

Welcome, Introductions and Objectives of this meeting (Attendee list located at Annex A)
Angela Nisbet (chair) welcomed all to the meeting and confirmed acceptance of the notes and actions from the previous meeting on 10 September 2025.

Pre Meeting Activity

Context

JT and CB from Wheatley Homes South showcased how their work supports the Poverty and Inequality Strategy and Partnership and benefits from its collective impact.

Key Discussion Points

- Housing is more than a landlord, providing building blocks to the next stages in life
- Work to better the lives of vulnerable people

Action

- To circulate the presentation and leaflets amongst the Partners which signpost to areas of support provided by the Wheatley Foundation. Partners are asked to share these across their networks, where relevant.

Substantive Items

1. Impact Dashboard

Context

AN explained aim to come together to develop a means of measuring the progress and impact of the work of the Partnership through the co- development of an impact dashboard including strategic objectives, RAG status, subgroup progress and beneficiary case studies. Partners were asked to share examples of good examples within their organisations that could be used as templates / exemplars.

Key Discussion Points

- Should be straightforward and simple, linking in with Subgroup activity
- Be visual, colourful, clear and high level.
- Use Logic modelling – Outcome Based Accountability – the biggest impact being the positive difference the actions are making to a person's life.

Actions

- Partners to provide examples of impact dashboards including Child Poverty dashboard for collation.
- EJM offered a resource to pull together and bring a draft to the next meeting.
- IM offered support to develop the logic modelling approach.
- Partners to form a small working group from mid – December to take this work forward with a view to providing initial drafts at the next Partnership meeting.

2. Subgroup Activity and Impact Reports

Subgroup 1 – Tackling Severe Poverty and Destitution & Building the Capacity of Individuals and Communities to Tackle Poverty

Context

IM provided a summary of recent activity highlighting success of Dumfries and Galloway Cash First Leaflets and risk of the huge reduction in donations to foodbanks.

Key Discussion Points

- Immediate action to promote donations was required.
- To explore if Regional Food Community Providers Network could help to coordinate a campaign with all food providers for short term urgency and potentially to work with Partnership in support of longer term proactive solutions.
- To be more strategic and consider food insecurity as part of winter planning.

- Food drive during Challenge Poverty Week involved schools and linked with food providers to help increase donations.
- A marked reduction in donors being in a financial position to donate.

Actions

- To link in with Community Food Network through Ingrid Gemmell and say Partnership willing to strategically support and help promote and support any immediate campaign.
- To proactively plan for food insecurity actions within the Partnership forward look being developed.

Subgroup 2 - Maximising Income and Reducing Debt of People in Poverty

Context

CS highlighted recent activity of increasing Free School Meals & Child Payment Grants Project, the lack of progress with development of the Referral Portal and the development of additional outreach services.

Key Discussion Points

- Many outreach services are provided by DAGCAS but difficulty in establishing demand of those who are not reaching out.
- Child Poverty dashboard has maps which could help see areas of demand.
- Helpful to share other organisations data about where people need help.

Action

- To coordinate activity to map out the support services available across the region.

Subgroup 3 – Reducing Financial Pressures on People in Poverty

Context

WJ highlighted Subgroup's focus had been on the Reducing Fuel Poverty Winter Warmth campaign and the good feedback from the Windfarm Trust Funding Networking Event which has resulted in £250,000 worth of applications

Key Discussion Points

- Improvement Service published indicators showed a slight improvement in child poverty due to cash provided to families during Covid recovery as funding barriers were reduced during this time.
- Funding opportunities with renewable energy companies exist across the region and should be maximised for community benefit.

Action

- To work with renewable companies to explore increased opportunities to secure and pathways to allocate funding available for community benefit.

Subgroup 4 - Child Poverty

Context

VW highlighted endorsement of Partnership to the proposal to rename the Child Poverty Subgroup and reform as Dumfries and Galloway Fairer Futures Partnership as focussing on the 100 Parents Project.

Key Discussion Points

- Need to further discuss and understand the rationale and impact of proposed change to the subgroup proposed.
- Will there be impact to membership, remit and how child poverty focus will feature.
- Subgroups were previously agreed by CPEG and change may be better considered in the development of the new strategy next year.
- Change could potentially provide a targeted focus for the subgroup.
- Opportunity to embed child poverty in each future subgroup.

