

Dumfries and Galloway Community Planning Partnership

Local Outcomes Improvement Plan



End of Year Report

2024-2025

Dumfries &

Galloway

Together is
Better

Foreword

We are pleased to endorse the end-of-year report for our Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP) 2024/25. With agreement through our Community Planning Board, some changes have been made to this year's report - with a focus on personal testimonies and case studies to help demonstrate the positive impact that our work is having.

We have also considered a wide range of nationally available performance measures and mapped these against our 12 LOIP Outcomes to help ensure a strategic overview of areas where we are performing well and those areas where improvement is required compared with the national average.

During 2024/25 our Board have taken forward positive work around areas such as Community Wealth Building and how partners can increase their influence within local communities through the role that Anchor Organisations, such as the Council and NHS and other key partners, can play in supporting community empowerment through Asset Transfers, procuring locally and supporting local employment.

Working with our Youth Council, we have prioritised concerns around tobacco and vaping which included lobbying activity to Scottish Government and introducing a new training and awareness for practitioners.

While we are encouraged to see the Child Poverty rates in our region decreasing by more than 4%, we are aware that there is still much work to do. It is also positive to see that our participation rate in terms of those aged 16-19 entering employment, training or further education is increasing and sits above the national average.

We would like to thank all our partners for their hard work in supporting our communities across the region and look forward to reporting next year on the positive difference that we have made during 2025/26.

Stephen Thompson,
Leader, Dumfries and Galloway
Council

Mark Cook,
Chair, NHS Dumfries and Galloway

Co-Chairs, Dumfries and Galloway Community Planning Partnership Board
Community Planning Partnership Board

Community Planning Partnership Board Overview



During 2024/25, the Community Planning Partnership Board (CPPB) maintained the oversight and leadership for the implementation of our Local Outcomes Improvement Plan 2023 -2033 and also provided support and direction to our more recently established Community Planning Senior Leadership Team (CPSLT).

Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP) and Locality Plans | Community Planning

This led to a “LOIP Action Plan” being developed to provide partner focus around a number of identified priority work areas as follows:

- Anchor Organisations
- Community Wealth Building
- Tobacco and Vaping
- Locality Plan
- Digital
- Climate
- Reducing the disability employment gap
- Review of Plans/Strategies which contribute to our Community Planning model

Whilst four projects are still underway, four projects have been completed/are close to being completed. A summary of these is provided on the following two pages.

Anchor Organisations:

This work was led by the Director of Public Health, with support from Public Health Scotland (PHS). All Community Planning (CP) partners undertook a self-assessment using the PHS framework:

Harnessing the power of anchor institutions: a progression framework for Scottish organisations - Publications - Public Health Scotland

Key Insights:

- **Improved Understanding:** All CPP partners gained a clearer understanding of what it means to be an anchor organisation and the role they can play in supporting local communities.
- **Existing Strengths:** The assessment confirmed that partners are already engaged in a wide range of anchor activities.
- **Identifying Gaps and Opportunities:** The process helped highlight areas where anchor work could be strengthened. It also identified examples of best practice—such as Dumfries and Galloway Council’s leadership in community asset transfers, which earned a CoSLA Excellence Award—offering valuable learning opportunities for other partners.

What’s Next?

- Each CPP partner will reflect on their own anchor actions and identify opportunities to enhance their contribution.
- Collectively, the CPP will explore ways to build community wealth by strengthening local procurement practices.
- A case study highlighting this work is being prepared for sharing on the Public Health Scotland national website.

Strengthening Our Role in Community Wealth Building

South of Scotland Enterprise (SoSE) facilitated a series of five workshops, each focused on one of the five key pillars of Community Wealth Building (CWB). These sessions aimed to build a clearer picture of current CWB activity across the region and to support the development of a more coordinated and strategic approach.

Key Areas Explored:

- **Fair Work:** Exploring the future use and regional application of the Fair Work assessment tool.
- **Community Assets and Local Data:** Reviewing data on Community Asset Transfers, Local Place Plans, and Scottish Land Fund grant awards to understand local trends and opportunities.
- **Inclusive Ownership:** Identifying partner priorities around inclusive economic models, including support for the 239 social enterprises currently operating in the region.

What’s next?

A key objective of this work was to prepare for the formal introduction of the Community Wealth Building legislation, with the Community Wealth Building (Scotland) Bill being introduced on 20 March 2025 and is at “stage 1” of the process of becoming an Act. The insights gathered through these workshops will inform future planning and action across the region.

Tobacco and Vaping: Youth Concerns and Local Action

In 2023, the 10,000 Voices consultation with young people, led by the Council's Youth Work team, identified tobacco and vaping as the top priority issue facing young people in Dumfries and Galloway.

At the joint Community Planning Partnership Board (CPPB) meeting with the Dumfries and Galloway Youth Council in September 2024, it was agreed to:

- Develop a local position statement on tobacco and vaping
- Send formal letters to both the UK and Scottish Governments expressing concern about the growing impact of vaping on young people

Board Papers - Community Planning Partnership Board - 13 September 2024.pdf

This action helped raise the profile of the issue locally and nationally. A supportive response was received from Jenni Minto, Scottish Minister for Public Health and Women's Health, acknowledging the concerns raised.

