In 2022, the second phase of work commenced to update the look and content of the website;
- A survey was carried out asking for feedback on the current format/content of the website and this information was used to inform the new layout;
- Pages continue to be offered on the website to the Neighbourhood Planning areas and Community Partnerships as a place to host and share information;
- Discussions were held with the council's IT Team to establish a work plan on how to develop the updated CPP website.
- Since 2023, the CPP website has continued to evolve in line with the priorities within the Community Plan and also with new areas of work being introduced, including Marmot, and following the Review of Community Planning, new groups being established such as the four Community Partnerships.

Community Planning Partnership Website Update

- The current CPP website now has the following layout which includes:
 - The **Home Page** details the six undernoted sections together with a video entitled ‘The Community Planning Partnership in South Lanarkshire and what it could mean to you’; an update on the latest news and events; and contact details for the Community Planning Team;
 - **What is Community Planning** (Work of the CPP Board, CPP partners and the Thematic Partnerships; Meet the Board; CPP Board Papers; the South Lanarkshire Community Plan 2022-2032 and the Community Partnerships);
 - **Community Matters** (Neighbourhood Planning and Participatory Budgeting);
 - **Learning in Communities** (Learning and training opportunities and information on the Collaboration of Health Equity in Scotland (Marmot));
 - **Climate and Nature** (Sustainable Development Goals and Climate Awareness);
 - **Challenging Poverty** (Groups and the work that is taking place with our partners to make South Lanarkshire a better place to live, learn, play and work); and
 - **Getting involved** (Ways you can get involved in making decisions on behalf of your community).
- The website will continue to be reviewed on an ongoing basis and contact should be made with the Community Planning Team should new updates/information require to be uploaded.
- The CPP website can be viewed using the attached link: [CPP Website](#)



South Lanarkshire
Partnership
Stronger together

**Officer contact detail:
Further Information**

Eleanor Paterson, Community Planning Officer

eleanor.paterson@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Joseph Rowntree Foundation: UK Poverty 2026 Report

Background

- The Joseph Rowntree Foundation have published their annual state of the nation report 'UK Poverty 2026' highlighting the depth of the problem and the scale of the challenge.

Key Findings

- More than one in five people in the UK, around 14.2 million, were living in poverty;
- Britain's poorest are getting poorer: 6.8 million people are now living in very deep poverty, almost half of everyone in poverty, the highest level on record;
- Poverty has hardened, not eased: the average person in poverty now lives 29% below the poverty line, compared with 23% in the mid-1990s;
- Child poverty has climbed again: 4.5 million children are in poverty, rising for the third year in a row;
- Hunger is spreading fast: 1.1 million more people in poverty cannot afford enough food than two years ago bringing the total to 3.5 million, while 2.8 million more people overall are now food insecure bringing the total to 7.5 million;

Joseph Rowntree Foundation: UK Poverty 2026 Report

Key Findings (Cont'd)

- Work doesn't guarantee security: around two-thirds of working-age adults in poverty, 5.4 million people, live in households where someone is in work;
- New JRF analysis shows that, under central Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) projections, the headline poverty rate will remain broadly unchanged (21.3% to 21.1%) between 2026 and 2029; and
- Current policies will see little progress towards meeting the government's manifesto commitment to end the mass dependence on food banks.

The full 'UK Poverty 2026' report can be found using the link below:

[UK Poverty 2026: The essential guide to understanding poverty in the UK | Joseph Rowntree Foundation](#)



South Lanarkshire
Partnership
Stronger together

Further Information

[Contact us | Joseph Rowntree Foundation](#)

Public Health Scotland's New 10 Year Strategy – 'Together we can'

Background

- Public Health Scotland have launched their new 10-year strategy to 2035 'Together we can'.
- The strategy sets a clear and ambitious direction for improving health and wellbeing across Scotland, driven by evidence, collaboration, and the voices of people and communities across the country.

Commitments

- To deliver real lasting change, aims to improve the average life expectancy by at least one year in the next decade and to narrow the life expectancy gap between the poorest 20% of areas and the national average.

Key Drivers of action

- Building a prevention-focused system;
- Improving social and economic conditions;
- Strengthening places and communities;
- Enabling healthy living; and
- Providing equitable access to health and care.

Public Health Scotland's New 10 Year Strategy – 'Together we can'

Moving forward

- Meaningful change can only be achieved by working together – national and local action must go hand-in-hand;
- Voices and lived experiences of communities are central to decision-making and delivery, ensuring actions reflect what matters most to people across Scotland; and
- Collaboration will remain at the heart of the strategy.

