



Dumfries and Galloway Poverty and Inequalities Partnership

Note of Meeting held on Wednesday 10 September
at 2.00pm
via Microsoft Teams

Present:

Mark Molloy (MM) (*Chair*)

Dumfries & Galloway Council,
Service Manager

Lynne Burgess (LB)

Employability Skills and Partnership
Manager, Dumfries & Galloway
Council (Chair of Sub Group 4)

Wendy Jesson (WJ)

Poverty & Inequalities Development
Officer, Dumfries & Galloway Council
(Chair of Sub-Group 3)

Isabel McKnight (IM)

Third Sector Dumfries & Galloway
(Chair of Sub-Group 1)

Caroline Scott (CSc)

Social Security Scotland

Christine Sinclair (CS)

Dumfries and Galloway Citizens
Advice and Chair of Sub- Group 2

Joanne Threlkeld (JT)

Wheatley Homes South

Valerie White (VW)

NHS Dumfries and Galloway
(NHSD&G)

In attendance:

Jennifer Burns (JB)

Secretariat

Apologies:

Scott Irving

SFRS

Jo Kopela

Public Health Improvement Manager,
D&G HSCP

Liz Manson

Community Planning and
Engagement Manager, Dumfries &
Galloway Council

Sharon Ogilvie

South of Scotland Enterprise

Phil Storrier

Dumfries & Galloway College

Jeanette Byers

Chair of Tackling Poverty Reference
Group

3. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON FOR THIS MEETING

3.1 NOTED the online Meeting for 10 September 2025 was scheduled to continue the momentum of the Partnership during the period between previous the Chair leaving and our new Chair being appointed.

3.2 AGREED Mark Molloy be appointed Chair for this Meeting.



1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

1.1 The Chair **WELCOMED** everyone to the meeting and in particular Joanne Threlkeld from Wheatley Homes South.

1.2 **NOTED** apologies as above.

1.3 **NOTED** Sharon Ogilvie from SOSE would be joining the Partnership with Kate Musgrave as her substitute

2. DRAFT MINUTES OF LAST MEETING ON 11 JUNE 2025 AND MATTERS ARISING

2.1 **APPROVED** note of the meeting on 11 June 2025 as a correct record and **AGREED** to publish on D & G Poverty and Inequalities Partnership Website.

ACTION: JB

2.2 **HIGHLIGHTED** under 6.1.2 the link for the Worrying About Money Leaflet developed by Sub-Group 1 and published by Food Network Scotland would be forwarded after the meeting to all Partnership Members for onward distribution.

ACTION: WJ/JB

3. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON FOR THIS MEETING (SEE ABOVE)

4. UPDATE ON THE APPOINTMENT OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE POVERTY AND INEQUALITIES PARTNERSHIP

4.1 **NOTED** the Sub Group of CS, IM, EJM and supported by MM took forward arrangements for recruitment of new Chairperson and the panel was unanimous in recommending to the Partnership the appointment of Angela Nisbet as Chair.

4.2 **HIGHLIGHTED** Angela Nisbet (AN) has held a variety of senior roles in UK and Scottish Government in a range of different sectors, a hugely committed volunteer with Newstart Recycle in Annan and lives locally; has a professional background and is also engaged locally with a number of organisations. She will retire from the Civil Service in January 2026, has accepted the Appointment and had completed a couple of meetings already to date with MM.

4.3. **FURTHER HIGHLIGHTED** she will bring leadership and partnership skills rather than technical knowledge and as the current D & G Poverty and Inequalities Strategy is due to end on 31st of December 2026, will use leadership skills to lead and develop the new Strategy.

4.4 **NOTED** AN will formally start on Monday 15 September 2025 and will arrange to meet every Partner individually over the next 6 weeks. A new Dumgal email address is currently being set up for Angela which she will use for all Chair activities.

ACTION: AN



4.5 VW THANKED everyone involved in the recruitment of AN

5. MEMBERSHIP OF PARTNERSHIP

5.1 HIGHLIGHTED previous Chair and MM had written to a number of Partners who had not attended the meeting for a while and received commitment from the SOSE, Dumfries and Galloway College, SFRS and Wheatley Homes South that each organisation will proactively send appropriate representation from this point onwards.