To support frontline engagement, a training and awareness package has also been developed to help practitioners have informed, supportive conversations with young people about tobacco and vaping. This is available to access here: https://youtu.be/aO_7GDXPY8A

Locality Plan Development

Following the 2023 review of Community Planning, a new approach was agreed to better target areas of need across Dumfries and Galloway. In collaboration with Public Health Scotland, data was analysed to identify communities experiencing the highest levels of deprivation.

As a result, the Community Planning Partnership Board approved the development of a pilot Locality Plan for the Kirkconnel and Kelloholm area. This plan will focus on tackling inequalities through targeted actions across key priority areas, ensuring a place-based approach that reflects local needs and aspirations.

Priorities were focused around the key themes outlined in our Community Planning Poverty and Inequalities Strategy:

Theme 1 – Reducing financial pressures on people facing poverty

Theme 2 – Building individual and community resilience

Theme 3 – Addressing barriers to accessing Services

Theme 4 – Building organisation capacity to better tackle poverty

Theme 5 – Maximising income of people facing poverty

Theme 6 – Tackling severe and persistent poverty and destitution

Locality Planning in Action

Local officers collaborated closely with the community to review relevant data and existing plans for the area. This process helped identify key projects and activities that could effectively address local inequalities.

From this engagement, a set of realistic and achievable actions was developed in partnership with relevant organisations. These actions were incorporated into a Locality Action Plan, which received formal approval from the Community Planning Senior Leadership Team on 4 July 2025.

In addition to Kirkconnel and Kelloholm, other areas identified as priorities for future Locality Plans include parts of Annan, Dumfries, and Stranraer.

Community Planning Partnership Board

Key achievements

- Maintained a rotating Co-Chairing arrangement between the Council and NHS;
- Endorsed the Dumfries and Galloway Children's Right's Report 2020-2023 and agreed how CP partner input could be integrated into the next report;
- Provided comment and feedback on the development of a new Housing Strategy and committed resource to the Housing Emergency Action Plan;
- Contributed to the development of a new Physical Activity Strategy for our region;
- Engaged in facilitated discussion around the work of the Poverty and Inequalities Partnership and Resettlement Board;
- Considered findings and improvement actions stemming from the Education Scotland Community Learning and Development Progress Visit to Dumfries and Galloway in January 2024;
- Provided support and direction to the development of the Local Development Plan 3;
- Supported and contributed to a "Re-Population" project in response to "Tackling Scotland's Population Challenges;"
- Supported the COVID Remembering Together Project;
- Held a Joint meeting with the Dumfries and Galloway Youth Council and agreed joint improvement actions;
- Considered how the CPP can support the new Regional Economic Delivery Plan for 2025-2027;
- Engaged in discussion around the Alcohol and Drugs Partnership Annual Report;
- Considered support for Fair Funding for the Third Sector;
- Contributed to the consultation on the Population Health Strategy;
- Submitted an application to be part of the Collaboration for Health Equity Scotland project;
- Supported the establishment of a D&G Cultural Partnership and associated Delivery Plan;
- Participated in the Improvement Services' Community Planning self-evaluation exercise and development of an agreed an action plan.

How are we doing?*

*see Appendix for detailed breakdown of indicator trends

Theme – Health And Wellbeing

Regional Health and Wellbeing Overview

The ongoing Cost of Living crisis continues to significantly affect families across Dumfries and Galloway. The region currently experiences fuel poverty levels above the national average, with an upward trend indicating growing concern. Child Poverty rates have been above the national average, however latest data for 23/24 has shown a decline to 22.7% the lowest level since 2015 when records began. While median earnings remain below the national average, the earnings gap has narrowed slightly since 2020/21. In terms of health indicators:

- 1. Healthy life expectancy (HLE)** presents a mixed picture:
For females, there is a worsening trend over the past three years.
For males, HLE has remained relatively stable and above the national average.
- 2. Alcohol related hospital admissions** are showing a declining trend, with Dumfries and Galloway performing better than the national average. However, there has been a slight increase in alcohol related deaths between 2019/20 and 2023/24, though rates remain well below national levels.
- 3. Drug related deaths** rose between 2020/21 and 2022/23, but encouragingly, there was a sharp decline in 2023/24, bringing the rate well below the national average.
- 4. Child healthy weight** - Dumfries and Galloway has had a lower percentage of children of a healthy weight compared to the rest of Scotland but the latest data has shown increases in the percentage of children of a healthy weight.