The 'Together we can' strategy can be found using the link below:

[Strategic vision - Together we can: our 10-year strategy to 2035 - What we do and how we work - About us - Public Health Scotland](#)



South Lanarkshire
Partnership
Stronger together

Further Information

[Contacting Public Health Scotland - Contact us - Public Health Scotland](#)

Winter Wishes 2025 Update

Background:

- The Winter Wishes project started in 2022 to support the local foodbanks in South Lanarkshire, providing gifts and food items to those in need throughout the Christmas period. A project that originally started with South Lanarkshire Council staff only, has evolved into a small Community Planning Partnership (CPP) project, where partners from across the CPP can also take part and have staff contribute.
- NHS Lanarkshire, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture and South Lanarkshire Council all participated in the 2025 campaign.
- To date, the project has contributed over 3,900 gifts and over 3,200 food items to local foodbanks and children and young people living in poverty with an approximate value of £61,898.

Winter Wishes 2025 Update

- This project brings together CPP staff to support local foodbanks and families in need during the Christmas period, helping to ease the extra pressures many face at this time of year.
- Donations of food items and gifts are collected through wish cards from on-site Christmas trees in council buildings or partners being able to access an online Amazon wish list, allowing staff to buy items and have them delivered to a central location.
- Donations are sorted and sent to 8 foodbanks across South Lanarkshire and to targeted groups of young people living in poverty.
- Staff from NHSL, Scottish Fire and Rescue, SLLC and SLC all contributed to the project in 2025 with:-
 - 1,184 gifts being donated.
 - 952 individual food items.
 - Approximate value to foodbanks and children and young people living in poverty - £20,984.80.
- News article: [Christmas cheer spread by staff and partners.](#)



South Lanarkshire
Partnership
Stronger together

**Officer contact detail:
Further Information**

Brian Borland, Community Participation Project Officer

brian.borland@southlanarkshire.gov.uk



South Lanarkshire
**community
planning**



South Lanarkshire
Partnership
Stronger together

Community Planning Partnership Board Executive Summary

Date of meeting:	18 March 2026
Subject:	South Lanarkshire Register of Information
Report by:	Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council
Contact for Further Information:	Jen Kerr, Community Engagement Manager, South Lanarkshire Council Tel: 0303 123 1017 Email: jennifer.kerr@southlanarkshire.gov.uk
Purpose of the Report:	♦ to provide the Partnership Board with a summary of the information circulated to Community Planning Partners.
Community Planning Delivery Partners:	All partners
Key Recommendations/ Decisions/Action Required from Partners:	The Board is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):- (1) that the content of the report be noted.
Risks/Challenges:	There are no risks or challenges associated with this report.
Links to Community Plan Ambitions/Principles:	♦ All ambitions/principles
Summary of Report:	♦ Details of information circulated to Community Planning Partners which gives partners an opportunity to seek clarification or an update on any matters contained therein

Report

Report to:	Partnership Board
Date of Meeting:	18 March 2026
Report by:	Chief Executive, South Lanarkshire Council

Subject:	South Lanarkshire Register of Information
----------	--

1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ provide the Partnership Board with a summary of the information circulated to Community Planning Partners.

2. Recommendation(s)

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

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

3. Background

3.1. This report provides a summary of the information circulated to Community Planning Partners and gives partners an opportunity to seek clarification or an update on any matters contained therein.

4. Period covered – 14 November 2025 to 22 February 2026

4.1. Appendix 1 provides a summary of the information circulated from 14 November 2025 to 22 February 2026.

5. Employee Implications

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

6. Financial Implications

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

7. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

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

8. Other Implications

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

9. Integrated Impact Assessment and Consultation Requirements

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

Paul Manning
Chief Executive
South Lanarkshire Council

25 February 2026

Contact for Further Information

If you would like further information, please contact:-

Jen Kerr, Community Engagement Manager, South Lanarkshire Council

Tel: 0303 123 1017

Email: Jennifer.Kerr1@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Register of Information circulated to the Partnership