5.2 NOTED still waiting on a response from other Partners which will be followed up.

ACTION: MM & AN

6. SUB GROUP 1 UPDATE

6.1 HIGHLIGHTED:

- IM and WJ will meet on 17 September 2025 to look at tracking tasks for all Group Members for the current Priority Projects.
- Joint Meeting due to be held on Multi-Bank Project with WJ from Sub-Group 3 during September 2025
- Last Sub-Group 1 Meeting raised significant concerns in relation to Food Insecurity and the continued sustainability of Food Providers due to the ongoing Cost of Living Crisis. This continues to be caused by reducing numbers of donations and vastly increasing requests for support.
- Significant progress completed on Priority Projects.
- Focus around supporting people with no recourse to public funds and asking group members to do research into how we can make better use of funds and attract more funding; signposting to the Winter Warmth 2025/2026 Campaign and the stigma of fuel debt; and
- Next Group Meeting due to be held at the end of September 2025; focusing food insecurity, what makes a difference and what has the biggest impact.

6.2 DISCUSSED concerns about food insecurity and **AGREED** it would be helpful for the Lead Officers who are developing the Good Food Nation Plan to come along to a Sub Group 1 Meeting.

ACTION: IM

7. SUB GROUP 2 UPDATE

7.1 HIGHLIGHTED:

- Due to meet on 22 September 2025.
- Publicity promoting Child Trust funds completed.
- Joint Priority Project to increase publicity for Scottish Child Payments and Free School Meals & School Clothing Grants to be completed now that the Summer School Holidays have now ended.
- Outreach clinics increasing across the region from DAGCAS and Wheatley Homes South in discussion with Job Centre Plus to restart the previous Drop-In's which were successfully completed within each location in D & G.



- No progress with the Portal Project and discussion with Steven Morgan from DGC still to take place.

ACTION:CS

7.2 DISCUSSED whether need to escalate strategic funding of Portal to Community Planning structures; and **NOTED** a Members Seminar had taken place to discuss priorities around Poverty, Inequalities & Housing with a focus had been on looking at funding sources within the Council and how it is invested and allocated to projects. A Report will be brought to that Committee and then the Community Planning Partnership which could potentially then have a discussion to map monies going into Poverty and Inequalities Projects across our region;

7.3 AGREED to bring a progress Report to the next meeting which could potentially allow P&I P to agree recommendations to the Community Planning Partnership and to contact a member of the DGC Business Intelligence Team to highlight to the Partnership how the mapping of all D & G Council Funded Projects is proposed to be completed. .

ACTION:MM

7.4 NOTED challenges to replicate within NHS and third sector.

7.5 PROVIDED an update on Welfare and Health Advice Project which is funded via Scottish Government and the Improvement Service; **NOTED** it has been problematic to get support from GP surgeries with 3 up and running, the Project not gone as well as hoped but where it is being delivered clients are finding it helpful. This Project was part of a "Test and Learn" Programme which was funded by the Scottish Government and due to the delays in the Project being launched, the findings of the majority of all of the other WAHP Projects would be completed by the time our Project ends. There could be the potential of follow on funding depending on the outcomes and potential successes of the other Projects.

AGREED to consider adding the project to the Sub Group 2 Action Plan.

ACTION: CS

8. SUB GROUP 3 UPDATE

8.1 HIGHLIGHTED:

- Two new TPRG Volunteers are joining the Sub-Group after the summer.
- Compiling feedback on the number of successful outcomes to date of Funding Opportunities from attendees at the Windfarm Trusts Networking Event
- Joint Multibank Project with Sub Group 1 is due to be discussed in detail with both Chairs and a virtual Meeting is planned with the Fife & Wigan Multi-Banks towards the end of October 2025
- Presentations continue by DAGCAS on their Cost-of-Living Report 2024 & additional Citizens Advice Services in other areas of Scotland are now planning to complete similar studies.



- Next Presentation by Sub-Group Chair to the TPRG scheduled for Thursday 25th of September 2025.
- Meetings scheduled from October 2025 – March 2026.

ACTION: WJ

8.2 NOTED the DAGCAS Cost of Living Report 2024 would be shared as evidence with the Scottish Health Equity Resource Unit.