Examples of successful projects linked to Health and Wellbeing:

Child Poverty

Key Successes - The most recent Local Child Poverty Action Report published in November 2024 highlighted the following achievements:

- 348 clients were supported to obtain financial assistance to the value of £220,000.
Of these, 95 clients had a successful intervention which prevented their situation progressing to eviction, with an average Homeless case costing the local authority £12,000 this potentially saved a total of £1.14 million.
- School clothing grants provided for 2,215 local children and young people and over 650 children and young people were assisted with 'back to school' and separately 'warm winter' clothes. Over 5150 items of school uniform and 3500 items of donated warm winter clothing were distributed at 7 events across the region.
- An expansion of the opportunities to access free sanitary products across council, health and third sector partners sites, with thousands of local families benefiting from the service.
- Dumfries and Galloway Council works in partnership with Dumfries and Galloway Citizens Advice Service to provide information services throughout the region. The LCPAR noted that this commission delivered income maximisation measures resulting in additional income of over £9.5 million for 3348 clients.
- The Youth Work team supported young people to produce a short film "Through Young Eyes" which explores how young people in our region perceive poverty and their own lived experience of poverty. **"Through Your Eyes" Launches | Dumfries and Galloway Council**. This was shared across CP partners and with Jenni Minto, Minister for Public Health and Councillor Paul Kelly, COSLA spokesperson for Health and Wellbeing at their visit to the CPP in November 2024.

Challenges/Issues

Following the most recent Child Poverty data being made available in July 2025, it highlighted that child poverty in Dumfries and Galloway has reduced from 26.9% in 2022/23 to 22.7% in 2023/24 and just below the national average which sits at 23%. During 2024 the Child Poverty subgroup undertook a service design led review workshop to understand how the group might support the achievement of better outcomes, work better together rearticulating the group purpose, vision and commitment and setting out next steps which included:

- Aligning the reporting functions of the subgroup to streamline work enabling a focus on impact and building on the themes identified in the workshop which were Direction, Partnership, Resources, Roles, Rurality and Humanity.
- Further developing the enabling and supporting actions with a focus on realistic measures, a responsive but not reactive partnership approach all building on the voice of lived experience.

Dumfries and Galloway Council Policy investment funding (£1.8M) taken forward through a range of Community Planning Partners. N.B. The following is a summary of 3 key projects which were evaluated using the "6 attributes for evaluation" approach which was developed using the RADAR European Foundation for Quality Management (EFQM) Model. The full evaluation report is available here: **[End of Year Evaluation - Appendix 1 - Final.pdf](#)**

Examples of successful projects linked to Health and Wellbeing:

Cost of Living

Welfare and Housing Options (£165,000)

Sound	Implemented	Results
This project is to support the Welfare and Housing Option (WHO) Support team to provide a seamless service which helps clients to sustain their tenancies, prevent evictions and address and reduce all debts. From April 2025 onwards, this Project will be moved to mainstream Dumfries and Galloway Council Funding.	Implemented to a huge range of customers requiring different support from tenant grants, discretionary housing payments (DHP), council tax reduction and crisis and homeless prevention grants. The Project continues to be implemented by specialist advisors to a huge number of customers requiring different levels of support which includes homeless prevention grants, discretionary housing payments, council tax reduction grants, crisis grants, housing payments, tenant grants along with additional support to maintain their tenancies.	In 2024/25 the Welfare and Housing Options team have assisted 396 clients. Assistance has been provided to address rent arrears and potential eviction. Clients have been helped to claim additional benefits with a value of £723,000, and address debts in other areas, such as Council Tax. A detailed case study highlighted the impact on a customer receiving support that included a wide range of support which is normal for every case completed. The customer advised this had been a huge and heavy rucksack on their back for so long and it had been lifted, and they could never repay and thank us enough for all the support and in clearing these arrears. It gave them an opportunity of a fresh start.

Fareshare Membership for Community Groups (£56,000)

Sound	Implemented	Results
To continue to provide Fareshare membership to 19 organisations throughout our Region with a total of 17 community groups in D and G supported providing surplus nutritious food from Fareshare. This Project provides surplus food on a weekly basis to Food Providers throughout our Region	Deployed across Dumfries and Galloway in different areas to create better balance of provision for customers. Fareshare Memberships were originally allocated with the aim to cover all areas of our Region. This provides a higher level of provision of surplus food than would otherwise be available within each area who benefit from Fareshare Memberships.	The Project results for 2024/2025 are as follows: Over 219 tonnes of food delivered through Fareshare, which in turn enabled foodbanks to provide essential supplies for 522,448 meals. This is an equivalent food costs of over £816, 670 with 211 tonnes of food diverted from landfill The project is making a significant impact with foodbank users/ customers who are single parents/ and working part time. Providing a range of food that otherwise wouldn't be possible given rise in costs of food in supermarkets along with increasing their capacity to cook has helped shield the families from more financial challenges. Fairshare continues to make a significantly large impact and reduction on food insecurity within our region.