14 November 2025 to 22 February 2026

Date	Subject	Received From	Summary	Action taken
17/11/25	Delivering Scotland's Careers Service Annual Report 2024-25	Skills Development Scotland	<p>Publication of Skills Development Scotland's 'Delivering Scotland's Careers Service Annual Report 2024-25': https://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/news-events/2025/november/delivering-scotlands-career-service-2024-25</p>	Circulated to the Community Planning Partnership Board for information.
21/11/25	Police Scotland Surveys	Police Scotland	<p>Circulation of surveys from Police Scotland regarding: The Truth About Youth Survey 2025-26 which will enable young people to help shape their own future by taking part in a survey to share their views to help Young Scot and partners design services that reflect what matters most to them. The survey closed on 31 January 2026.</p> <p>The Your Police 2025-26 survey will help Police Scotland to understand the views and priorities of Scotland's diverse communities which is fundamental to how Police Scotland responds to the needs of the public. Their public engagement activities help them improve how they deliver their policing services in local communities, ensuring they are accessible for everyone. The survey will close on 31 March 2026.</p>	Circulated to the Community Planning Progress Group and Outcomes Leads Group for information.
03/12/25	South Lanarkshire Equally Safe Action Plan 2025-2030	South Lanarkshire University Health and Social Care Partnership	Circulation of South Lanarkshire Women and Girls Strategic Partnership's SL Equally Safe Action Plan 2025-2030. This Action Plan supports the SL Equally Safe Strategy 2025-2030 which was highlighted to the CPP Board on 17 September 2025.	Circulated to the Community Planning Partnership Board for information.

Date	Subject	Received From	Summary	Action taken
05/12/25	Intersectional Stigma Event	Lanarkshire Links	Invitation to the 'Understanding and Addressing Intersectional Stigma and Discrimination Event' which took place on 19 February 2026. The session focused on strengthening the collective approach to tackling intersectional stigma and discrimination across Lanarkshire which forms part of the Stigma Free Lanarkshire Programme's ongoing work to promote cultural and systemic change.	Circulated to the Community Planning Partnership Board, Community Planning Progress Group and Outcomes Leads Group for information.
18/12/25	CPP Induction Resource	Scottish Community Planning Network	Circulation of the Scottish Community Planning Network's briefing on their CPP Induction Resource.	Circulated to the Community Planning Progress Group and Outcomes Leads Group for information.
18/12/25	Health Improvement Flash Report	South Lanarkshire University Health and Social Care Partnership	Circulation of NHS Lanarkshire's Health Improvement Blood Borne Virus and Sexual Health Team Flash Report Flash Report (April-December 2025).	Circulated to the Community Planning Progress Group and Outcomes Leads Group for information.
18/12/25	Data for Child Poverty	Public Health Scotland	<p>Publication of the Child Poverty Dashboard by Public Health Scotland which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data zone and intermediate zone data, where available; • Primary and secondary data indicators; • The ability to compare to other local authority areas; • Insights on the primary indicators on what the indicator measures and how it can be used; • A glossary; • Metadata which contains the technical information on each source dataset; and • Further information and guidance is available in the 'dashboard guide' within the dashboard. <p>Links to further information and the dashboard are detailed below:-</p> <p>https://publichealthscotland.scot/population-health/social-and-economic-impacts-on-health/economy-and-poverty/child-poverty/prioritise-</p>	Circulated to the Community Planning Progress Group and Outcomes Leads Group for information.

Date	Subject	Received From	Summary	Action taken
			child-poverty-a-data-and-systems-approach/data-for-child-poverty/data-sources-for-child-poverty/child-poverty-dashboard/ Child Poverty Prevention Dashboard	
19/12/25	Health Improvement Training Calendar	South Lanarkshire University Health and Social Care Partnership	Circulation of NHS Lanarkshire's Health Improvement Training Calendar (January to March 2026): Training Calendar: January to March 2026	Circulated to the Community Planning Progress Group for information.
05/01/26	Public Health Scotland (PHS) Health in All Policies Feedback Request	Improvement Service	<p>A short life cross sector working group has been convened by PHS, to develop a position paper on Health in All Policies (HiAP) which is one of the actions outlined within Scotland's Population Health Framework 2025-2035. The position paper is intended to provide a common understanding of HiAP and support the implementation of HiAP approaches across Scotland.</p> <p>The group have developed a first draft of the statement and are seeking feedback by 26 January 2026 on specific aspects in relation to identifying motivators, challenges and support needed which will all inform recommendations. This feedback will be used to refine the statement to then take it through a process of consultation and sign-off.</p>	Circulated to the Community Planning Progress Group and Outcomes Leads Group for information.
06/01/26	Stigma Free Opportunities	Lanarkshire Links	<p>Details of two opportunities available through the Stigma Free Lanarkshire Programme to take action to build a Stigma Free Lanarkshire where people with mental illness are empowered to define their own recovery and thrive without the barriers of stigma and discrimination.</p> <p>These include the People's Stigma Free Network which connects individuals and groups to help end mental health stigma in any setting. Meetings</p>	Circulated to the Community Planning Progress Group for information.

