



# Safer Communities Delivery Plan

## Annual Update 2023/24



**EAST AYRSHIRE COMMUNITY PLAN 2015-2030**

**SAFER COMMUNITIES DELIVERY PLAN 2021-24: PARTNERSHIP ACTIONS**

**PROGRESS UPDATE FOR YEAR ENDING 2023/24**

The Safer Communities Delivery Plan captures the actions being taken forward collectively by the broadest range of local partners. It is supported by a number of strategic plans, and their related annual reports contain further detail of the safer communities activity taken forward across our partnership over the last year, including:

- [Local Police Plan Annual Report 2023/24](#)
- [Scottish Fire and Rescue Service East Ayrshire Annual Report 2023/24](#)
- Report of the Chief Social Worker 2023/24 (August 2024)**
- Children and Young People’s Services Plan Annual Report 2023/24**
- [East Ayrshire Child Protection Committee Bi-Annual Report 2021/23](#)
- [Alcohol and Drugs Partnership Annual Report 2023/24](#)
- [Violence Against Women Partnership Annual Report 2023](#)
- [South West Scotland MAPPA Annual Report 2022/23](#)
- Community Justice Ayrshire Partnership Annual Report 2023/24**

| Action  | Partnership Activity   | Partners                                |
|---|--|---|
| <b>S1</b> Deliver an effective policing response and work in partnership to reduce violence and prevent further offending | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver the priorities identified within the <a href="#"><u>Local Police Plan 2021-23</u></a>.</li> <li>• Enhanced <b>prevention and early intervention</b> activity, mobilising the full partnership presence within our communities.</li> </ul> | <b>Police Scotland,</b><br>All partners |

**Prevention and Early Intervention:** An extensive range of prevention and early intervention activity has been undertaken by partners during 2023/24, including the following examples:

**Local Police Plan Priorities**

The Local Police Plan 2023-26 performance is reported on quarterly basis at the East Ayrshire Police and Fire and Rescue Committee.

The Annual Performance Report 2023/24 was presented to the East Ayrshire Police and Fire and Rescue Committee on the 18 June 2024, showing that overall reported crime fell by 3.1% in 2023/24. A detailed analysis of crimes reported against the 12 categories of crime is available in the 2023/24 annual report.

### **Ayrshire Community Wellbeing Unit (CWU)**

The Community Wellbeing Unit continues to follow a public health approach with collaborative work at its core to reduce demand by utilising connections and relationships with third sector and partner agencies, groups and communities. Reach and connections have continued to grow during 2023/24, notably with the launch of the Cut and Connect 'self care' van within East Ayrshire in March 2024. This unique facility offers free at point of use services to East Ayrshire residents to assist with preparation for job interviews or boost to morale with importantly lots of signposting to support services for those in need.

Through collaborative work on engagement, prevention, intervention, rehabilitation and diversion the CWU seeks to complement and improve services by creating pathways out of violence, crime and ASB for affected community members whose lives and whose families/communities have been adversely impacted by previous & ongoing offending behaviour. The CWU engage with repeat victims providing reassurance, guidance and support in an effort to remove them from the cycle which can increase vulnerability.

The Wellbeing Unit seeks to impact on and target outcomes and priorities such as building confidence and Partnerships whilst working with communities with a specific focus on chaotic alcohol/drug dependence. By actively engaging with a solution focused outlook it is anticipated that community spirit and cohesion will improve which in turn will inspire others to become more involved, active members of communities.

### **Drugs Harm**

The Community Wellbeing Unit's collaborative efforts have impacted the reduction of drug harm within East Ayrshire. Through taking a partnership approach with local 3<sup>rd</sup> sector organisations such as the Recovery Hub, Foundation Hub, Verve, We Are with You, and the Howard Centre, we have been able to provide essential support to those battling addiction. Regular joint visits to vulnerable individuals have not only helped in offering immediate assistance. Our engagement has built trust, leading to a surge in community-sourced intelligence regarding multiple subjects. This proactive approach ensures that the most at-risk individuals receive the necessary aid, while also curbing the impact of drug addiction within the community.

### **Community Justice**

Community justice is a key aspect of CWU approach, aimed at reducing police contact and fostering a supportive environment. The weekly partners meeting chaired by the Community Wellbeing Unit, attended by Radar, housing support, social work, NHS, and third-sector organisations, takes a holistic approach providing a support system for vulnerable individuals. By identifying areas for action across sectors, we enhance engagement and provide comprehensive support. Regular visits to children's homes have strengthened relationships, reducing instances of youths going missing and minimising police intervention. Additionally, the introduction of initiatives such as the new support group for vulnerable females in the Irvine Valley demonstrates our commitment to creating safe spaces and addressing community-specific needs, promoting wellbeing.

### **Mental Health**

Our collaboration with NHS and social work professionals ensures that mental health needs are prioritised in our interventions. The arrival of a second CWU officer has enhanced our capability to conduct wellbeing visits crucial for addressing mental health crises. By identifying clients daily through various channels, we ensure that those with mental health issues receive timely and appropriate support from relevant partners. Our efforts in forming new support groups, especially for vulnerable females, highlight our focus on mental health, ensuring that individuals at risk of addiction and exploitation receive the necessary care and resources to improve their mental wellbeing and overall quality of life.

### **Youth Engagement**

Youth engagement remains a critical focus for the Community Wellbeing Unit. Our participation in the No Knives Better Lives training has equipped us with valuable skills to connect with disengaged youths through programmes like SL33 and Street League. These initiatives provide alternative avenues for youth who struggle with traditional education systems, fostering positive relationships and reducing negative life choices. Regular visits to children's care homes have further strengthened our relationships with young residents and staff, helping to mitigate issues such as regular missing persons. By building trust and offering consistent support, we create a safer, more inclusive environment, steering them away from potential conflicts and towards constructive community involvement.

### **Looking Out For You (CVO)**

The Council for Voluntary Organisations (CVO) East Ayrshire's Open Doors project continues to work with Police Scotland colleagues to deliver the 'Looking Out for You' project. The project started in April 2021 and continues to successfully work with people in the community who are vulnerable, with poor personal wellbeing, and are of high tariff in relation to offending. An updated profile has recently been produced showing reduced offending by those involved in the project; and

- Moving forward, as part of an ongoing effort to improve engagement with service users across East Ayrshire, it has been agreed that the CVO will work in partnership with Police Scotland colleagues to support individuals and their families who have been subject to police action by way of the Execution of Misuse of a Drugs 1971 Search Warrant. One of the most vulnerable groups within East Ayrshire is local drug users. This is a hard to reach group for the police and effective partnerships are essential in order to reduce their risk of harm. The objective of this initiative is to reduce the tragic impact of drugs on individuals, families and communities across East Ayrshire.

### **Open Doors**

As a result of the ongoing cost of living crisis and CVO East Ayrshire has taken the decision to revert Open Doors to a community wellbeing hub providing a safe place where people can access a wide range of activities and supports aimed at providing health and social benefits, improving life chances and signposting to opportunities within the community. Open Doors not only furthers the priorities identified by the community but offers much-needed community-led activities. This joined-up approach to service delivery within a one-stop facility ensures maximum use of existing resources and improved accessibility to service provision.

| Action  | Partnership Activity   | Partners   |
|---|--|--|
| <p><b>S2</b> Engage with the community and partners to identify address and prevent anti-social behaviour (ASB)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify opportunities to further <b>develop partnership reporting and analysis structures</b> to tackle community concerns; develop and implement <b>targeted partnership response initiatives</b>; and make better use of social media to <b>challenge and raise awareness of ASB.</b></li> </ul> | <p><b>Police Scotland, EAC Housing &amp; Communities, EAC Regulatory Services, EAC Education, SFRS, Locality Partnerships, Community Councils, Young Peoples Cabinet</b></p> |

### Daily Multi-agency Tasking Meetings

Daily Multi-agency tasking meetings take place, chaired by East Ayrshire Council's Community Safety Manager. Multi-agency responses are developed to deal with local issues with the implementation of action plans and resources deployed to locations of concern. In 2023/24 the following areas experiencing anti-social behaviour were targeted:

### Vibrant Communities Youth Action Teams

The Youth Action Team (YAT) continues to be present in our identified 'hot spot' communities every Friday and Saturday evening with the key areas being identified through consultation with Police Scotland colleagues, Elected Members, Housing / Anti-Social Behaviour Team and the Risk Management Centre.

Vibrant Communities (VC) and Police Scotland recognise the importance and impact that the summer holiday period may have in some of our communities in terms of youth disorder reporting. There is a shared vision and approach to addressing youth disorder during the school holiday period which demonstrates that commitment that we all have and share to ensuring that our young people have access to various opportunities throughout the holiday period and understanding and recognising the importance of the actions and behaviours and how this can be perceived

Following on from last year's very successful YAT Roadshows, all secondary schools participated again this year however our consultation and feedback from the schools identified that the S3 age group that was targeted last year, whilst was relevant to them, it was recognised that YAT needed to target the younger age groups. With this in mind, the workshops were pitched and delivered at an age appropriate level to the S1 pupils (new S2 cohort) of our secondary school estate. Dedicated workshops were delivered by colleagues and partners with themes being: Alcohol & Drugs, Fire & Water Safety, Stigma, ASB and a dedicated YAT workshops. These have been a great success and increased engagement with the young people participating in the roadshows and we hope to continue with them again in the future with a potential target area being the Primary 7 population who will be transitioning into secondary schools.

Vibrant Communities, in partnership with Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, and NHS Ayrshire and Arran collectively delivered a series of workshops to all 7 Secondary Establishments in East Ayrshire. The workshops, delivered to all S1 pupils, were pertinent topics to educate and encourage young people to make reasoned decision and sensible choices when in the community with friends.

Workshops included:

- Anti-Social Behaviour Workshop

- Fire and Water Safety workshop
- Peer Pressure and Stigma Workshop
- Awareness of Alcohol and Drugs Workshop
- Youth Action Workshop

The YAT roadshows were a great success and young people noted their learning and the impact the workshops had on them as shown below:

- 1372 young people participated in the roadshows
- 85% felt that were more confident
- 81% will feel safer in the community
- 96% more responsible when out in the community
- 76% felt they have improved their communication skills
- 92% increased skills and/or knowledge

### **Risk Management Centre (RMC)**

East Ayrshire Council provides a CCTV review suite within the RMC to allow Police Scotland to view and retrieve images in relation to their investigations. This partnership ensures that data is secured as evidence at the earliest opportunity contributing to the best Community Safety outcomes. The incidents captured are collated by the Police Scotland CCTV Liaison Officer. In response to requests from our partners we currently have fixed re-deployable cameras in 10 locations across the Authority to assist in detecting and deterring crime within specific areas of concern. We have an additional 8 rapid deployable cameras monitoring rivers, areas of concern and to assist in the prevention of anti-social behaviour and fly tipping.

The **Community Safety CCTV** Vehicle is used to provide reassurance, a visible deterrent and as a mobile evidence gathering platform. This year it was deployed to areas outlined as part of Police Scotland's action plans and undertaken joint patrols to address fly-tipping and anti-social behaviour. Additionally, it has been present at meetings / outreach events including; Fire Reach with SFRS, Licensed premise visits, Football patrols, Intelligence led operations, walk around visits with community groups and council members and taxi rank patrols, vehicle checks with VOSA. It actively monitors areas of concern across the authority and ensures a visible presence is maintained in these hotspots to assist in the detection and deterring of anti-social behaviour. During the period the CCTV vehicle has been used primarily as a visual deterrent monitoring for youth disorder and anti-social behaviour issues in particular Kilmarnock Bus Station. It also continues to offer reassurance to remote communities not covered by traditional CCTV.

### **Campus Officers in Schools**

The relationship between Vibrant Communities and the Campus Cops continues to be a positive and beneficial relationship. It allows both partners to work together on joint projects such as the YAT Roadshows, share key and sensitive information in relation community behaviours and concerns that are being raised. In doing so, it allows for concerns raised by residents or Elected Members to be discussed confidentially and actioned thereafter by Police Scotland colleagues in the school setting.

Over 2023/24 campus officers have additionally been involved in a significant number initiatives including No Knives Better Lives, Pitchin In programme (unique diversionary initiative with Kilmarnock Football Club and based at Rugby Park stadium which has proven to increase school attendance and promotes positive behaviour with challenged youths with both Campus Officers and staff from the football club), term time online safety and harm reduction inputs continue to be delivered as a priority, Danger Detectives (week-long workshops providing safety advice to young people) and Water Safety inputs with a number of partners and in person attendance by young people at Loch Doon with a keen focus on prevention.