Summer of Play programme for Children and Young People (£264,000)

Sound	Implemented	Results
The Summer of Play offer specifically targeted children and young people who sit within the six priority groups as included within our region's Children's Poverty Plan. All funding was used to distribute grants to Third Sector organisations and Council Services to run Summer activity programmes in local communities across Dumfries and Galloway. Grants were distributed following an application process, and applications were scored by an independent scoring panel.	The activities on offer were across all 12 Ward areas with a focus on food provision, were entirely free to access, as well as ensuring that this work was targeted towards children and young people from low income and vulnerable households, and also those who sit within the 6 - priority groups as identified in our regions Child Poverty Plan. Summer of Play supported 36 Third Sector organisations and 6 Council services to provide activities and programmes for our region's most vulnerable children and young people. As well as Service provision, the funding has also been used for significant investment into local communities and to support organisations and their staff	Through the Monitoring and Evaluation Reports that were submitted as part of the fund, we know that 9,417 unique children and young people in Dumfries and Galloway took part in at least one of the activities on offer. We were also able to look at the target groups as identified within the Children's Poverty Plan who accessed activities ran using Summer of Play funding: Lone Parent Families: 27% Families which include a disabled adult or child: 25% Larger Families (3 or more children): 23% Minority Ethnic Families: 8% Families with a child under 1 year old in the household: 12% Families where the mother is under 25 years of age: 5% The Summer of Play funding scheme has provided organisations with the means to do a significant amount of work in order to provide support and opportunities to our region's most vulnerable children and young people.



Mental Health support taken forward through Children's Services Strategic and Planning Partnership

Since the Covid-19 pandemic, demand for mental health support has increased both locally and nationally. We have seen more referrals to the School Nursing Service on mental health grounds, and we have more children and young people who are not attending school for anxiety-related reasons.

Actions

1. To ensure that all children and young people have access to the mental health and wellbeing support that they need when they need it. This includes a breadth of access, close to home and in a timely manner, matched to the needs expressed:

- Development of a Mental Health Pathway
- Development of web-based resources based on engagement with children, young people and parents/carers
- Addressing national priorities including the implementation of a range of low-level mental health and psychological approaches.

2. To ensure the recognition and early intervention for perinatal mental health issues and to improve access to psychological and mental health services. This includes:

- Development of an integrated care pathway that addresses identified gaps in specific areas – this is about addressing identified gaps, like support for birth- trauma and baby-loss, and working with service-users to identify further gaps and shape services.

The Mental Health Pathway was finalised during the reporting year, and is available here. [**Mental Health Pathway**](#)

Within the reporting period there have been events to launch the Pathway with different professional groups across our Children's Services partnership, and these will continue into the next reporting year. The Children Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) website is operational and this action can be signed off as complete CAMHS – Dumfries & Galloway Health & Social Care. Work is now taking place in the 2025-26 reporting period on access to online low level mental health interventions for children and young people. Youth Counselling in Schools continues to operate, with evaluation reports on this work available here:

[**About low-level mental health support in schools | Dumfries and Galloway Council**](#)

During the reporting year, a Health and Wellbeing public website has been launched, which includes specific areas just for education staff – this incorporates the Rights Respecting Schools approach and focuses on:

- Assessment of pupil wellbeing
- Resources to support the Health and Wellbeing curriculum
- Promoting Attendance
- Signposting to services within the mental health pathway
- A termly Health and Wellbeing newsletter signposts staff to new resources.

Key successes this year have included:

- Embedding of the Mental Health Pathway
- The continuation of Counselling in Schools
- Improved access to mental health supports for parents and babies

Alcohol and Drugs Partnership (ADP) – role out of Naloxone

Increasing Naloxone Provision

Naloxone can temporarily reduce the effects of an opiate overdose and prevent an overdose from becoming fatal. The Naloxone Working Group of the ADP meets every three months to promote the provision of “Take Home” Naloxone Kits across the region.

In 2023/24, Dumfries and Galloway ADP distributed 707 Take Home Naloxone Kits.

- Across Dumfries and Galloway, 252 police officers and 10 fire officers have been supplied with emergency Naloxone. This can be administered if they encounter someone who is experiencing a near fatal overdose.
- Community pharmacies across the region can now supply and administer emergency Naloxone kits.
- The custody suite can now distribute Naloxone.
- The Specialist Drug and Alcohol Service and “With You” also provide naloxone kits.



Case Study 1:

Active Lives Pathway

LOIP Outcome Contribution

LOIP Outcome 3: Improve the health and wellbeing of our citizens through targeted approaches.

Why is this project important?

Being physically active and maintaining muscle strength and balance is vital for independence and fall prevention. Yet, 74% of Scottish adults don't meet recommended physical activity and strength guidelines—equating to around 93,000 people in Dumfries and Galloway. Additionally, 22% of adults in the region are active for less than 30 minutes per week.

What did we do?

In November 2023, the Health and Social Care Partnership and Dumfries and Galloway Council launched the Active Lives Pathway (ALP). This free, community-based programme helps individuals referred by health and care professionals become more active. ALP supports early intervention and aligns with national priorities set by the Scottish Government and Public Health Scotland.

What impact has the project had on individuals?

Moving on participant

Before the gym, I was at deaths door and led a chaotic life!

The referral made to DG One meant everything to me and helped me a lot in both my mental and physical health ... I look great now.

It has brought my family together again, even got my nephew involved and has really helped us all.

It's good to wake up in the morning, have a purpose and it feels great.