Date	Subject	Received From	Summary	Action taken
			<p>commenced on 21 January 2026.</p> <p>Understanding Mental Health Stigma Workshops are taking place to explore the impact of stigma and discrimination on every aspect of people's lives. Workshops commenced on 29 January 2026.</p>	
12/01/26	Contact Lists for Higher and Further Education Colleagues Update	Scottish Community Planning Network (SCPN)	<p>Following the SCPN Spotlight Session on 29 October 2025 regarding the Scottish Government's Student Mental Health Action Plan, the Summary Sway has now been updated and includes a list provided by Universities Scotland containing a contact for each of Scotland's Universities which can be found here.</p> <p>Colleges Scotland have also provided an email address which you can use to get in touch should you be trying to contact a particular college: tom.hall@collegesscotland.ac.uk</p>	Circulated to the Community Planning Progress Group and Outcomes Leads Group for information.
22/01/26	Rural and Island Place Standard Tool Event	Scottish Community Planning Network	<p>Details of the Rural and Island Place Standard Tool Event which was hosted by Public Health Scotland on Wednesday 25 February 2026 at the Birnam Arts Centre, Dunkeld with a hybrid option available to attend.</p> <p>The rationale for the development of a Rural and Island Place Standard Tool is to address the fact that rural and island places cover 98% of Scotland's landmass - a vast area - yet there are complex and sometimes competing priorities for this land to provide homes for communities, tackle the climate and biodiversity crises and underpin Scotland's food and energy security, cultural identity and economic wealth creation.</p>	Circulated to the Community Planning Progress Group for information.
26/01/26	Scotland Invited to Go "All In" for Glasgow 2026	VisitScotland	Launch of the Commonwealth Games Organising Committee's 'All In' official national call to action for Glasgow 2026. This programme is encouraging	Circulated to the Community Planning Partnership Board for information.

Date	Subject	Received From	Summary	Action taken
	Commonwealth Games		schools, community groups, sports clubs, cultural organisations, charities, and businesses to mark the Games in their own locally-led and inclusive way. This will enable the creation of activities and events which will bring people together, build local pride and celebrate Scotland's role as host nation: All In Glasgow 2026	
29/01/26	Public Health Scotland's New 10 Year Strategy – Together we can	Public Health Scotland	Launch of Public Health Scotland's new 10-year strategy ' Together we can ' which sets a clear and ambitious direction for improving health and wellbeing across Scotland, driven by evidence, collaboration, and the voices of people and communities across the country.	Circulated to the Community Planning Progress Group and Outcomes Leads Group for information.
29/01/26	UK Poverty 2026 Report	Joseph Rowntree Foundation	Launch of Joseph Rowntree Foundation's annual state of the nation report 'UK Poverty 2026'. The report highlights the depth of the problem and the scale of the challenge: UK Poverty 2026: The essential guide to understanding poverty in the UK Joseph Rowntree Foundation	Circulated to the Community Planning Progress Group and Outcomes Leads Group for information.
03/02/26	Joint Biometrics Strategy 2025-2030 Consultation	Police Scotland and Scottish Police Authority	Views are being sought by Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority regarding the 'Joint Biometrics Strategy 2025-2030'. The strategy plays a vital role in delivering the '2030 Vision for Policing in Scotland' which is for safer communities, less crime, supported victims and a thriving workforce. The consultation closed on 1 March 2026.	Circulated to the Community Planning Progress Group for information.
09/02/26	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) Webinar	South Lanarkshire Council	Circulation of the guide on how to access the UNCRC Webinar which has been produced to help staff understand the content of the recent UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024 and was created by young people from across South Lanarkshire and is designed to bring the Act to life. The course aims to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise staff awareness and understanding of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the 	Circulated to the Community Planning Progress Group and Outcomes Leads Group for information.

Date	Subject	Received From	Summary	Action taken
			<p>Child (UNCRC);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build understanding of children's rights in Scottish legislation and policy context; and • Ensure we fully take UNCRC into account in all our future actions. 	
12/02/26	Scottish Apprenticeships Webinar for Parents and Carers	Skills Development Scotland	<p>Skills Development Scotland (SDS) held an online free webinar on Scottish Apprenticeships on 3 March 2026 for parents and carers.</p> <p>Discussions took place on how apprenticeships can work for young people to develop their career and where there are opportunities. They also explained the types of apprenticeships available, where to get more information and how to find the latest vacancies. As well as hearing from their panel of employers and apprentices about the apprenticeship experience.</p>	Circulated to the Community Planning Progress Group for information.
13/02/26	South Lanarkshire Area Profiler Data Tool	South Lanarkshire Council	<p>Publication of the South Lanarkshire Area Profiler Data Tool, as part of the Marmot Place Programme work. This provides local data and maps on: Demographics; Migration; Housing; Education, Labour Market and Travel to Work; Health, Disability and Unpaid Care; Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD); and Food and Fuel Priority Areas.</p>	Circulated to the Community Planning Progress Group and Outcomes Leads Group for information.