.....**ACTION: VW**

9. SUB GROUP 4 UPDATE

9.1 HIGHLIGHTED:

- Child poverty has reduced by over 4 percentage points with reduction of 1169 children in poverty, now 15th highest in all Scottish Local Authorities instead of 8th
- Focused on application to Scottish Governments Fairer Futures Funding and refresh of Sub Group 4
- Fairer Futures Grant came through in August 2025 and will share summary of what will be doing at next Partnership Meeting.
- Focusing on the production of the Annual Child Poverty Action Plan Report for the Scottish Government, all priority projects are on track apart from the one on transport, looking to bring future Reports forward & completing in April/May every year so more timely rather than retrospective; **AGREED** to circulate the draft report and welcome any input.
- The Child Poverty Sub Group refresh will involve those who are committed to service design
- Fairer Futures Funding runs until 31 March 2026 and have been able to match fund internally so project can run until October 2026

ACTION: LB

9.2 DISCUSSED how it would be useful to see the data underneath the child poverty figures, to see what is adding value, understanding the impact and seeing the gaps; **HIGHLIGHTED** Scottish Child payments are making a difference; the big levers are sitting with UK Government; income maximisation and employability are key areas to reduce child poverty, investment in Dumfries and Galloway economy required to attract higher paid jobs and important SOSE around the table which would enable a deeper dive into the issue.

10. WINTER WARMTH PROJECT

10.1 HIGHLIGHTED it is a Partnership Project delivered by Sub-Group 3. Previously circulated final versions of the leaflets from last year were shared with the Partnership Members, TSDG completed the Leaflet design and have agreed to complete again this year, the Lemon-Aid Fuel Poverty Project will again cover the printing costs and are providing £5000 towards costs for printing & aids for the most vulnerable clients supported. The Sub-Group have agreed to concentrate on the generic & vulnerable peoples Leaflets and the Campaign Video's which will be



completed by all Project Partners and will feature as part of Challenge Poverty Week 2025.

10.2 NOTED the second Project Meeting took place on 9 September 2025 at which it was agreed to do a revamp of the Leaflets with more eye catching slogans, will again have a generic and vulnerable people's Leaflet's which will include information about RTS Meter Switchover which will affect a large number of properties within our Region. Our next Meeting will be on the 23 September 2025 to look at the final drafts, proposed launch date will be held during Challenge Poverty Week on Friday 10 October 2025 with a launch of the Project at the DG Handy Van Centre in Lockerbie.

10.3 AGREED to circulate the finalised leaflets to all Partnership Members and additional organisations would be included in the distribution of both Leaflets this year which would include Care Companies, Church Elders, NHS departments, Vaccination Clinics etc.

ACTION: WJ

10.4 THANKED WJ for all her work getting the leaflets organised for this campaign.

11. KEY NATIONAL STRATEGIES AND PLANS WHICH AFFECT POVERTY AND INEQUALITIES

11.1 NOTED DGC Policy Team had written a very helpful Report on key national strategies and plans which affect poverty and inequalities.

11.2 AGREED as the Lead Officer from the Policy Team was unable to attend the Meeting today, to carry this Agenda Item forward to the next meeting and to circulate the paper with the minutes for information and to aid future discussion.

ACTION: MM

12. CHALLENGE POVERTY WEEK

NOTED the previously email circulated on behalf of Linsey Little, Lead Officer for Challenge Poverty Week which has a range of national themes. The TPRG volunteers helped develop the Programme again for this year and there is an opportunity for all Partnership Members to promote services and campaigns which link to the themes during this week.

13. AOCB

NOTED there was no other business.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

14.1 NOTED the next meeting will be in person and the new Chair is keen to have different Partners hosting the Meetings to set the tone of working collaboratively and **NOTED** offers of accommodation from TSDG and Wheatley Homes South.



14.2 AGREED to take forward offer from Wheatley Homes South with TSDG as fallback if dates do not align. **ACTION: JT/MM**

14.3 HIGHLIGHTED the new Chair is keen to create a calendar of Meetings for 2026 each to be held within a different organisation or community group, allocating 15 minutes before the Meeting for the host to highlight what the group/organisation do around poverty and inequalities.

14.4 NOTED will get the dates out for meetings in 2026 with venues to be arranged. **ACTION: MM/JB**