### **Trail Bikes and Quad Bikes**

Within East Ayrshire we continue to see the positive impact that the assets of Trail and Quad bikes bring to a diverse range of incidents, events and situations.

Both Trail and Quad bikes are operated by specially trained officers (12 in total) in and around East Ayrshire. High risk missing people have been traced in areas where usual conventional policing methods for searching wouldn't have safely located the person. Officers on trail bikes have charged a number persons with offences including Misuse of Drugs Offences, Road Traffic Offences (with a number of off-road bikes also seized) and ASB in areas where the local community have highlighted concerns.

These assets can be deployed both within town and rural environments and have been used in various policing incidents, including at football matches at Rugby Park stadium in response to resident's concerns about adult ASB pre and post-match (including urinating, street drinking and littering). A number of fixed penalty tickets were issued by trail bike based staff as a result with residents highlighting their thanks but also the need for ongoing operations of this nature to ensure their home environments are not unduly impacted.

EAC ASB officers are also trained in the use of quad bikes and both the ASB teams and police regularly carry out joint patrols focussing on ASB including fly tipping, thefts and other similar incidents.

### **Multi Agency meetings in response to Youth ASB in Kilmarnock**

In late September 2022 following Stagecoach withdrawal of services in attendance at Kilmarnock Bus Station a multi-agency meeting was implemented to improve safety and to tackle issues experienced at this location. This involved partners from Police Scotland, EAC, Stagecoach, Ayrshire Roads Alliance (ARA), Vibrant Communities and Burns Mall. Measures implemented included sustained deployment of police officers in a bespoke action plan, including specialists (e.g. Mounted Branch), implementation of security guards at the location, re-deployable CCTV cameras and appropriate use of fences etc. regarding safety of ongoing works at the location. Stagecoach subsequently re-instated services as a result of the partnership approach and pro-active reporting is encouraged to tackle matters at an early stage.

The group was initially anticipated to be short-life, however it became clear that a sustained focus was required to tackle ASB in East Ayrshire and as a result membership of the group has become flexible to incorporate those areas / partners / businesses being affected by ASB. Meetings continue to be held on a fortnightly basis with relevant information sharing, provision of advice and current issues being developed, these include new town centre radio link and inputs from Scottish Business Crime Prevention Unit.

Following significant analytical review in terms of spikes in ASB, during periods when historically incidents form an upward trajectory, early partnership plans to mitigate are put in place. Of note the months of September, February and May all historically have increases. Both September 2023 and

February 2024 had less incidents and a lower number of young people charged with offences because of the diversionary work and high visibility joint action plans, which also included staff from British Transport Police.

### **Joint Police and Social Work Liaison Meeting**

In an effort to improve information sharing and outcomes for children and young people, Senior Social Work staff and East Ayrshire Area Commander, CI Wilson instigated a new meeting to ensure a connected approach to intensive support required for children and young people most at risk and where specific cases could be discussed in detail.

Following an ASB Summit with elected members and subsequent partners focus group it was agreed that there was a requirement to embed this meeting within the existing Whole Systems Approach Group, chaired by Social Work. It was further agreed that this would include a subgroup with only key partners in attendance, ensuring that information sharing of those children most at risk of harm or perpetuating harm within the community takes place with only those partners who require to be appraised and to ensure a sufficient wraparound / intensive support package is in place.

Police / Social Work bespoke meeting continues meantime whilst the re-invigorated Whole Systems approach is fully embedded however this will be absorbed as new processes are completed.

### **Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS)**

- SFRS work with partners to support and mitigate all aspects of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), with a particular focus on incidents where fire is involved.
- SFRS will share 'Deliberate Fire Setting' data on request, including the location of linked 'Hotspots'.
- SFRS Local Authority Liaison Officer's (LALO's) liaise with Police Scotland LALOs to work in partnership when delivering education /school talks.
- LALO also participates in a daily ASB meeting with partners to share information on incidents occurring within the previous 24-hour period to provide an immediate and effective collaborative response.
- SFRS also lead on 'Acts of Violence' towards Emergency Service workers and Frontline 'Key' workers.
- SFRS continues to work in partnership with Police Scotland and the EAC Vibrant Communities/ Youth Action Team to deliver a series of Safety Workshops to all Secondary and Primary Schools, covering subjects including ASB, Deliberate Fire Setting, Road Safety, and Water Safety.
- SFRS have supported HMP Kilmarnock's educational programmes by delivering CPR 'Heartstart' Awareness Training and providing home safety advice in the form of presentations and literature, with particular focus on 'short-term' prisoners and those being prepared for reintegration into the community.
- SFRS continue to support partners through our established referral pathways, specifically through our 'Fire Safety and Support Education (FSSE)' Training which supports young people linked with ASB. Current examples include partners utilising our 'Fire Skills' courses and 'Mentoring' programmes.
- SFRS also work collaboratively with the 'Community Payback' Team to provide working opportunities and support for those involved with group.

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partners we currently have 18 re-deployable cameras in operation across the Council area (including re-deployable and rapid deployable cameras) monitoring rivers, areas of concern and to assist in the prevention of anti-social behaviour and fly tipping.

The **Community Safety CCTV** Vehicle is used to provide reassurance, a visible deterrent and as a mobile evidence gathering platform. This year it was deployed to areas outlined as part of Police Scotland's action plans and undertaken joint patrols to address fly-tipping and anti-social behaviour. Additionally, it has been present at meetings / outreach events including; Fire Reach with SFRS, Licensed premise visits, Football patrols, Intelligence led operations, walk around visits with community groups and council members and taxi rank patrols, vehicle checks with VOSA. It actively monitors areas of concern across the authority and ensures a visible presence is maintained in these hotspots to assist in the detection and deterring of anti-social behaviour. During the period the CCTV vehicle has been used primarily as a visual deterrent monitoring for youth disorder and anti-social behaviour issues in particular Kilmarnock Town Centre and surrounding areas. It also continues to offer reassurance to remote communities not covered by traditional CCTV.

### Housing Anti-social Behaviour Team

The Anti-social Behaviour Team refer suitable neighbour dispute cases for mediation to Vibrant Communities. Mediation is a flexible and effective way of finding solutions to all sorts of conflicts and disagreements. It is quick, confidential, and helps find solutions everyone can live with. The mediation process gives individuals the opportunity to be fully-heard, and to hear, often for the first time, the other side of the story. Mediation provides a safe, structured and positive environment for people in dispute to come to agreements and better understanding and while it usually involves discussion of issues around past events, its main focus is on what is going to happen and how people will behave towards one another in the future.

| Action   | Partnership Activity   | Partners   |
|--|--|--|
| <p><b>S3</b> Provide an effective, supportive and victim-centred approach to rape with enhanced local support services</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the ongoing development and operation of the Willows, a <b>Sexual Offences Referral Centre</b> in Ayrshire</li> </ul> | <p><b>Police Scotland</b>, NHS A&amp;A, Rape Crisis, SFRS.</p> |

### The Willows, Sexual Offences Referral Centre

The Willows, Sexual Assault Response Coordination Centre is a dedicated sexual assault and rape response service (SARC) that offers healthcare choices including a forensic medical examination and support in the days after an assault. The sensitive, compassionate approach reduces risk of re-traumatisation and ensures survivors are supported through the criminal justice process. It was initially open 7 days a week 10am-6pm, as part of Phase 1. Phase 2 saw extension of the opening hours increased to 9am-9pm, 7 days a week.

The Willows offers Police Referrals, Self-Referrals and forensic examinations, carried out by a peripatetic team from Archway, Glasgow as part of the West of Scotland Hub and Spoke Regional Model. The facility continues to provide a vital, effective and efficient response. In the year 2023/24, The Willows has dealt with xx (tbc) cases via Police and self-referrals.

Between April 2023 and March 2024, there were 54 attendances from Ayrshire and Arran at a Sexual Assault Response Coordination Centre. 24% (n=13) of these were seen at The Willows. Of the reasons why attendees were seen elsewhere included, but were not limited to; no peripatetic team, patient choice, Police choice and out of hours. 96% (n=52) were Police referrals and 4% (n=2) were self-referrals.

| Action  | Partnership Activity  | Partners   |
|---|---|--|
| <p><b>S4</b> Support people who have committed offences to move away from offending behaviour</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote both the principles and systems of the Whole System approach to <b>Early and Effective Intervention (EEI)</b> and <b>Diversions from prosecution</b></li> <li>Support the ongoing development and implementation of the <a href="#">Community Justice Ayrshire Outcomes Improvement Plan</a>.</li> </ul> | <p><b>Community Justice Ayrshire Partnership</b>, which includes EAC Justice Service, CPS; Police Scotland, Vibrant Communities, Third Sector Partners, SFRS</p> |
| <p><b>Community Justice Ayrshire Partnership (CJAP)</b><br/> Due to delays with the publication of the National Strategy for Community Justice and associated Community Justice Performance Framework (CJPF), the CJAP Board agreed to postpone publication of a new Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plan (CJOIP) until April 2024. To support the work of the CJAP Team and wider partnership during 2023/24, a Transition Plan was developed which allowed a range of work to be progressed in the absence of a strategic plan.<br/> During 2023/24, community justice partners worked together to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop the new local CJOIP.</li> <li>Embed the new local Community Justice Delivery Groups</li> <li>Commence baselining against the refreshed Community Justice Performance Framework (CJPF) through the Delivery Groups</li> <li>Prepare the Annual Return to Community Justice Scotland for 2022/23</li> <li>Implement the Communication and Engagement Strategy 2023/24</li> <li>Conduct a consultation on the draft CJOIP.</li> <li>Advance work around Community Reintegration</li> <li>Meet all other legislative requirements.</li> </ul> <p><b>CJAP - Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan (CJOIP)</b><br/> Following the release of the National Strategy for Community Justice in 2022, the Community Justice Performance Framework (CJPF) was published in April 2023. The publication of both of these documents allowed the CJAP to begin development of a new strategic plan (CJOIP). During 2023/24 partners met within their respective local authorities to look at the new national strategy and performance framework and establish what work was already taking place across each area that contributed to these. Data gathered during the recent Strategic Needs and Strengths Assessment (SNSA) was used to build a fuller picture of the CJAP's position against the new strategic framework and establish areas for improvement. A draft CJOIP was discussed at a meeting of the CJAP Board in February 2024 before being circulated for a six-week consultation period with wider partners and communities. The final version of the CJOIP was approved at the CJAP Board in March 2024 and will set the strategic direction for the partnership during 2024 to 2029.</p> |   |  |

### **CJAP- Diversion from Prosecution**

A Diversion, Intervention and Alternatives to Custody (DIAC) Delivery Group has been established within the CJAP to focus on elements within the CJOIP relating to diversion from prosecution, arrest referral, alternatives to remand and electronic monitoring. Membership includes COPFS, Police Scotland National Criminal Justice Division, ADPs, and local teams responsible for the delivery of the above-mentioned services.

The CJAP DIAC Delivery Group had their first meeting in June 2023. In 2023/24 the group discussed the Joint Review of Diversion from Prosecution report and what it means locally; with several of the recommendations incorporated into the CJOIP deliverables.

The group also discussed the 'Achieving Community Justice Outcomes' targeted resource produced by Community Justice Scotland (CJS), which supports national outcome improvement planning in local authority areas. Data gathering has commenced with a view to progressing this work in 2024/25.

### **CJAP - Community Reintegration**

A Community Reintegration Delivery Group meets on a quarterly basis through the CJAP to further develop the partnership approach to supporting people returning to Ayrshire communities after serving a custodial sentence. The group is chaired by the Senior Manager for Justice in East Ayrshire and includes representation from Scottish Prison Service (SPS), DWP, Justice Social Work, Health, ADP, Housing, and Third Sector organisations.

A key focus of this group has been to work with HMP Kilmarnock to further develop their community reintegration processes, and how to create better links with other establishments from across the country.

### **CVO PROJECTS**

#### **Open Doors**

As a result of the ongoing cost of living crisis and CVO East Ayrshire has taken the decision to revert Open Doors to a community wellbeing hub providing a safe place where people can access a wide range of activities and supports aimed at providing health and social benefits, improving life chances and signposting to opportunities within the community. Open Doors not only furthers the priorities identified by the community but offers much-needed community-led activities. This joined-up approach to service delivery within a one-stop facility ensures maximum use of existing resources and improved accessibility to service provision.