No words can say what it has done for me.

Having someone attend with me now helps me massively as it can be really busy and I get anxious and mental health kicks in.

As I have got so much from this, I am looking at getting my son involved to give him a good start in life, developing other skills and having memories and mostly spending quality together.

Thank you for the opportunity this has given me in my recovery as it has been the best.

Active Lives Pathway - Year 1 Overview

November 2023-October 2024 (12 Months)

Programme duration 8-16 Weeks



Total Referrals 773



Gender

Male **40%**
Female **60%**



Age

52% 16-64 years
47% >65 Years
(1% = No data)



97% had a health condition, **60%** had **two or more** health conditions



Deprivation

Most deprived = 13%
Least deprived = 10%
8% of Dumfries and Galloway population live in the most deprived communities

How many participants started and finished their programme?

76% Started
56% Completed (from those starting)
40% Continued after initial programme



<https://dgdoingmore.co.uk/active-lives-pathway/>



Participant Postcode areas

DG1	153	20%
DG2	140	18%
DG3	16	2%
DG4	11	1%
DG5	23	3%
DG6	19	2%
DG7	50	7%
DG8	73	10%
DG9	103	13%
DG10	29	4%
DG11	51	7%
DG12	61	8%
DG13	6	1%
DG14	0	0%
DG15	0	0%
DG16	12	2%



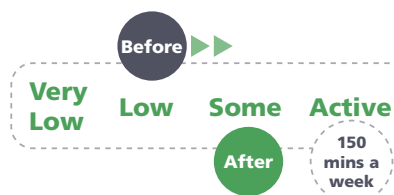
Communication

10,883

Active Lives Pathway web page views on DG Doing More

Physical Activity

Average levels of **physical activity increased***.



Participants went on average from **low activity to some activity**

IPAQ is the measure used.

Physical literacy **scores** of participants **increased***

(Motivation, confidence, competence, knowledge towards activity and the enjoyment of places)



Arm strengthening

The average number of day's participants undertook arm-strengthening activities increased by 1.17 days over the past week*



Strong arms are important to prevent damage from falls - stops head hitting pavement

Wellbeing

ONS Personal Wellbeing Questions

Life satisfaction

Average life satisfaction **scores increased***.
5.85 to 7.57 = 1.62 Rise

Life worthwhile

Average life worthwhile **scores increased***.
7.12 to 8.39 = 1.27 Increase

Happiness

Average happiness **scores increased***.
7.06 to 8.27 = 1.21 increase

Responses
0 = not at all satisfied
10 = satisfied



Health related quality of Life / Health status (EQ-5D)

- Participants reported improvements in mobility*, usual activities*, self-care, pain and anxiety
- Participants were asked to rate their health today on a scale of 0 (the worst health you can imagine) to 100 (the best health you can imagine).

Before 57*

After 66*

Benefits reported by participants

78% had fun
75% maintained / improved my fitness
75% met new people
71% maintained / improved my health
64% improved my mobility
35% felt less stressed
31% slept better
27% managed/reduced my pain

What did participants think of their programme?

94% liked how the programme was delivered
94% liked the staff delivering their programme
94% liked the programme venue
87% liked the organisation and length of their programme



Main reasons for referral

Musculoskeletal **21%**
Mental health **12%**
Long term condition **12%**
Inactive and/or sedentary **8%**
Cardiovascular secondary/respiratory disease **7%**



Referral source

Allied health professional **49%**
Community link **8%**
Self referral (tier 4) **8%**
Other - health and social care **6%**
GP practice **5%**
Mental health **5%**
Alcohol and drugs **4%**
Other **<3%**

Estimated economic return after 10 years (by 2033-2034)

A return on investment for the Active Lives Pathway was undertaken using Sport England's **MOVES Tool**. MOVES is a model that estimates the return on investment of programmes for the health sector.



Programme cost £22,468

(estimated average participant cost to Council x total participant starting programme)

NHS Treatment costs saved
-£151,546

Financial return on investment to NHS
£6.74
per £1 invested

QALY's gained
15

QALY return on investment
£13.37
per £1 invested

Disability Adjusted Life Years (DALY's) avoided
-17.1

Cases of disease avoided **10**
(e.g. 6.2 hip fractures / 1.7 dementia cases)

*Increases were statistically significant

Case Study 2: Tackling Fuel Poverty in Dumfries and Galloway

LOIP Outcome Contribution

LOIP Outcome 1: Help mitigate the impacts of the Cost of Living for those who are affected most

Background

Dumfries and Galloway faces disproportionately high levels of fuel poverty, with 37% of households affected—well above the Scottish average of 31%. Contributing factors include a high number of single pensioners, older housing stock, and 39% of homes being off the gas grid, relying on costly heating fuels like oil and LPG.