Action

- LB to further discuss with AN, VW, EJM, IM and MM before endorsing any change

3. Good Food Nation Plan (GFN)

Context

Received a presentation from TL and PR which raised awareness of the GFN plan currently progressing through Parliamentary approval process highlighting opportunities for communities, services and key stakeholders to be involved in identifying and finding solutions to gaps or challenges in the food system. Once approved, a D&G place plan must be developed within 12 months.

Key Discussion Points

- Initial approval of criteria for place plans expected in December 25.
- Priorities of the GFN Plan align with the poverty strategy and would be useful to build on what already exists.
- The GFN Plan must have key deliverables and an impact, a long-term vision for Scotland and its relationship with food.

Actions

- To return to the Partnership with proposals for Partnership collaboration options for development of the Place plan.

4. Budget Consultation

Context

EJM provided the Partnership with the background to the current local government and council fiscal context; details of the consultation and engagement process relating to the Council Budget for 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027; and the opportunities available to the Partnership collectively and individually to comment on the current options

Key Discussion Points

- Duration of Budget consultation is short, given the potential impact.
- Impact Assessments for each proposal are not available to support consultation decisions.
- Many of the proposed options will have impact on tackling poverty and inequalities.

Actions

- To feedback concerns about Impact Assessments to Budget Consultation Team
- Encouraged to attend the targeted focus group for the Poverty and Inequalities Partnership on Wednesday 19th November from 10am -11.30am

5. Community Voices and/or Lived Experience Reflection/ Case Studies

Agreed to carry forward to the next meeting

6. Forward Plan of Corporate, Regional and Local activities which may impact our work.

Context

AN asked Partners to work together to develop a forward look calendar of organisational events, milestones and themed weeks across the region to help identify areas of common activity or particular milestones (ie Poverty Week) where collaborative resources and narrative can be shared in support of the target audiences.

Key Discussion Points

- Would proactively help identify opportunity for and support comms planning and collaborative activity.
- Example of the EDWG calendar as an example

Action

- JB and EJM to provide example of EDWG calendar to help progress initial development.
- Agreed to discuss further at a future meeting

7. AOB

No additional items raised.

8. Review and Close

Angela Nisbet provided a summary of the discussions and actions agreed.

Date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 14 January 2026 at Police HQ, Cornwall Mount, Dumfries DG1 1HP.

Meeting closed

Annex A – Attendees and Apologies

Partnership Members					
Angela Nisbet (AN)	Chair	Accepted	Christine Sinclair (CS)	Dumfries and Galloway Citizens Advice and Chair of Subgroup 2	Accepted
Joyce Adams (JA)	Police Scotland	Accepted	Joanne Threlkeld (JT)	Wheatley Homes South	Accepted
Stephen Bell (SB)	Police Scotland	Accepted	George Winters (GW)	SFRS	Accepted
Lynne Burgess (LB)	Employability Skills and Partnership Manager, Dumfries & Galloway Council (Chair of Subgroup 4)	Declined	Caroline Scott (CSc)	Social Security Scotland	Declined
Jeanette Byers (JBy)	Chair of Tackling Poverty Reference Group	Accepted	Sharon Ogilvie (SO)	South of Scotland Enterprise	Accepted
Kate Glendye (KG)	Dumfries and Galloway College	Accepted			
Wendy Jesson (WJ)	Poverty & Inequalities Development Officer, Dumfries & Galloway Council (Chair of Subgroup 3)	Accepted			
Scott Irving (SI)	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS)	Declined			
Jo Kopela (JK)	Public Health Improvement Manager, D&G HSCP	Declined	Supporting Attendees & Observers		
Thomasena Lochhead (TL)	Public Health Improvement Lead, D&G HSCP (<i>Substitute</i>)	Accepted	Jennifer Burns (JB)	Secretariat	Accepted
Pamela Lough (PM)	Tackling Poverty Reference Group Member	Declined	Carol Burnet (CB)	Wheatley Homes South	Accepted
Isabel McKnight (IM)	Third Sector Dumfries & Galloway (Chair of Subgroup 1)	Accepted	Pat Riley PR)	Principal Officer Partnership Support: (National Good Food Nation)	Accepted
Liz Manson (EJM)	Community Planning and Engagement Manager, Dumfries & Galloway Council	Accepted			
Mark Molloy (MM)	Dumfries & Galloway Council, Service Manager	Accepted			