#### **East Ayrshire Foodbank**

East Ayrshire Food Bank provides emergency food and compassionate, practical support to people in crisis, without our volunteers and unpaid work teams, we simply would not be able to support the thousands of people in crisis. The number of people needing food banks has increased in recent years and we anticipate this trend to continue. This year has been challenging for Ayrshire East Foodbank and our volunteers but again we cannot thank the social work and GRAFT unpaid work supervisors and placements enough for their support. As the cost of living continues to rise, Ayrshire East Foodbank are playing a crucial role in supporting individuals and families facing financial hardship. By providing essential food supplies and related services, foodbank volunteers by giving up their time to help alleviate the burden of increased living expenses.

Just like during the pandemic, East Ayrshire Foodbank has had to move to larger premises at Open Doors in Kilmarnock which is a significant development and reflects an increased demand for our services and expansion of its operations. This move has allowed the

food bank to store more emergency food provision and serve more service users, and enabled us to offer additional services like crisis intervention, employability support, pastoral care and befriending.

We quite simply owe a huge debt of gratitude to our volunteers, Community Justice Social Work and GRAFT unpaid work supervisors and placements enough for their support.

### **Current Challenges**

- Higher living costs are leading to more people relying on the foodbank.
- Rising prices issues are affect the availability of donations.
- Ayrshire East Foodbank are facing higher operating costs, including transportation, storage, and administrative expenses.

Our Social Enterprise restaurant WG13, has Continued to support the foodbank when stock is really low by purchasing fresh food and batch cooking to provide hot and cold nutritious meals to supplement food parcels.

**The GRAFT and Community Voice Network (CVN) Projects** have a long history of pioneering the involvement of people with direct experience of the criminal justice system. This year the projects have designed a number of ways to listen to the views of experts by experience and involve them in the design and delivery of services. These approaches amplify people's voices to make sure the criminal justice system benefits from their insights.

### **GRAFT AND CVN Community Work**

Ultimately, we aim to ensure everyone is given the opportunity to progress at their own pace, reach their personal goals and has access to employment opportunities, no matter what their background or support needs are. The engagement has identified a strong belief that the identified outputs will create the capacity required to meet the demand and achieve the desired outcomes.

### **Unpaid Work**

The main purpose of unpaid work is to provide reparation – with service users working on projects that benefit the community. There is also the potential for rehabilitative benefits, as unpaid work can provide an opportunity to develop life and vocational skills which are supportive of desistance.

There have been 23 placements in total this year:

- 21 placements enrolled over this period. (5 female and 16 male)
- 7 placements completed their hours
- 9 current placements on the current cohort of placements which are on track to complete.
- 5 placements were taken off unpaid work by the supervisor prior to completion

During the Unpaid Work placements, we have learned from what our clients have identified as additional barriers they face in sustaining a positive tenancy and in response we have developed a range of additional services which address some of these needs.

### **Gym and Fitness**

The CVN and GRAFT teams supported by Unpaid Work Placements have built a gym area within their unit has gone from strength to strength which was introduced to encourage people with a lived experience of the justice system to turn their backs on a life of crime.

Regular participation in exercise has been shown to decrease overall levels of tension, elevate and stabilize mood, improve sleep, and improve self-esteem.

Two of our supervisors are boxing coaches and have offered their time to support people to develop essential life skills to thrive both in and outside of the gym. Classes are delivered in controlled environment to channel participant's energies, whilst also providing respite from any difficulties at home. In addition a free hot meal is available at every session.

Offering boxing training with a difference, the programme helps young people develop six core values: purpose, adaptability, imagination, discipline, emotional control, and teamwork, before providing practical advice and progression routes to help its graduates enter employment or further education.

### **Woodwork Unit**

The woodwork unit has remained a constant source of support for our service users, many of whom are vulnerable and furthest from the labour market with complex support needs.

The project has been able to recycle some donated furniture to vulnerable families and people who would otherwise not have any. Through our wood workshop placements, people have been able to increase their confidence and self-esteem, improve their social skills, resilience, and ultimately work towards further opportunities.

### **Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS)**

- SFRS continues to enhance our links with EA 'Community Payback' Service to provide support and opportunities for those required to participate on the programme. Most recently, we have provided our Community Garden at Kilmarnock Community Fire Station for the group to utilise.
- We are committed to developing our 'referral pathways' with partners to provide fire safety advice through our HFSV initiative and our EA LALO participates in monthly 'GIRFEC' meetings supporting partners on request.
- We continue our support for HMP Kilmarnock educational programmes to support the reintegration of offenders back into the community, and our LALO has developed working relationships with EA 'Restorative Practice' Group to engage with care experienced young people to educate and proactively discourage future offending and promote positive relationships with services.

| <b>Action</b>  | <b>Partnership Activity</b>  | <b>Partners</b>  |
|--|--|--|
| <b>S5</b> Provide assurance in regard to public protection and the reduction of serious harm for certain categories of offender. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>MAPPA</b> arrangements pertaining to;<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Sex offenders subject to notification under the sexual offences act 2003</li><li>○ Mentally disordered restricted patients</li><li>○ Offenders identified as posing a risk of serious harm by reason of their conviction</li></ul></li></ul> | <b>HSCP, Police, EAC Justice Service, Children &amp; Families, Education, Housing, NHS, SPS, Third sector partners</b> |

## **MAPPA**

The [2022/23 South West Scotland MAPPA Annual Report](#) was published in December 2023. The total number of Registered Sex Offenders in South West Scotland decreased by 2% in 2022/23.

### **Process Improvements 2023**

Since the last Annual Report was published, MAPPA partnership working has continued to allow us to effectively utilise the expertise of many organisations. MAPPA Administration, which supports the arrangements has continued to improve and develop in response to changing operational environment. The restrictions placed upon us during the Covid 19 pandemic have eased but process improvements continue to be developed. New practices which were put in place during the pandemic have now become “business as usual” and the use of technology such as Microsoft Teams has been a key tool for MAPPA level 2 and 3 meetings. This has resulted in noted efficiency and allowed additional time to focus on operational priorities. Face to face visits with those managed under MAPPA have resumed and remain, without doubt, the best way to assess risk.

### **MAPPA Dashboard**

Since the inception of MAPPA, the SOG has asked for statistical -information that can allow it to understand how well, or otherwise, the arrangements are operating in terms of managing and reducing risk. In 2023, with the support of North Ayrshire Council the partnership moved towards the presentation of MAPPA statistics using a Data Dashboard. For the last year MAPPA admin have collated relevant data which has used to populate the MAPPA Dash Board. The improvements that the Dash Board has introduced have been recognised and this highly effective management tool has been given the approval by the SOG to be the new mechanism to capture key statistical data to provide clarity on MAPPA management information.

### **MAPPA Chairs Training**

As highlighted in the previous Annual Report, there is a need for MAPPA level 2 and level 3 Chairs to have an understanding of current risk assessment processes and risk practice. While those MAPPA Chairs who deal with such work on a daily basis are highly competent, other MAPPA Chairs, particularly at level 3, who are all Senior Officers and largely removed from the operational practice. As a result, the SOG has requested that Professor Hazel Kemshall, emeritus professor of Criminal Justice at de Monfort University who is generally held to be the architect of MAPPA, be approached to deliver training to our level 2 and 3 Chairs. MAPPA Chairs training was delivered in Glasgow and Perth in 2023 and evaluated as first class by those attending.

### **Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS)**

SFRS are developing information sharing and referral pathways with MAPPA to enhance offender safety.

| <b>Action</b>   | <b>Partnership Activity</b>  | <b>Partners</b>   |
|---|--|---|
| <b>S6</b> Promote increased awareness of partnership work to improve community safety | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Development of a <b>communication and engagement</b> strategy that meets the needs of local communities</li><li>• PAWS Partnership Approach to Water Safety (PAWS) group established across Ayrshire</li></ul> | <b>Safer Communities Delivery Plan Working Group, EAC</b> |

SFRS, EAC, NAC, SAC, Coastguard, Police Scotland, RNLI, SAS, Loch Doon Ranger

- Partnership Approach to Road Safety (PARS) group established across Ayrshire

**Partnership Approach to Road Safety (PARS)**

The PARS Group was established with Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) being one of the Lead Agencies in this safety group. The group meet quarterly to discuss ongoing issues regarding Road Safety across the area and any engagement work that is being planned. Incidents are discussed and action plans implemented to try and prevent further incidents occurring.

**Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS)**

- SFRS continues to work collaboratively with partners through the ‘Combined Ayrshire Road Safety (CARS)’ Group which meets on a quarterly basis. Through ‘partnership’ working, we have built on strong relationships which allows for effective information sharing, implementation of good practice, and the development of educational resource.
- Our engagement work, which includes educational delivery to Primary and Secondary schools throughout East Ayrshire has increased awareness to young drivers and passengers on the impact of their actions while in a vehicle. The partnership approach to this program has several benefits, but the main one is that partners can access schools at a single visit.
- We have recently participated in the ‘Child Car Seat Awareness’ initiative at Kilmarnock Fire Station, which provided the opportunity for members of the public to have their car seats assessed by trained members of SFRS staff, have them refitted/adjusted (if necessary) and then be provided with a ‘Service’ Certificate to confirm participation.
- This coordinated and proactive approach will continue to assist in the delivery of Emergency Response and Education throughout East Ayrshire and is consistent with the targets of the ‘Road Safety Scotland’ Framework.

**Partnership Approach to Road Safety (PAWS)**

- In recent years, water safety has gained increased focus, both politically and publicly due to the 2018 release of Scotland’s ‘Drowning Prevention Strategy’, and as a result, SFRS, in conjunction with Water Safety Scotland (WSS), established the Pan-Ayrshire ‘Partnership Approach to Water Safety (PAWS)’ Group in 2021. The Group focuses on Prevention (implementation of rescue equipment), Improved Response (multi-agency training and Waterside Responder), Review (Drowning & Incident Review (DIR) after significant incidents).
- SFRS continues to work closely with our partners in East Ayrshire and Water Safety Scotland (WSS) to promote our message and increase the awareness of risk around potential ‘hot spots’ within Ayrshire.
- Our work at Loch Doon (Scotland’s first implementation of ‘Portsafe’) is an excellent ‘best practice’ example of effective partnership working. Our School Engagement (Primary and Secondary) programmes also aim to highlight the dangers of open water and teach awareness of lifesaving swimming techniques delivered using WSS approved resource.
- To date, we have participated in the Vibrant Communities ‘Danger Detective’ initiative and will be heavily involved with supporting EAC RMC’s upcoming Water Safety Event at Loch Doon.

| Action   | Partnership Activity  | Partners  |
|--|---|---|
| <p><b>S7</b> Work collaboratively to promote , support and facilitate community resilience</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued development and support of <a href="#">Community Led Action Plans</a></li> <li>Proactive support for local people and groups with <b>neighbourhood coaching</b>, advice and training, and provision of equipment</li> <li>Continued support for communities to develop <b>Community Larders</b> and wider <b>dignified food provision</b></li> <li>Consider the role of <b>EA Tenants and Residents Federation</b> and other community based groups for information sharing</li> </ul> | <p><b>EAC Housing &amp; Communities</b>; EAC Education; SFRS; Police Scotland; CAP Steering Groups; Community Councils; Third Sector Partners</p> |
| <p><b>Community Led Action Plans</b><br/> East Ayrshire Council, Housing and Communities has committed to roll out a programme to work with all communities within East Ayrshire to develop Community Led Action Plans over the next two years. There are currently 32 Plans developed, which is an increase of 3 from the previous year.</p> <p><b>Neighbourhood Coaching</b><br/> Neighbourhood Coaches work closely with community planning partners and the third sector to support tenants to sustain their tenancies, prevent homelessness and ensure our neighbourhoods and estates are clean, green and vibrant. Tenant and community participation is promoted and supported via neighbourhood coaches and Housing Services Customer Liaison Officer. Neighbourhood coaches link with colleagues in Vibrant Communities and local tenants and residents in the development of Community Led Action Plans.</p> <p>Housing Services has introduced an annual Connecting Housing and Tenants (CHAT) visit to every tenant to ensure support is available at the right time when needed and avoid crisis situations from occurring. An initial 3 month pilot has been completed to implement the annual visit, which will be incrementally fully embedded throughout the year.</p> <p>A dedicated Tenant Support Fund was introduced to reduce the financial burden on tenants during the cost of living crisis to prevent and alleviate homelessness and child and fuel poverty. Support is provided via 3 tier financial support into rent accounts, support with fuel costs and an exceptional circumstances element.</p> <p>Housing Support continues to be delivered to EAC tenants, this includes: help to settle in their new home, assistance with budgeting and maintaining their tenancy; supporting tenants to become part of the community; and engagement in community supports and activities.</p> <p><b>Caring, Kind Connected Referrals</b><br/> Caring Kind Connected (CKC) Referrals remain operational with Vibrant Communities empowering local communities to support local residents in need who have been identified via the CKC referral system. We are seeing a continued reduction in the number of referrals being received demonstrating an increase in resilience within our communities and also our partnership working with community organisations, third sector and</p> |   |   |



Council services is seeing widespread support being offered when required. Our local community organisations have been instrumental in the continued support being provided to some of our most vulnerable individuals and families

### **Community Larders**

Vibrant Communities continue to support 17 Community Larders across East Ayrshire providing a dignified food option. In addition, Vibrant Communities in partnership with the Community Larders and Community Resilience Groups continue to respond and support food requests coming through the Caring, Kind, and Connected Model due to financial hardship. Community Larder membership has continued to grow on a monthly basis, current member numbers are 1,300, with average weekly visits of around 550. Additional support is provided through a network of larder volunteers and includes, visits by financial inclusion, benefit support and lemon aid to provide advice and support along with food safety training, community support and guidance with governance. East Ayrshire Foodbank takes a holistic approach to service delivery, with every referral offered additional support if required. Referral pathways have been enhanced both across external partners and internal supports available through CVO services.