Project Overview

In response, the Dumfries & Galloway Poverty and Inequalities Partnership launched the Winter Warmth Project in November 2024. The initiative aimed to reduce fuel poverty through awareness, support, and direct aid. Key partners included:

- Lemon-Aid Fuel Poverty Project
- Dumfries and Galloway Council
- Citizens Advice Service
- Home Energy Scotland
- Scottish Fire and Rescue

- Third Sector Dumfries & Galloway
- Social Security Scotland
- NHS Dumfries and Galloway

Actions Taken

- Distributed 80,000 easy-read leaflets offering advice and contact details for support services.
- Targeted outreach to older residents with tailored messaging.
- Ran a media and social media campaign, featured on ITV and Border News.
- Provided winter warmth items including heated blankets, gloves, and mugs.

Impact

One notable success involved a self-referred resident struggling with energy debt. Through Lemon-Aid:

- A home visit was arranged to assess her situation.
- Accurate meter readings were submitted to her energy supplier.
- Applications for support resulted in £3,500 in grants, clearing her debt and leaving her account in credit.
- The resident reported improved mental and physical health, reduced anxiety, and better understanding of her energy usage.

Outcome

This project directly supports LOIP Outcome 1: Help mitigate the impacts of the Cost of Living for those who are affected most, by addressing fuel poverty and improving wellbeing for vulnerable residents.

Theme - Work

Work Overview

Employment and Economic Participation Overview

The participation rate measures the proportion of 16–19-year-olds entering employment, education, or training after leaving school. In 2024—94.4% of those aged 16-19 in Dumfries and Galloway were in positive destinations which is above Scotland at 92.7% and the highest rate on record since 2016, reflecting strong progress in youth engagement.

Job Market Activity: Job advertisements surged by 23.7% year-on-year and were 83.1% above 2019 monthly averages—more than double Scotland’s increase.

Employees pay increased by 2.5% in real terms in the year to January 2025, the highest increase of all Scottish areas.

In Dumfries and Galloway 19% of those aged 0-15 years lived in relative low-income families in 2024 - minus 1.3 percentage points from 20.3% in 2023.

However, several challenges remain under consideration:

- The percentage of workless households has reached a five-year high, currently sitting at 24.4%, significantly above the national average of 17.4%.
- While there has been some improvement in the proportion of people earning the Real Living Wage or more, the region still lags behind the national average.
- The percentage of residents receiving out-of-work benefits has increased over the past two years and is now 1% higher than the national average.
- Disability Employment Gap: At 42.2 percentage points, Dumfries and Galloway had the third highest gap in Scotland, significantly above the national average (30.7 p.p).

Examples of positive activity to support the theme of “Work”

Employability, Skills and Partnerships

Through No One Left Behind and UK Shared Prosperity Funds DGWorks was able to commission provision from public, private and third sector organisations across Dumfries and Galloway focusing support on tackling poverty, economic activity, the disability employment gap and on supporting young people who have experienced care.

Dumfries and Galloway Local Employability and Skills partnership (LEP) commissioned provision through the DG Works brand supported 1297 people in 2024-2025. Positive outcomes during 2024-25 included:

• Employment	202
• Apprenticeship	5
• Self-employed	22
• Full time education	56
• In work progression	6

Examples of positive activity to support the theme of “Work”

From Hesitation to Hustle – Empowering a Local Entrepreneur to Launch a Gardening and Cleaning Business

Individual case study example:

- “C” faced prolonged uncertainty about starting their own business and had little confidence in the viability of their plans. They were previously unemployed and unsure about acting, largely due to self-doubt and lack of practical support. The complexity of this case stemmed from their desire to pursue self-employment in a niche industry without prior structured business experience.
- C’s Triage Key Worker provided support including:
 - Exploring startup costs and financial planning
 - Guidance on pricing strategies and service promotion
 - Help with recordkeeping, client management, and social aspects of business
 - C received ongoing motivation, reassurance, and clear answers to all his operational questions.
- This resulted in a tangible outcome for C of full-time self-employment in Gardening and Cleaning services. C built a clear structure for their business, gained confidence, and began working with autonomy and purpose.
- Last word to C - ***“I can confidently say that Triage is an organization with professionals who, in my case, provided answers to all my questions, gave me motivation, and boosted my confidence. I am ready to confidently recommend this organisation.”***

Increasing income from employment – focus on parents

- Annual increases in the number of parents registered on and receiving support as part of the DG Works pipeline from 193 parents in 23-24 to 421 parents in 24-25 (an increase of 118%)
- Annual increases in parents from the priority families registered on and receiving support as part of the DG Works pipeline:

Priority Group	23-24	24-25	Increase
Lone Parents	77	164	113%
Child with disability	21	43	105%
Ethnic minority	21	49	133%
Child younger than 1	13	23	77%
Parent with a disability	17	43	153%
Young parent	13	34	162%
3+ children	38	83	118%

- Annual increases in parents registered and receiving support as part of DG Works progressing into employment, work experience, volunteering, education and self-employment. – from 38 in 23/24 to 90 in 24/25 an increase of 137%

Examples of positive activity to support the theme of “Work”

Tackling Child Poverty through employment - opening of Stranraer and Kirkconnel and Kelloholm Employability HUBs

The Kelloholm Employability Hub, based at Hillview Leisure Centre and led by the Kirkconnel and Kelloholm Development Trust, is a vital community initiative supported by the DGWorks Innovation Fund. It serves as a central access point for employability, wellbeing, and social inclusion services in a rural area facing significant socio-economic challenges

- 109 individuals engaged including parents, young people, and jobseekers.
- Regular sessions delivered three days a week, offering access to multi-agency support.
- Increased participation in community-led initiatives, including environmental education and softer skills development.

Established in October 2024, the Stranraer Employability Hub was created in response to local needs, identified through service design and community listening. Funded by the DGWorks Innovation Fund, the Hub provides a welcoming, flexible space for individuals, families, businesses, and organisations to connect. To date, the Hub has supported 55 individuals, offering tailored services that reduce barriers to employment and promote inclusive community engagement.

Tackling the Disability Employment Gap

The LEP commissioned [Halving the Disability Employment Gap](#) identified five objectives for tackling the disability employment gap including support for school leavers and a role for Dumfries and Galloway’s public sector employers to lead by example.

Placement Plus

Dumfries and Galloway Council has supported Placement Plus – a programme for people to gain paid experience in the workplace whilst also being supported by an employability key worker. The programme covers the cost of up to 30 hours per week for 26 weeks with additional funding for training. For the second iteration of the programme the focus was on supporting those with disabilities. There are 11 participants on the programme which is being independently evaluated.

Whole Family Support to Disabled young people and families

Following the recommendations in the LEP commissioned [Halving the Disability Employment Gap](#) report the LEP approved funding for three key workers to provide specialist support for young disabled people in their transition from secondary school into the world of work. The project commenced in October 2024 with key workers providing intensive one to one support and referrals up to 31st March 2025 were:

Area	Referrals
Annandale and Eskdale	26
Dumfries, Mid and Upper Nithsdale	35
Stewartry and Wigtownshire	31

Young people and their families are being supported with a focus on the young person’s transition into positive destinations including volunteering, work experience, education and employment. The project is being externally evaluated and the first phase of evaluation provided very positive feedback from young people, families and schools. The final evaluation will seek feedback from wider stakeholders.

Examples of positive activity to support the theme of “Work”

Increasing the Percentage of young adults (16-19 year olds) participating in education, training, or employment

Key Performance Measure	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
*Participation rates (those aged 16-19) leaving school and entering employment, education or training	91.89 (92.13)	91.9 (92.1)	93.3 (92.3)	94 (92.6)	94.4 (92.7)

*The region has been performing well in this key area with a very positive trend picture over the last 5 years.

This improvement journey has been a result of a comprehensive set of procedures and guidelines being in place to support all schools in ensuring that every young person has access to appropriate post-school opportunities. These measures are aligned with key national policies, including the National Improvement Framework, Curriculum for Excellence, No One Left Behind, and the 15–24 Learner Journey. The overarching aim is to enable all young people to navigate life transitions successfully, achieve personal goals, and develop the skills and confidence needed for their future.

Responsibility for this work sits within the strategic framework for school leavers and is overseen by the Quality Improvement Manager. This role involves close collaboration with School Leads for Employability, Developing the Young Workforce (DYW), Employability, Skills & Partnerships, and Skills Development Scotland (SDS).

The shared ambition is to achieve 100% positive destinations for school leavers. This is managed through:

- Universal support: Delivered by schools and SDS across all phases of education.
- Targeted interventions: Tailored to individual needs from S1 to S6, involving a range of partner organisations.

Together, these efforts ensure that every young person is equipped to make informed choices and transition confidently into further education, training, or employment.

Examples of positive activity to support the theme of “Work”

Community Learning and Development (CLD) Partnership contribution to work

The CLD Partnerships brings together various partner organisations who have a role to play in contributing to the CLD (Scotland) Regulations 2013 through the delivery of the CLD Plan. CLD Partners are aligned to providing a range of confidence building and health and well-being supports which progresses into accredited and non-accredited qualifications such as SQA Core Skills in literacy and numeracy; communication and problem solving. All these help to support progression through the stages of the employability pipeline. Through the reporting period:

- 2,926 adults recorded improvements in their own mental health and well-being
- 269 adults completed a national accredited award

Through the Employability and Education Workstream of the Resettlement Board, focused support has also been provided to New Scots and Asylum Seekers in terms of learning English through ESOL and gaining recognition for qualifications gained in their homelands, thus helping to support local employment. This has led to:

- 750 referrals being made with 450 ESOL assessments being completed
- An 80% success rate in British Council language tests
- Through the European Network of Information Centres (ENIC) process, 68 learners were supported to secure recognition of degree level qualifications undertaken outwith the Country

Case Study 3: Community Integration

LOIP Outcome Contribution

LOIP Outcome 5: Grow and maximise the potential of the working age population to help increase employability

LOIP Outcome 7: Increase volunteering opportunities to help develop skills, build capacity and support progression into employability

Background

Since the launch of the Homes for Ukraine Scheme in March 2022, 759 Ukrainian guests have been welcomed into Dumfries and Galloway. The Lifelong Learning Service, in partnership with the Dumfries and Galloway Resettlement Board, has played a key role in supporting these individuals through ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) and other adult learning opportunities.