### **Community Living Rooms**

CVO teams have continued to operate 6 designated Community Living Rooms across various purpose-built community hubs in East Ayrshire. Locations include Open Doors Kilmarnock, WG13 Kilmarnock, Belford Mill Kilmarnock, Irvine Valley Community Hub Galston, Our Wee Place Shortlees, and the Cumnock Community Hub. The Community Living Room project looks to respond to the cost-of-living crisis and provide a warm, friendly and inviting space for the local inhabitants of East Ayrshire who are struggling to pay essential household bills, to put food on the table, and whose mental health and wellbeing has been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and now with the cost-of-living crisis.

Each of the Living Rooms provides a warm, friendly, and hospitable space, offering free tea, coffee, sandwiches, and soup (cooked and prepared by our catering staff within our WG13 social enterprise). The aim of the Living Room programme is to improve mood and hope, to provide a social outlet and garner community spirit during the current crisis.

The Community Living Rooms continue to be delivered by our vastly experienced Project Leads and staff of various social enterprises, encompassing areas such as volunteer co-ordination, foodbank provision, social isolation befriending services, employability support, crisis support and community outreach. Our experienced staff provide an environment that is hospitable, fun, energetic and welcoming, whilst also equipped to provide a therapeutic non-judgemental approach and to sign-post beneficiaries who require further support and intervention from our internal enterprises or from our external partnerships.

### **Community Hub Activities**

Due to success of the Community living rooms, their growth and participant feedback, we have moved our Livingroom areas to larger premises at WG13 to accommodate the volume and organised outreach community activities in our community hubs across East Ayrshire to enable us to engage with and support our communities. Here are some outreach activities being delivered that have a positive impact:

- Workshop sessions focusing on mental health and wellbeing, stress management, and coping strategies, such as mindfulness.

- Outreach foodbanks to collect and distribute food to those in need.
- Collect and distribute pre-loved clothing to low-income families.
- Celebrate the diversity of the community with all ability discos, tea dances, movies clubs, walking groups and family fun days
- Social events for senior citizens, such as game clubs, coffee mornings and tea parties.
- Training courses to help people build and improve their employability skills.
- Drop-in sessions where third sector organisations can meet potential volunteers.
- Workshops where community members can learn and create various crafts.

By tailoring these activities to the specific needs of your community and leveraging local resources, you can create a vibrant and supportive environment that benefits everyone.

Feedback from the service users with a lived experience of the justice system shown that there was a need to develop a living room area in the GRAFT unit where people can access peer to peer support in a safe but non-judgemental environment. Since the last update the group have written and produced their own song to share their experiences.

### **Home Link Team (HLT)**

Over the last 12 months the Home Link Team have continued to make progress across all 6 Education Groups with the team providing tailored support where it is needed most to **246** children, young people and their families on a weekly basis. With **192** children and young people no longer requiring Home Link support.

### **Enhanced Transition 2023**

- **260** pupils attended Enhanced Transition session across all 7 Education Groups. **159** sessions took place accumulating in **220.5** hours of input from the Home Link Team and Care Experienced Home Link Workers
- **17 Enhanced Transition sessions** were delivered across the summer, taking place within schools as well as the local community, including Dean Castle Country Park, The Garage and Ayr Beach.

### **Ilunch/Family Learning sessions**

#### **Easter 2023**

- 109 families attend, this included 176 parent/carer attendance and 364 children and young people attended. This accumulated in 86 hours of family learning sessions.

#### **Summer 2023**

- **Ilunch** - 304 families attended 254 hours of family learning with 320 parent/carer attendance with 647 children and young people attending.
- **6 Wider achievement sessions** were delivered to secondary school pupils.

#### **October 2023**

Lunch - 96 families attended 57.5 hours of family learning across with 76 parent/carer attendance and 156 children and young people attending.

**The Family Involvement Programme** has been delivered in Doon and Grange Academy. With parents and carers shaping the programme, themed sessions have included Makaton, family cookery on a budget, substance Awareness, health & wellbeing, managing teenage behaviour, social media, family budgeting, session at Doon Leisure Centre and benefit advice. Key partnerships have ensured the programme content reflected the parents feedback, this included Doon Academy staff, Campus Police Officer, Family Inclusion Assistant, Children and Families Team.

### **Safer Schools Scotland App**

In March 2023 the Safer Schools Scotland App, developed by iNEQE Safeguarding Group and funded by Zurich Municipal, has been introduced for parents/carers and children and young people attending all East Ayrshire establishments.

The app, which has been designed by safeguarding experts to educate, empower and protect school communities; provides establishment news, essential updates and information for parents and carers, but also contains vital safeguarding information. The online safety centre will ensure that parents and carers know how to safely support their child or young person's online activity including learning how to block, report and set safety and privacy settings on popular online platforms like Tik Tok and Snapchat. All establishments also get access to online safety shareables and resources through award-winning online Teach and Home Learning Hubs. At the end of academic session 2024 we have over 14,600 users, with more than 15,000 communications having been sent via the App.

### **HEART Wellbeing Model for Children**

East Ayrshire Council and Health and Social Care Partnership have continued to develop the HEART (Help Everyone at the Right Time) Wellbeing model for children and families, working together towards early help, prevention and support within and for communities. There are now four workstreams from the HEART model. During 23/24 now in the implementation phase for Request for Assistance team in Children's Social Work services, completing initial assessment of need in a timely manner. A focus of the HEART Model is the provision of help and prevention of escalating need and ensuring support for families strength based, children's rights focussed and is relationship based, keeping The Promise and in line with GIRFEC principles. A HEART team, is working with together with the community and has developed a Community Hub in Shortlees. In 23/24 HEART embraced restorative practice and begins to reach out to families with family group decision making with Children 1<sup>st</sup>. HEART co-ordinators have linked in and updating ALISS, a local networking information system.

### **Scottish Fire and Rescue Service**

- SFRS are integrated within EAC 'Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest' Strategy. We continue to work with Scottish Ambulance Service and Police Scotland to ensure a common referral pathway is established. This will be followed up with by further training, education, and protection for all workers. We are proactive in delivering our CPR Awareness Training to community groups across EA, specifically where defibrillators have been installed.
- SFRS continue to support the EA 'Rapid Relief' Team, by storing RRT 'care packages' within Kilmarnock Fire Station and providing support to members of the public on referral.

### Police Scotland

Locality Officers in Cumnock continue to be actively involved with Yip World and the Social Prescribing Service (both based in Cumnock) both of which aim to build confidence, increase community engagement and participation in social activity with an overarching aim of improved community resilience.

The Community Wellbeing Unit in March 2023 rolled out Cut and Connect - the funded mobile hairdresser / barber / beautician service across East Ayrshire where residents, including younger members of the workforce, can attend and have their grooming needs tended to at no charge in advance of job interviews with a view to improving confidence and assisting with their preparation for interviews.

### Mental Health First Aid

The partnership work with East Ayrshire Council and Police Scotland around suicide prevention and first aid for mental health continues to gather momentum with over 50 police officers trained across Ayrshire. Both courses are accredited and delivered by Public Health Scotland at the EAC Headquarters at London Road, Kilmarnock.

The 50 police officers trained are now in a position to cascade the learning from the suicide prevention and first aid for mental health courses to their peers, this is creating a better informed culture between police officers of what is now a regular call type that officers deal with. Regrettably given reduced funding this training has ceased at this time. There is a hope that this training will reinstated in the future.

| Action   | Partnership Activity  | Partners   |
|--|---|--|
| <b>S8</b> Work proactively to encourage positive road safety behaviour | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Implement <b>EA Police Plan</b> and <b>SFRS Local Plan</b> activity to address road safety issues</li><li>• Explore further partnership opportunities to raise awareness of road safety issues</li><li>• Partnership Approach to Road Safety) group established across Ayrshire</li></ul> | <b>Police Scotland</b> ; SFRS; ARA; CJA; Ayrshire Council Education; Ayrshire College. |

### Road Safety - Policing

A number of targeted campaigns and action plans were completed to improve roads safety across East Ayrshire. This includes festive and spring / summer campaign, Operation Close pass (supporting vulnerable road users), National Mobile Phone and speeding campaigns, and Motorcycle safety campaign.

In comparison to the previous year 2023/24 has one fewer fatal road crash (5 versus 6 previous year). Seriously injured adults was down 4 (43 versus 47 previous year) and seriously injured children was down 1 (5 versus 6 previous year).

In response to community concerns, a number of locations have feature on 'targeted locations' for additional visibility and speed checks. The locations are rotated throughout the course of the year to ensure we are focussed on new and emerging areas of concern in addition to those locations which persistently present as problematic in relation to driver behaviour.

### Partnership Approach to Road Safety (PARS)

The CARS Group was established with Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) being one of the Lead Agencies in this safety group. The group meet quarterly to discuss ongoing issues regarding Road Safety across the area and any engagement work that is being planned. Incidents are discussed and action plans implemented to try and prevent further incidents occurring.

### Education / Danger Detectives

Danger Detectives is an experiential learning programme led by Vibrant Communities and delivered in partnership with community planning partners and other key council partners. The 8 day programme aims to build community resilience in young people as active citizens in reducing accidents and crime in their local area. This is achieved by creating a safe environment where young people can actively become aware of their personal safety both indoors and outside, learn how to react to dangerous situations, know what roles the emergency services play as well as how they can protect and support the most vulnerable individuals within their community. Key safety sets are delivered such as fire safety in the home, road and cycle safety, Hazard House, countryside safety and Water safety. The initiative runs over a 7/8 day period usually within the month of May and it is aimed at P6 pupils across all East Ayrshire primary and special schools.

### Ayrshire Roads Alliance (ARA)

During 2023/24 ARA Road Safety work included **(ARA Update)**;

- In March/April 2024, Ayrshire Roads Alliance successfully launched the Bellsbank Primary and Dalrymple Primary School Streets Initiatives. The trials will run for 18 months and promotes active travel for school children and their parents in the area.
- In addition during 2023/24 approximately £743k as invested in engineering schemes to support walking and cycling and a further £106K on specific road safety interventions.
- All primary schools were offered support and training to deliver Bikeability Level 2 skills training to upper primary pupils
- A total of 10 performances of the Road Safety Magic Show at schools across the authority area in March 2024.
- “Fit to Ride” motorcyclist event took place in April 2024, with ARA’s Road Safety team working in partnership with RoSPA, IAM and Police Scotland. Another event has been planned for April 2025.
- “Fit For The Road” experienced driver event took place in August 2023, with ARA’s Road Safety team working in partnership with NAC road safety, RoSPA and IAM.
- In February 2024, in partnership with Scottish Fire and Rescue, ARA’s road safety team carried out drive through child car seat checks at local fire stations.

| Action  | Partnership Activity   | Partners  |
|---|--|---|
| <b>S9</b> Undertake targeted work with local partners and communities to improve women’s perceptions of public safety | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Develop an action plan to highlight risks and identify partnership solutions</li><li>• Make use of <b>inclusive design and infrastructure</b> in homes and communities to promote community safety and tackle anti-social behaviour.</li></ul> | <b>Safer Communities Delivery Plan Working Group, EAVAW Partnership</b> |

### **Reporting of Sexual Crimes**

As a result of a number of high profile sexual crime convictions a number of large scale enquiries into non recent sexual crimes has resulted in an increase in the reporting of this crime in East Ayrshire. Whilst this invariably leads to increased offences being reported, it is of merit that victim have confidence in police to report sexual crime, including many reports of historic sexual crime.

Work is ongoing with partners such as 'Expect Respect' (raising awareness of sexual violence and acceptable behaviour in higher and further education) has led to raised awareness of reporting mechanism, and also contributes to increased confidence in reporting. This work is vitally important and ongoing.

**You, Me, Together** this programme, created by Police Scotland in partnership with Education Scotland teaches secondary school pupils about domestic abuse in young relationships, including coercive control, inappropriate relationships and peer pressure. This programme is very relevant to issues faced by young people and continues to be rolled out.

Evidence demonstrates that domestic abuse can begin in relationships between young people. 'You, Me, Together' is aimed at young people and seeks to influence and address issues at a time when young people are starting to form relationships and behaviours are being learned. It talks about healthy relationships but also about the warning signs when things are not right. It aims to empower young people, giving them advice and information, and helping them make a choice and take action when something doesn't feel right.

The programme was piloted in schools in East Ayrshire and across Scotland during 2022 and feedback from teachers and pupils was used to help develop and refine the package into its final form. It will be delivered within the existing personal and social education (PSE) curriculum and is expected to be available for use in schools across Scotland from late 2023. Teachers will have a number of resources to work with to help facilitate open and safe discussions about what can be an emotive subject for young men and women.

### **Victim Survivor Feedback – Police Scotland**

An online form has been added to the Police Scotland website to gain anonymous feedback from victims of domestic abuse, rape or other sexual crime, to help improve the quality of the service we provide. The aim of the form is to gain honest feedback from victims and survivors about how Police Scotland handle criminal incidents of this type and where improvements can be made with the service provided. Respondents are not asked to provide any information that could identify them or their location.

### **16 Days of Action to eradicate Violence Against Women**

The 2023 Scottish theme for 16 days of Action was 'Imagine a Scotland without Gender Based Violence'. In preparation for this planning groups met on both a pan-Ayrshire and East Ayrshire basis. It was agreed to host a pan-Ayrshire Practitioner Event on Tuesday 28 November 2024 at the Park Hotel, Kilmarnock in conjunction with the Women's Support project and 'Imagine a World without Commercial Sexual Exploitation'. The Practitioner Event was opened by Siobhan Brown Minister for Victims and Safer Communities and was attended by 150 participants. The lead speaker was Linda Thompson from the Women's Support Project and in the afternoon a panel of academics and practitioners presented their findings considering the 'Big 5' practice points, being trauma informed and practical insights to supporting women involved in commercial sexual exploitation (CSE). The evaluation was overwhelmingly positive for this event with people feeling they left with increased skills, knowledge and confidence. The event was well supported by partners across the three Partnerships and the aim to raise awareness of the prevalence of this form of gender based violence in

Ayrshire was achieved. The event was further supported with the SFRS hosting the Inside/Outside Exhibition, which raises the voices of women with lived experience of CSE. The exhibition was hosted across three afternoons in Kilwinning Fire Station and 57 people attended. This campaign has led to 12 people being trained as trainers across Ayrshire with a view to further expanding and extending knowledge and skills amongst practitioners across the multi-agency partnership to support women exposed to CSE.

In East Ayrshire further inputs on CSE were given to the Safer Communities Delivery Group, the Community Planning Partnership and Elected members.

The practitioner event took place within a programme of events marking 16 days of Action. These events included several opportunities to sign the White Ribbon Pledge within East Ayrshire Council and NHS Ayrshire and Arran premises, a Reclaim the Night walk facilitated by the STAR Centre, and a film showing of HYSTAYRIA, an exploration of the witchcraft trials in Ayr by a community history group. The Safe and Together approach was further enhanced with practitioner events promoting the model. In addition the men of Kilmarnock prison hosted two fundraising events for East Ayrshire Women's Aid raising a significant amount of money.

### **Reclaim the Night 2022**

Reclaim the night continued its success this year with over 50 people in attendance, including elected members, staff from across the Partnership, women with lived experience, students, service users and members of the public. The event was organised by the STAR centre with Kilmarnock college providing a muster point. Staff and students from the college also provided tea and coffee on arrival and marchers benefitted from a warm-up provided by sports science students. The STAR centre drumming group was in attendance and they provided a great beat, a positive vibe and morale lifting chants.

The event was also well supported by the Waste Management service with the bin lorries present hosting anti- VAWG messages on domestic abuse and sexual violence. These provided for a good photo opportunity at Kilmarnock college and then again at the Burns Mall. The march was well represented with banners which had been made at a workshop open to survivors of domestic abuse and sexual violence. The Reclaim the Night march was deemed a success in raising awareness about sexual violence and the limitations it places upon women in public places.

### **Women's Safety Survey**

The Women's Safety Survey has been collated and incorporated into the Safer Communities Delivery Plan. The East Ayrshire Violence Against Women Partnership has adopted the recommendation:

- *to consider promoting apps for Women's Personal Safety eg, Hollie Guard a free app that turns your phone into a personal safety device.*

This is now promoted regularly through training delivered by East Ayrshire Women's Aid and East Ayrshire Council Protection and Learning Team. The Women's Safety Survey has also been shared with the team responsible for developing the Civic Foregate Space.

### **Police Scotland Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy**

The new Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy was approved within Police Scotland in March 2023. Based on broad and unprecedented engagement with the general public, women and girls, survivors of violence, key partners, academics and experts, the strategy builds on our commitment to improve and future proof our response. The strategy shows Police Scotland's commitment to act and to improve how we tackle sexual violence and domestic abuse that disproportionately affects women and girls. We will work closely with our partners to improve the opportunities and support available for women. We continue to engage, work with our partners, improve our response and drive the change needed to end violence against women and girls.

As a legacy of Commercial Sexual Exploitation conference in 2023, Sergeant Smith, Local Authority Liaison Officer (LALO) engaged with the Women's Support Project to become a trainer on Commercial Sexual Exploitation. The first date for the training was Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February. LALO's from across Ayrshire will be trained on three different modules, Making the Links: Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Violence Against Women, Inside/Outside: Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Women's experiences and Building Bridges: Services and Responding to the needs of Women affected by Commercial Sexual exploitation. Once the 3 LALO's have received their training, training will then be delivered across the division to officers to increase knowledge and understanding.

### **East Ayrshire Women's Aid**

East Ayrshire Women's Aid provide a holistic pathway of services which aim to support women and children experiencing domestic abuse from the point of crisis right through to sustainable safety and independence. Between 1st April 2023 and 11th March 2024, 567 women, children and young people contacted or were referred to East Ayrshire Women's Aid for the first time. This is a 9% increase on 2022-23. Throughout the year, 687 women, children and young people received support. This is an 8% increase on 2022-23. 22 women and 23 children lived in the refuge.

Throughout the year, Women's Aid has played an active role in EAVAWP including providing the vice-chair, contributing to Equally Safe at Work, Equally Safe in Practice, Safe Spaces Scheme, 16 Days of Action and the development of the partnership's new Strategic Plan. EAWA provides Independent Domestic Abuse Advocate (IDAA) support to women referred to Ayrshire MARAC and are members of the MARAC Governance Group. East Ayrshire Women's Aid also deliver multi-agency domestic abuse training on behalf of the partnership. Courses delivered include:

- The Dynamics of Domestic Abuse
- Children and Young People's Experiences of Domestic Abuse
- Identifying Risk and Supporting Recovery
- Domestic Abuse & Substance Abuse.

### **Scottish Fire and Rescue Service**

- The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service continues to promote our 'Home Fire Safety Visit' initiative, which allows us to identify risk within the home and provide advice to occupants. Our crews are trained to identify concerns/risk to the occupants and will notify our partners using the AP/CP1 process. We continue to support our partners by acting on the HFSV referrals we receive and share relevant information at monthly MARAC meetings.



- Throughout 2023/24, we have continued to support Ayrshire 'Violence Against Woman', especially around the '16 Days of Action Against Gender Based Violence' campaign, where we hosted the 'Inside Out' Exhibition at Kilwinning Fire Station. The exhibition was developed by Encompass, a network of services and agencies working across Scotland with those involved in the sex industry; the aim was to shine a light on the hidden world of the sex industry.
- SFRS continue to participate in the identification of 'Safe Spaces' for those fleeing violence, including the potential use of SFRS premise. We continue to support and assist our partners Pan-Ayrshire by attending monthly 'Safer Spaces' meetings.
- Our crews at Kilmarnock Fire Station continue to support the 'White Ribbon' campaign and practice the 'Safe Spaces' centred training received by Woman's Aid in 2023.

| Action  | Partnership Activity  | Partners   |
|---|---|--|
| <p><b>S10</b> Further embed place-based multi-agency working in the heart of our communities and strengthen partnership capacity for frontline response</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish <b>multi-agency community clinics</b> improve visibility and proximity of partners to communities.</li> <li>• Enhanced <b>information sharing</b> across partner agencies.</li> <li>• Maximise partnership involvement in <b>joint public facing community initiatives</b></li> <li>• Enhanced communication to ensure service users are aware of available supports/referred appropriately at first point of contact.</li> <li>• Enhanced delivery of comprehensive <b>Home Safety Visits</b> by SFRS</li> <li>• Continued delivery of <b>CVO Open Doors Initiative</b></li> <li>• Explore potential <b>Tri-Service officer</b> role</li> </ul> | <p><b>All</b>, Police Scotland, SFRS, Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS), EAC Housing &amp; Communities, Education; CVO; All</p> |

### Partnership Clinics

Every 5 weeks (or dependent on demand), Locality Policing Teams hold a Police clinic in their local community as part of the "You said, we did" approach. This has seen some positive feedback in relation to taking action on matters identified by communities during these clinics and importantly being able to feedback on the result of reports / action carried out. Attendance has been variable at clinics with some localities participating more widely in the clinics. As a result the clinic approach continues to be tailored within specific localities and refined to provide a service balanced on the needs and requirements of the community with other policing requirements. As Community Councils have been re-established in most areas the need for the clinics has reduced. Police are contactable in many ways from 101 or our Contact Us' with contact via their Elected Member.

### Doon Valley Community Campus

Our planned investment in the Doon Valley Community Campus (£25m) reflects our partnership commitment to a place based approach. The inclusive design approach being applied to this project will deliver a modern fit for purpose educational facility suitable to meet the needs of the Doon Valley community. The Council, and its community planning partners are working closely with the community and a wide range of partners to maximise the impact of this investment. It is expected that the new campus will be completed during 2027/28.

### **HEART Wellbeing Model for Children**

East Ayrshire Council and Health and Social Care Partnership have continued to develop the HEART (Help Everyone at the Right Time) Wellbeing model for children and families, working together towards early help, prevention and support within and for communities. There are now four workstreams from the HEART model. During 23/24 now in the implementation phase for Request for Assistance team in Children's Social Work services, completing initial assessment of need in a timely manner. A focus of the HEART Model is the provision of help and prevention of escalating need and ensuring support for families strength based, children's rights focussed and is relationship based, keeping The Promise and in line with GIRFEC principles. A HEART team, is working with together with the community and has developed a Community Hub in Shortlees. In 23/24 HEART embraced restorative practice and begins to reach out to families with family group decision making with Children 1<sup>st</sup>. HEART co-ordinators have linked in and updating ALISS, a local networking information system.

### **Open Doors (CVO) / Crisis and Foodbank**

Emerging form the demand and increase in people in poverty, Open Doors has reverted from its original purpose as a Community Wellbeing Hub in the heart of Kilmarnock providing a safe place where people can access a wide range of activities and supports back to a crisis hub and emergency food outlet.

Combining the Foodbank with a crisis hub has happened naturally as it creates a comprehensive support system for individuals and families facing various forms of crisis, including financial hardship, domestic violence, homelessness, and health emergencies. This integrated approach aims to address immediate food insecurity while also providing essential services and resources to tackle underlying issues contributing to the crisis.

### **Clean, Greener and Vibrant Communities**

Vibrant Communities have further developed their place based approach to the services they deliver in 6 localities across East Ayrshire. This approach is seeing each locality area operating in a model which meets of the needs of their communities however we are seeing representation from community organisations and wider Council services which is adding value to the meetings and the development of the Place Based approach. This has witnessed new working relationships between services and additional support provided to community partners.

### **Scottish Attainment Challenge (SAC)**

Via their extensive Vibrant Communities and partnership connections, the SAC Home Link Workers assist schools to embed place-based multi-agency working at the heart of their community. Each school has identified a HEART lead contact person responsible for creating links and information sharing in their school.

### **Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS)**

- SFRS has continued to open the use of its premises within EA for use by community groups and partners. Kilmarnock Community Fire Station has recently held events such as 'Africans in Ayrshire' where 200+ members of the local African Community participated in a 'Community' Open Day to help the integration of new members into local society. This allowed SFRS to engage with the group and ensure that they were aware of our HFSV initiative and what support services with EA can provide.
- We also continue to support partners as SFRS moves towards a more GDPR compliant referral pathway.
-

| Action  | Partnership Activity   | Partners   |
|---|--|--|
| <p><b>S11</b> Proactive multi agency response to meet housing needs and support tenancy sustainment</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued implementation and development of <b>Housing First</b>, to ensure that people are settled in their homes and linked in to all appropriate partnership services and community supports</li> <li>Ensure <b>SHORE standards</b> (Sustainable Housing on Release for Everyone) are met</li> </ul> | <p><b>EAC Housing &amp; Communities</b>; EAC Justice Service; HMP Kilmarnock; Private Landlords; Blue Triangle; HSCP; NHS A&amp;A; CJA; SFRS, third sector, Ayr Housing Aid.</p> |
| <p><b>Housing Supports</b><br/> The Council's Housing Support Services work closely with Social Work Teams, Radar, Police Scotland, EA Advocacy Service, EA recovery services, GP's Community Connectors and Community groups to enable people to sustain tenancies.</p> <p>Housing Support is also delivered on behalf of East Ayrshire Council's Housing Service via a number of externally contracted providers for dedicated groups in relation to young people, and those who required intensive housing support and Housing First intensive housing support.</p> <p>East Ayrshire Council's Housing Service also commission a dedicated information and advice service for people in prison to prevent and alleviate homelessness.</p> <p><b>Resettlement</b><br/> The Council is committed to supporting those displaced by war and conflict and has well established arrangements in place to support those settling within our communities. East Ayrshire has made a commitment to help and respond to needs of families, unaccompanied children and young people who seek refuge or require a home in Scotland.</p> <p>Embedded within our core resettlement processes is the fundamental recognition of our parental and safeguarding responsibilities. Prior to families and individuals arriving through UK-wide resettlement schemes, permanent furnished accommodation is identified which is safe and will meet the needs of the children.</p> <p>On arrival families are appointed a Key Worker who assists parents and carers with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Registration in nurseries and schools, school clothing grant and free school meals applications;</li> <li>Benefits claims;</li> <li>Budgeting support and guidance; and</li> <li>Child care arrangements were required to afford adults the opportunity to attend community language classes to assist with integration within our communities.</li> </ul> <p>Close working arrangements are in place with our Community Planning Partners and with the Scottish and UK Governments to highlight, respond and escalate any safeguarding concerns where required.</p> |  |  |

| Resettlement Scheme    | Number of Families | Number of Adults | Number of Children |
|------------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Ukrainian Resettlement | 94                 | 157              | 93                 |
| Other Resettlement     | 10                 | 22               | 19                 |
| Total                  | 104                | 179              | 112                |

More information on the support provided to unaccompanied asylum seeking children in East Ayrshire can be found in the East Ayrshire Children and Young Peoples Services Plan, Annual Report 2023/24.

### Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

SFRS will continue to provide 'Fire Safety, Support and Education (FSSE)' Training to all partners on request, ensuring that existing referral pathways are maintained. We will continue to offer all residents HFSV's and support partners by completing joint visits to properties. We will continue to develop our working relationship with MEARS to help integrate 'New Scots' into our local communities.

| Action   | Partnership Activity   | Partners  |
|--|--|---|
| <b>S12</b> Minimise the impact of drugs use and the excessive consumption of alcohol | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation of the <a href="#">East Ayrshire Alcohol and Drugs Partnership Strategic Improvement Plan 2020-24</a>.</li> <li>Launch of new joint service, <b>Rapid Access to Drugs and Alcohol Recovery (RADAR)</b></li> <li>Support those in contact with the criminal justice system to address drug and alcohol problems</li> <li>EAC Education Service &amp; partner delivery of the <b>Substance Misuse Curriculum</b></li> <li>Continued implementation of a range of <b>Health and Homelessness Service</b> initiatives</li> </ul> | <b>ADP</b> , EAC Education, Community Justice Ayrshire, Police Scotland, HMP Kilmarnock, SFRS, EAC Justice Service, Ayrshire Partnership Services |

### Rapid Access to Drugs and Alcohol Recovery (RADAR)

The multi-agency service, Rapid Access to Drugs and Alcohol Recovery (RADAR), was launched during 2021/22 providing same day access to support and prescriptions for people. The service has continued to run since that time and, following a wider Addiction Service Review in 2023-24, same day access will become an integrated part of the overall East Ayrshire RADAR Service moving forward.

### East Ayrshire Alcohol and Drugs Plan Activity (2023/24 Annual Report due June 2024)

#### Police Scotland – Naloxone:

All police officers across Ayrshire up to and including the rank of Inspector are now fully trained and carrying intra-nasal Naloxone. Naloxone is an emergency, first aid response to opioid/opiate-related drug overdose situations. It reverses the respiratory suppression caused by opioids, stimulating a person's breathing: it can buy someone enough time to allow ambulance clinicians to arrive and provide professional medical care. The carriage and administration of Naloxone by an officer is an extension to their extensive first aid skills. Officer's use of Naloxone is captured and evaluated Scotland-wide to capture learning.

- Increase access to naloxone via HSCP staff
- Delivery of 4 locality based peer outreach workers following 2 year pilot programme
- Development and delivery of local international overdose awareness day walk 31 August 2024
- Assess and review of pilot custody programme in Kilmarnock police office
- Roll out of digital 'helping' apps for drug/alcohol use (Holly Health, By My Side)

### Education Substance Misuse Education Programmes

In line with Curriculum for Excellence schools continue to deliver age appropriate substance misuse education programmes at all levels from the Early Childhood Centres to S6. Information is also available for parents via the [Parent HWB Information Site](#).

### Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

SFRS officers now being trained on use of Naloxone and will carry this in their SFRS vehicles to support early emergency intervention.

| Action   | Partnership Activity   | Partners          |
|--|--|-------------------|
| <p><b>S13</b> Work across organisations and community groups to better understand harm and build capacity to support harm prevention</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proactively support and raise awareness of the activity and related plans of the <b>Children’s Strategic Partnership, Adult and Child Protection Committees</b>; and <b>Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA)</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Staff training provision</b> to raise awareness of symptoms of harm and abuse and to report to appropriate services as required</li> </ul> | <p><b>All</b></p> |

### Adult Protection

East Ayrshire Adult Protection Committee (EAAPC) have circulated 4 x newsletters to improve the communication between strategic and frontline staff:

[February 2024 newsletter](#)

[November 2023 newsletter](#)

[August 2023 newsletter](#)

[May 2023 newsletter](#)

National Adult Protection Day and Local Adult Protection Week took place in February 2024. A report on both is attached.

A Public Protection Event was held on 6 September 2024: No Closed Door – further details are available on the HSCP Webpages: [Practitioner event focuses on protecting people - Living Well East Ayrshire](#)

East Ayrshire Advocacy have completed their first year of the Lived Experience Project – a project that has been set up to gather real time feedback from adults, carers and their families who have completed their adult protection journey. A report on this is attached.

Annual Report on Adult Support and Protection is also available which includes information around the L&D Multi-Agency Workforce and key highlights from this are: **[A Snapshot of Adult Support and Protection 2022/2023 \(PDF 3.50Mb\)](#)**

- An analysis of Initial Case Review and Significant Case Review activity within East Ayrshire
- Bespoke Financial Harm Sessions for front line Police Officers
- ASP Awareness Sessions delivered to 48 Housing Staff
- New Self-Neglect for Practitioners sessions held as requested

## **CHILD PROTECTION**

### **Implementation of Pan Ayrshire CP Procedures 2023**

Following on from the Pan Ayrshire agreement to develop an Ayrshire multi agency CP practitioner guidance, the Pan Ayrshire Multi Agency Child Protection Procedure was published on 01 December 2023. East Ayrshire CPC held a 1hour launch briefing on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023 with invite sent council and partnership wide to join and hear about the highlights of the National Guidance for Child Protection as well as the Pan Ayrshire multi agency CP procedure and what this means in practice to the multi-agency workforce. Multi agency half day workshops are in development for the latter half of 2024 which will allow multi agency partners to come together and delve deeper into what the procedures mean in localities and practice. One hour briefings continued on a fortnightly basis between February 2023 – April 2023 with briefings moving to bimonthly form June – December 2024 to continue the spread of key messages to the East Ayrshire workforce.

### **Young People at Risk of Harm CPC Subgroup**

The High Risk Vulnerable Young Person CPC Subgroup was established in May 2022 as a CPC subgroup. The group is chaired by Moira McKinnon, CPC chair and focuses on areas of concerns such as child exploitation in its varying forms, missing children / young people, trafficking and extra familial harm. As of May 2024 the group have changed its name to the Young People at Risk of Harm CPC Subgroup. The group have continued its work through 2023/24 with the development and delivery, in partnership with Barnardo's, of 6 half day multi agency sessions on Child Exploitation. Sessions were held from 19 March – 23 April 2023. Sessions were aimed to be held within HEART clusters however planning and venue restrictions required sessions to be held in central locations in both Cumnock and Kilmarnock for accessibility to staff. A total of 300 spots were available to multi agency staff to attend with 231 signing up. Of 231, 170 multi-agency practitioners attended (73.5%). Self-evaluation returns demonstrated positive and beneficial feedback, with practitioner feedback informing next steps and focus of the Young People at Risk of Harm Subgroup work plan which includes staff identified need around contextual safeguarding.

### **Children & young People Engagement CPC Subgroup**

As a primary focus of the CPC, the views and experience of children and young people are integral to the CPC's work and future trajectory of priorities. The subgroup is now established with a first meeting taking place early May 2024. The primary focus of the group is to increase the knowledge, understanding and awareness of Child Protection across East Ayrshire, whilst ensuring the voice of lived experience is central to improvements being made and influences the work of East Ayrshire Child Protection Committee.

The views and experience of children and young people are integral to the CPC's work and future trajectory of priorities, and as such, the Children & Young People Engagement Subgroup re-established itself with a first meeting taking place early May 2024. The primary focus of the group is to increase the knowledge, understanding and awareness of Child Protection across East Ayrshire, whilst ensuring the voice of lived experience is central to improvements being made and influences the work of East Ayrshire Child Protection Committee. The groups approach and work will also be informed by Article 12 of the UNCRC.

### **Pan Ayrshire Implementation of the revised National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021**

With the publication of this document in September 2021, East, North and South Ayrshire Child Protection Committees (CPC) jointly agreed to a Pan Ayrshire approach to implementation of the guidance. This guidance has been completed and launched 23/24. Multi-agency partners continue to work together supported by the CPC around many areas of work including improving training, audit and practice in Initial Referral Discussions, the essential multiagency communication to initiate Child Protection procedures and ensure safe care planning for children and young people at significant risk of harm. The CPC subgroup, Children at Risk of Harm supported development, distribution and implementation of Child Sexual Exploitation and Contextual Safeguarding. Quality assurance and improvement work is a priority partners supported by CPC. Child Protection Planning Meetings are now in place in line with National and Pan-Ayrshire guidance, as is various updated practice guidance to ensure rights based, inclusive, strength based practice with infant, children, young people and their families.

### **High Risk Vulnerable Young Person Group (HRVYPG) now named Children and Young People at risk of Harm**

The HRVYPG was established in May 2022 as a CPC subgroup. The group is chaired by Moira McKinnon, CPC chair and focuses on areas of concerns such as child exploitation in its varying forms, missing children / young people, trafficking and extra familial harm. The group has completed and delivered a multi-agency training with Barnardos, for all professionals with the aim of raising practitioner awareness of child exploitation, contextual safeguarding and trafficking. This work and contextual safeguarding is key priority for CPC and consultation and improvement work continues on a multi-agency basis to develop operational co-operation and participation to ensure the children and young people at risk of harm are supported, cared for and views heard in their community.

As of May 2024 the group changed its name to the Young People at Risk of Harm Subgroup. The group have continued its work through 2023/24 with the development and delivery, in partnership with Barnardo's, of 6 half day multi agency sessions on Child Exploitation. Sessions were held from 19 March – 23 April 2023. Sessions were aimed to be held within HEART clusters however planning and venue restrictions required sessions to be held in central locations in both Cumnock and Kilmarnock for accessibility to staff. A total of 300 spots were available to multi agency staff to attend with 231 signing up. Of 231, 170 multi-agency practitioners attended (73.5%). Self-evaluation returns demonstrated positive and beneficial feedback, with practitioner feedback informing next steps and focus of the Young People at Risk of Harm Subgroup work plan which includes staff identified need around contextual safeguarding.

### **Participation and Engagement CPC Subgroup**

The CPC has re-established the Participation and Engagement Subgroup in order to strengthen links with the East Ayrshire communities and share key safeguarding and child protection messages within and around East Ayrshire. Close multiagency collaboration with focus on co-production, communities, children's voice and children's rights will be at the centre of this group.

### Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

SFRS are processing free from harm reduction officers within Scotland, with the hope of one being based with Ayrshire. Within EA, SFRS have participated in the recent EAC ASP Audit, and our CAT and crews have been educated on the impact of 'Self Neglect' and how to identify notable signs when conducting HFSV's.

**S14:** Facilitate effective action against offenders of domestic abuse, and improve the response and support provided for victims of domestic abuse and their families

- Proactively support implementation of the [East Ayrshire Violence Against Women Partnership Strategic Plan 2021-24](#)
- Continued delivery of the **Caledonian Programme** for those convicted of domestic abuse.
- Work in partnership to strengthen the housing rights of survivors of domestic abuse as a result of the Domestic Abuse (Protection)(Scotland) Bill 2021
- Proactive provision of equipment in the home to mitigate any risk of fire raising for people experiencing domestic abuse

**EAVAWP**, Police Scotland, CJA; HSCP; NHS A&A; Victim Support; EAC Housing & Communities, Education and Legal Services; EA Women's Aid; SFRS; EAC Justice Service; EAC Children and Families; Third Sector partners

### Violence Against Women Partnership

The East Ayrshire Violence Against Women Partnership (EAVAWP) Strategic Plan 2021-24 expired in December 2023 and a transitional year throughout 2024 has been granted to conduct a strategic needs assessment and bring forward a new plan. Meanwhile, any outstanding actions from the EAVAWP Strategic Plan 2021-24 are continued to be monitored throughout 2024.

The EAVAWP Strategic Plan Monitoring Report for 2023 was presented to the EAVAWP in February 2023. The Strategic Plan Monitoring report highlights that of the 31 live actions, 20 (64.5%) have been completed whilst 11 (35.5%) remain slightly adrift of target. These 11 actions will continue to be monitored throughout 2024 and will either be completed or carried forward into the new plan.

### Trauma Informed Contact & Care (TICC)

Trauma Informed Contact and Care (TICC) is a joint Police and Education early intervention, safeguarding and wellbeing initiative. The aim of the initiative is to support children and young people exposed to domestic abuse by ensuring that a school is notified by Police Scotland, before the start of the next school day, when a child or young person in that school has been involved in, or exposed to, a domestic abuse incident in the previous 24 hours. The information is given in strict confidence to one of two school designated contacts, who will be the Head Teacher, Depute Head Teacher or Child Protection Co-ordinator, this enables support to be given dependent on the wellbeing needs and wishes of the child.

The Trauma Informed Contact and Care Initiative (TICC) was implemented across all schools in Ayrshire in March 2022 following a pilot introduction in selected schools, which ran from September to December 2021. This means that all school children in Ayrshire are benefitting from a wide range of supports including listening, giving time out from the classroom, nurture, home link support, voluntary sector support and social work support.

Relationships are being strengthened between members of school staff and children and carers who experience domestic abuse, and it is hoped that this can lead to parents/carers having the confidence to talk directly with the school and request support if an incident takes place and the police are not involved.



On 8 January 2024 Trauma Informed Contact and Care was rolled out to all Early Childhood Centres across Ayrshire. All children and young people across all establishments are now supported by this initiative. There is a better understanding of domestic abuse and support is offered following established GIRFEC processes and practice. Throughout the period 8 November 2021 and 15 April 2024, there have been 193 TICC referrals. 220 schools have been involved in supporting children after a TICC referral, often multiple sites per referral. Since 8th January 2024, 6 ECC's have received TICC referrals.

### **East Ayrshire Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)**

The Ayrshire MARAC commenced operationally in August 2022 and has continued, throughout 2023-24, to make a significant contribution to improving the safety of victims of domestic abuse at risk of significant harm or death across Ayrshire.

There are three local MARAC meetings – one in each of the local authority areas in Ayrshire, centrally and consistently supported by the MARAC Coordination Team. In East Ayrshire, all of the Agency Representatives (Education, Police, Housing, Women's Aid, ASSIST, Children & Young Peoples' services, Adult services, Justice services, Health services, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service) continue to support the local meetings and a number of new Agency Representatives have been trained and supported to join the MARAC in 2023-24.

Since becoming operational in August 2022, MARAC meetings have been held monthly in East Ayrshire. In 2023-24, 12 meetings took place with 162 cases referred – 155 females and 7 males. Full MARAC data and analysis for East Ayrshire (and the whole of Ayrshire) will be available in the Ayrshire MARAC Annual Performance Report 2023-24 in May 2024.

An Ayrshire wide MARAC Governance Group is in place which provides strategic direction from MARAC Leads. This Group meets quarterly reporting into the EAVAWP. Additionally, a local Agency Representatives Group has continued to meet after every East Ayrshire MARAC to provide support to representatives and allow a two-way feedback process to the MARAC Coordination Team. This local Group undertook a review in December 2023 and will now meet quarterly moving forwards. The programme of local MARAC training has now become an integrated part of the EAVAWP annual training calendar.

A number of developmental and improvement activities have taken place in 2023-24. The Ayrshire MARAC Procedures and operational Guidance were reviewed and updated to include a number of areas identified as the MARAC became operational. These include 16-17 year olds, MARAC to MARAC transfers, conflicts of interest and arrangements around the interface with Adult Support & Protection. Locally in East Ayrshire, the Adult Support & Protection Lead Officer shadowed several MARAC meetings to support an understanding of the local cross-over between adult protection and domestic abuse in MARAC. As a result, we have now strengthened the adult social work representation on the MARAC. The Independent Domestic Abuse Advocate service providers across Ayrshire have been collecting and analysing outcome and impact information from some victims supported through the MARAC process – this will be integrated into the annual performance report. A reflective learning and development session was held in June 2023 including all of the agency representatives from across Ayrshire. This session supported representatives to reflect on and provide robust feedback on MARAC from a locality and Ayrshire perspective. The feedback and actions gathered at the session led to the development of an improvement plan.

### **Education Mentors In Violence Programme**

All secondary schools now have senior pupils trained as Mentors in Violence Prevention and they are delivering the programme to their peers in school. Supported by the Campus Police Officers, all secondary schools have been asked to continue to develop the MVP programme in their school. Regular updates are provided via the MVP Team and a new resource for primary schools was distributed via the HWB Newsletter.

### **Scottish Fire and Rescue Service**

SFRS continue to treat all 'high' risk referrals with urgency. Any referral that has identified as a 'Threat of Fire' will be contacted to offer advice and if required, specialised fire-retardant equipment will be supplied and fitted, if available. SFRS are now fully imbedded in the MARAC partnership. Work is underway for the creation of 'Safe Spaces' within SFRS premise.

SFRS EA LALO continues to be proactive in attending EA VAW Partnership meetings, as well as assisting with the co-ordination groups for 'Safer Spaces', 'Reclaim the Night' and '16-Days of Action.'

### **Safe & Together Implementation Plan – Phase 3 2022-23**

The key principles of the Safe & Together Model are to keep children who have experienced domestic abuse safe and together with their non-abusive parent, while supporting and acknowledging the non-abusive parents' protective efforts and ensuring perpetrators are held accountable for their abuse, while connecting them to their parenting (figure) role to reduce ongoing risk of harm where safe to do so.

The Safe & Together model focuses on gender bias, survivor strengths, protective factors and the impact of perpetrators' patterns of behaviour on the family functioning. This challenges previous approaches of victim blaming and non-accountability of perpetrators. The aim is to ensure positive outcomes for children in respect of their safety and wellbeing through keeping them safe and together with the non-abusing parent.

The Scottish Government has extended funding for the pan-Ayrshire Safe & Together Lead Officer for a further year (until August 2025) through their Delivering Equally Safe fund, resulting in the post duration being three years. The Lead Officer has been in post since September 2022, and is tasked with implementing the model across the three Ayrshire HSCPs and further through developing practice, process and cultural change in respect of domestic abuse.

Training delivery has continued with the recent introduction of pan-Ayrshire training options to provide additional training opportunities across agencies in East Ayrshire. Following a training needs analysis, it transpired that the natural movement within the HSCP resulted in a reduction in practitioners having been trained in the model, therefore training is now targeted to ensure coverage across teams.

The Safe & Together Model is contained within and presented by the Lead Officer in the Newly Qualified Social Worker Child Protection Training, the Newly Qualified Social Worker Practice Programme, and the pan-Ayrshire Student Social Worker Group. The model's alignment with GIRFEC, Trauma Informed Practice and the Promise are threaded throughout the inputs.

A Multi-agency Case File Audit was completed which identified training needs in respect of domestic abuse-informed practice for which the findings were presented to the East Ayrshire Child Protection Committees and Violence Against Women Partnership. This has influenced the development of upgraded and simplified guidance, including domestic abuse-informed conversation prompts, and underpinned a large scale multi-agency S&T Spotlight Event in late 2023. The event demonstrated the model in action and the benefits of the model for risk assessment in addition to challenging cultural norms.

The Champions Group has been expanded to include Health Visiting, and further membership will be sought from other agencies. The Champions Group has been instrumental in bringing the model to frontline practice in an informal, peer-led way, which is influencing practice and culture change through supporting peers to change their thinking, and by promoting individual Case Consultations with the Lead Officer.

Individual Case Consultations have been utilised by Social Work and Health practitioners, and the next year will focus on expanding these to multi-agency consultations to develop a shared practice approach, language and thresholds. Confidence in working with fathers, and moving away from 'failure to protect' conversations with mothers appears to be increasing.

It has not been possible to progress Practice Learning Sessions focusing on specific elements of the model/family, therefore a Self-Assessment was conducted to explore this. Practitioners report being unable to access these due to work demands, however, during a recent Core Training follow up session with the Lead officer, practitioners identified a wish to access these opportunities, therefore accessibility to such sessions will be further explored.

**Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland (DSDAS)**

The Domestic Abuse Investigation and Safeguarding Team in Ayrshire continue to offer the victims in all domestic cases reported to Police Scotland in Ayrshire a follow up contact from the department. This important function has given a notable increase in victim confidence and the ability to discuss their situations, often made clearer after a short passage of reflection following the initial incident. It also offers the increased opportunity for third sector signposting and referral to partner agencies. This approach has seen an additional take up of police assistance, which otherwise may have been lost.

This confidence can be demonstrated in use of DSDAS which continues to show growth in applications. During 2023/24 there were 109 DSDAS application compared to 95 the previous year.

Domestic abuse crimes fell by 3.4% (902) in 2023/24. **(TBC – subject to data embargo for year end stats)**

| Action   | Partnership Activity  | Partners  |
|--|---|---|
| <p><b>S15</b> Proactive Partnership Activity to prevent unintended harm at home.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Innovative use of <b>community alarm technology</b> and <b>housing adaptations</b> to assist individuals in their own home in prevention and alert of harm.</li> <li>• Development and implementation of the <b>SFRS Safe and Well Strategy</b> and enhanced home safety visit provision</li> <li>• Explore opportunities for a <b>community home safety check</b> to include advice and support around personal safety as well as environmental safety (a 'danger detectives' approach for adults)</li> </ul> | <p><b>EAC</b>; SFRS, HSCP; NHS A&amp;A; Police Scotland; Third Sector Partners.</p> |

## Risk Management Centre (RMC)

| RMC Operations                               | 2023/24 |
|--|---------|
| Number of RMC operated community alarms      | 5,410   |
| Number of RMC calls received                 | 200,158 |
| Number of times Mobile CCTV Vans utilised    | 184     |
| Number of Tech Enabled Care systems operated | 6,176   |
| Number of Domestic Abuse Calls Responded To  | 877     |

**Early Years:** Infant and family safety is assessed at all home visits by the Early Years nursing team with an opportunity for a home safety check during the visit. Routine enquiries are carried out with all women who are cared for by early year's teams.

### Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS)

SFRS have been working in partnership with EAC and the local Junior Football Clubs to deliver vital CPR / Defibrillator Training to coaches and young players. SFRS have also included deliberate fire setting input during these sessions to highlight the current issues in the area to try and reduce this kind of activity.

SFRS have also been working with various partners to deliver Risk Recognition Training through our FSSE to staff members. This provides them with the ability to identify risk within homes, and subsequently allows them to submit referrals to SFRS. Home Fire Safety Visits are then conducted to ensure people are safe within their homes. SFRS are also working in partnership with ROSPA who will assist with the provision of safety devices for cupboards etc.

SFRS are also assisting with the implementation of the 'Falls' Strategy within East Ayrshire.

| Action   | Partnership Activity   | Partners                                  |
|--|--|---|
| <b>S16</b> Improve understanding of the prevalence and impact of Hate Crime in East Ayrshire | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Implement the partnership activity identified within the Ayrshire Shared Equalities Outcomes 2021-25</a></li> </ul> | <b>Ayrshire Equality Partnership; All</b> |

### Awareness Raising

All three Local Area Coordinators continue to be involved in the Keepsafe scheme, which is delivered in partnership with Police Scotland and I Am Me Scotland. The aim of the scheme is to create a network of safe places where people with a learning disability can go if they are lost or feel scared or vulnerable when out in the local community. Local businesses and community buildings can sign up to become a Keepsafe place. After completing some initial paperwork they are checked and approved by Police Scotland. Staff then receive Keepsafe Awareness Training and the facility displays a sticker in their window. Anyone who needs assistance can then enter this building and staff will be able to help. Keepsafe Cards are also available for people to carry which contain information about the holder's health conditions, communication needs and emergency contact details. Keepsafe

places across Scotland are mapped out on the free Keepsafe Scotland App. Due to a number of staffing changes within Police Scotland progress has been limited during the reporting period however recently PC Allan Mitchell, Preventions & Interventions Officer has taken over this remit and a plan is in place to re-visit all of the existing Keepsafe venues over the coming months to ensure that they still wish to participate and that all staff are fully trained. Following on from this, new venues will be approached to ask if they would be willing to participate.

**Respectme**

As part of the second year of the respectme community project, pupils, parents and staff from several schools undertook the T4T training and then provided anti-bullying awareness inputs in their communities.

| Action  | Partnership Activity   | Partners                         |
|---|--|----------------------------------|
| <p><b>S17</b> Raise awareness of cyber-crime and develop increased cyber resilience</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support implementation of the <b>Child Protection Committee Digital Resilience Action Plan</b></li> <li>• Circulate regular advice and warnings about current scams, utilising social media</li> <li>• Scope and identify vulnerable groups to promote safe use of digital media</li> </ul> | <p><b>EAC Education; All</b></p> |

**The Digital Resilience Action Plan**

Progression of the Digital Resilience Action Plan, is monitored via the working group. Achievements include the development of regular internet safety posts via EA HSCP media platforms; the development and progression of EAC Cyber resilience and internet safety workshops; CEOP training, digital literacy running thread within the education curriculum; the launch of the Safer Schools App to empower and inform parents about their child’s online activity; and a parental virtual session for raising awareness and to support them to support their Young Person. The App will be used to support online safety messages within the curriculum moving forward

**EA Youth Chat initiative**

Vibrant Communities staff continue to promote safe and appropriate behaviours for young people when online. This includes risk taking behaviours that can lead to media being shared, causing distress and angst to many young people who are affected by this. Staff make young people aware of the consequences of such behaviours.

**Scottish Fire and Rescue Service**

All SFRS personnel receive on-going training on Cyber-Crime and Cyber-Resilience to assist in safeguarding SFRS systems and those of our staff. We continue to support our partners as we move towards a more GDPR compliant referral process.

**S18** Enhanced partnership activity to protect vulnerable people from fraud & financial harm

- Use social media and Granicus to advise of current scams and how to protect against them
- Implementation of partnership initiatives such as **“Shut out Scammers”** and the provision of call blockers to vulnerable people.
- Maintain monthly contact with older adults in supported or amenity housing to monitor potential financial harms.
- Targeted engagement with East Ayrshire Tenants and Residents Federation and other community based groups.

**Police Scotland;** EAC Trading Standards and Housing and Communities and Education; H&SCP, NHS A&A, Ayrshire College, Adult Protection Committee, CAB and other third sector partners, Independent Care Sector; Youth and Elderly Forums

**Financial Harm Awareness**

The banking protocol and continued engagement with local financial institutions has averted a number of vulnerable individuals in our communities from falling victim to fraud. Police Scotland, normally via our Town Centre officers, continue to deliver inputs in this type of crime to enhance awareness and work closely to protect those may otherwise become a victim.

Social media awareness continues in respect of this type of offence. Fraud overall has seen a considerable rise over the past few years in East Ayrshire and this pattern is replicated elsewhere in the country. Police Scotland have recently appointed an officer to the role of Preventions and Interventions and a considerable focus going forward will be in relation to this area. A number of joint operations have been carried out with Trading Standards and other partners in addition to visiting groups who are hard to reach via social media to highlight the dangers and provide safeguarding advice.

Preventions and Interventions Officer also continue to focus on Bogus Workmen with daily scrutiny around this type of crime due to high harm impact. A number of notable arrests, including repeat bogus offenders, have been made during 2023/24 with custodial sentence being applied due to severity.

**Connect Call (CVO)**

CVO East Ayrshire’s Connect Call aims to improve socialisation within the community by connecting people for a chat. We aim to signpost people to services and groups which would have a positive impact. Our fantastic team of volunteers provide a free, confidential service offering friendship and support to people in East Ayrshire who may live alone and experience isolation or are just in need of a friendly chat.

Connect Call has continued to respond to the issue of loneliness and isolation among our older population. The Connect Call Team have settled into Belford Mill and are benefiting from having their own dedicated space.

We have also successfully recruited a Connect Call Support Worker through the Long-Term Unemployed Wage Incentive who works alongside the Volunteer Partnership Manager and Lead Volunteer.

Volunteers have undertaken a range of training including Report Writing, First Aid and Monitoring and Evaluation.

Connect Call currently has 12 volunteers and 4 corporate per week who undertake to do at least one three-hour shift on either a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. The volunteer team deliver 221 calls weekly, and clients range from 29 to 102 years of age.

### **Connect Call Case Feedback**

I was originally referred to Connect Call in 2021, he had recently been bereaved and was very lonely. To begin with it was quite difficult to have a conversation with him. As he got to know the volunteers he opened and really is a good conversationalist now. He was encouraged to come along to Brew and a Blether on a Wednesday morning, just to get him out and meet others. He became a very regular attender and although he still suffers occasionally from periods of depression, he is a changed person. He made friends with one of the ladies who attends Brew and a Blether and they are now “going out together.” He has bought a touring caravan and they both go away most weeks. Will maybe need to buy a hat very soon!!

### **New Befriending Service**

CVO East Ayrshire have taken management of a new befriending service which aims to combat loneliness and social isolation by providing companionship and support to individuals who feel disconnected from their communities. This service pairs volunteers with those in need of social interaction, fostering meaningful connections through regular communication and activities.

#### Target Audience

- Seniors living alone or in care facilities.
- Individuals with physical or mental disabilities who have limited social interactions.
- People new to the area who haven't yet established a social network.
- Any community member experiencing loneliness or isolation.

### **Vibrant Communities**

All adults in supported accommodation units for EAC tenants receive a 5 – 7 week visit to check alarms, individual wellbeing, update contact details, and raise awareness of local concerns such as fraud and abuse.

### **Education Internet Awareness**

As part of their ongoing Internet awareness lessons schools cover fraud & financial harm risks. Schools as part of their curriculum cover internet resilience and awareness. All young people in East Ayrshire from Primary 3 have access to a glow account.

### **Scottish Fire and Rescue Service**

SFRS are working with partners to ensure front line crews who may experience financial harm from food or fuel poverty are fully aware of the assistance available. SFRS are currently working closely with Financial Inclusion, Citizen's Advice and Trading Standards. We also signpost members of the public to various community groups for assistance and utilise our partnership with EA 'Rapid Relief' Team where necessary.

| Action  | Partnership Activity  | Partners  |
|---|---|---|
| <p><b>S19</b> Improve understanding and responses to hoarding across partner agencies</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roll out of <b>Ayrshire Wide Hoarding Guidance</b> and related multi-agency training;</li> <li>• <b>SFRS Home Safety visits</b> to support people with hoarding issues to live as safely as possible in their homes</li> <li>• Delivery of <b>CVO ‘Cleaning with a Conscience’</b> Service.</li> </ul> | <p><b>HSCP</b>; NHS A&amp;A; EAC Housing &amp; Communities, and Education; SFRS, CVO.</p> |
| <p><b>Ayrshire Wide Hoarding Guidance</b></p> <p>Ayrshire Wide Hoarding Guidance training took place from 1 April – 31 December 2022.</p> <p>Learning from a previous Significant Case Review has been developed and multi-agency sessions have been disseminated, including a 7 minute briefing designed to support services to have conversations about how the learning may impact upon their own services and practice.</p> <p>Multi-agency Guidance on Hoarding is available <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p><b>Cleaning with a Conscience (CVO)</b></p> <p>Unfortunately this service remains on hold at the moment as we seek funding to move to a subsidised services as cost was proving to be barrier to those most in need. Further updates will be provided as this work progresses.</p> <p><b>Future Planning</b></p> <p>A Self-Neglect Rapid Literature Review was undertaken and presented to the East Ayrshire Adult Protection Committee Group for the Multi-Agency Self-Evaluation ASP Audit and was used to inform the training for auditors, the audit question set and informing the findings of the Audit.</p> <p><b>Scottish Fire and Rescue Service</b></p> <p>SFRS continues to aid partners by completing HFSV’s to those identified as ‘hoarding’. Partners can notify us through our established referral pathways. SFRS will also identify ‘hoarding’ using the ‘Clutter Image Scale’ while conducting HFSV’s and conducting our ‘Post Domestic Incident Response’ Policy after incidents. We will then provide the necessary Fire Safety equipment and notify the relative services using the AP1 process to provide the collaborative support needed.</p> <p>SFRS have also included ‘Hoarding’ awareness slides within our Fire Safety Advice presentations which are delivered to Community Groups within EA.</p> |   |   |



| Action  | Partnership Activity   | Partners          |
|---|--|-------------------|
| <p><b>S20</b> Enhanced partnership activity to protect vulnerable people from the cost of living crisis across the 6 themes identified at the 22 September 2022 spotlight session i.e. Food, Energy, Money, Community, Wellbeing and Business</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partners will support the delivery and expansion of the work stream, cost of living crisis delivery plan as agreed by Council on the 27 October 2022:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Food,</li> <li>○ Energy / Fuel</li> <li>○ Money</li> <li>○ Community</li> <li>○ Wellbeing</li> <li>○ Business</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <p><b>All</b></p> |
| <p><b>Cost of Living -</b><br/>           At Cabinet on 22 September 2022 following extensive consultation with elected members, community planning partners and community groups East Ayrshire agreed that partners should respond to and provide help / support to local communities with the cost of living crisis.</p> <p>At Cabinet partners identified and agreed six key themes, they are: Food, Money, Fuel/Energy, Community, Business and Wellbeing against which funding would be provided.</p> <p>Subsequently an extensive Communications Campaign was launched in East Ayrshire to help tackle the cost of living crisis.</p> <p>East Ayrshire Council subsequently approved a funding package of £3.125m to progress a range of partnership initiatives linked to the cost of living action plan that was agreed at Council on 27 October 2022.</p> <p>In recognition of the growing crisis, a Cost of Living Officers Group was established to coordinate our local response under the joint leadership of the Depute Chief Executive and the Head of Wellbeing and Recovery.</p> <p>A Cost of Living Strategic Oversight Group was also established to oversee the delivery of agreed actions, ensuring a rapid and targeted response.</p> <p>During 2023/24 it was noted that of the £3.125m cost of living budget that £0.603m (19%) remains unspent.</p> <p>It was proposed and approved by Cabinet “<b><u>Anti-Poverty and Inequalities Cabinet Report, 17 April 2024</u></b>” that the remaining balance be utilised to continue to support the following projects recognising the importance these play within our communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustain food provision support for an additional twelve months which will include Larder support, Food Education Programmes, Free Toast rolled across School’s and the community van proposal. This will cost £220,000.</li> <li>• Utilise underspend of the remaining Cost of Living budget of £50,000 to support Community Groups to access funding support.</li> <li>• Extend the Financial Inclusion Pathfinder Project for an additional six months costing £155,000 (already committed and approved at Council on 29February 2024).</li> </ul> |  |                   |

- Extend the Early Years Financial Inclusion Project for an additional six months costing £36,000 (already committed and approved at Council on 29 February 2024).
- Utilise underspend of the remaining Cost of Living budget of £142,000 to continue to support local businesses and implementing net zero energy saving recommendations.