Project Overview

To support integration, a structured ESOL learning pathway was developed in collaboration with Dumfries and Galloway College. The programme also included courses in creative writing, driving theory, digital skills (ICDL), and volunteering/job readiness, helping learners build confidence and practical skills for life and work in the region.

Case Study Focus: Olha Chesnova

Olha arrived in Dumfries and Galloway in 2023 with limited English and low confidence in her digital and professional skills. She enrolled in multiple courses, including:

- ESOL Speaking
- IELTS Preparation
- Creative Writing
- Driving Theory
- ICDL (Computer Skills)

Through regular attendance and active participation, Olha significantly improved her English, digital literacy, and confidence. Her learning journey led to:

- Volunteering opportunities
- Securing paid employment
- Achieving economic independence
- Gaining her own tenancy
- Her son's full integration into a local school

Olha now contributes to her community not only through work but also by volunteering at a local foodbank and supporting others on their resettlement journey.

Impact

This project directly supports community integration by empowering individuals with the language, skills, and confidence to thrive. Olha's story is a powerful example of how targeted support and inclusive learning can transform lives and strengthen communities.

In Olha's own words

Since joining lifelong learning courses and activities, I feel like a completely different person compared to when I first arrived. At the beginning, everything was new and quite overwhelming — a new country, a new language environment, and no clear idea how to move forward. I have gained so much more than just hard skills through my involvement.

The Creative Writing course gave me more than just writing skills — It gave me a creative outlet and introduced me to people who share the same outlook on life. It brought inspiration and helped me cope with everyday worries, making me feel less isolated.

I have built strong English skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening, and I feel much more confident using English in everyday life, whether it's speaking to people, reading important documents, or even helping my son with his schoolwork. My reading speed and understanding have improved a lot, thanks to learning techniques like scanning and skimming.

Passing the Driving Theory test was a huge achievement for me. I now understand the rules of the road here, which makes me feel more independent and closer to getting my full driving licence — something that will open even more doors for my and family.

Even though I am still working through the ICDL course, I already notice how my improved computer skills are helping me in my current job. I can create better materials for my students, and I feel more professional and organised.

Overall, through everything I've done with Lifelong Learning Service, I have built new skills, boosted my confidence, made new friendships, and found new opportunities for the future. It made me believe in myself again and feel that I am building a new, better life.



Case Study 4: Volunteering for Community Empowerment – Learners Together Forum

LOIP Outcome Contribution

LOIP Outcome 7: Increase volunteering opportunities to help develop skills, build capacity and support progression into employability

The Learners Together Forum, established in 2018 by the Lifelong Learning Service, empowers adult learners across Dumfries and Galloway to shape their own educational experiences. Volunteers from four ward areas actively contribute to identifying learning needs, co-designing course content, and advocating for inclusive, accessible education.

Why It Matters

Co-designing learning with adult learners ensures:

- **Relevance:** Courses reflect real-life needs and community priorities.
- **Empowerment:** Learners gain ownership and confidence.
- **Inclusivity:** Barriers such as language and access are addressed.
- **Community Strength:** Collaboration fosters resilience and connection.
- **Sustainability:** Programmes are more likely to endure and evolve.

What We Did

Forum volunteers play a vital role in:

- Identifying local learning needs
- Shaping course content and delivery methods
- Collaborating with tutors and coordinators
- Evaluating and improving existing programmes
- Championing inclusion for marginalized groups

Their efforts have helped secure over £90,000 in external funding, enabling a wide range of community learning opportunities, including:

- Literacy and numeracy classes
- Art and craft sessions for mental wellbeing
- Digital skills training and device access
- Cooking and First Aid classes
- British Sign Language courses
- Family events and free children's books
- Publication of adult learners' books

Impact on Individuals

Forum volunteers benefit from:

- Skill development in leadership, communication, and problem-solving
- Confidence building through active participation
- Social connection and reduced isolation
- Influence in shaping inclusive education
- Pathways to further opportunities in volunteering, training, and employment
- Sense of purpose and pride in supporting community learning

LEARNERS TOGETHER VOLUNTEER GROUP

Why is this important?

Our Learners Forum provides learners with the chance to shape their own learning.



Relevance
and Practicality



Empowerment
and Ownership

Inclusivity
and Equity



Community
Strengthening



Sustainability
and Impact

Sustainability
and Impact

What did we do?



Identify
Needs



Collaborate
with Providers



Champion
Inclusion

Identify
Needs
Shape
Content
Advise
Delivery
Raise
Funding

£
£90,000
IN FUNDING

Benefits to the community

ABC

Literacy &
Numeracy



Cooking



First Aid



Digital
learning



Art



Free books
for Children



Family
events



Publication
of learners'
books



Targeted
Support

What is the impact?



Skill
Development



Confidence
Building



Increase Social
Connection



Sense of
Purpose

In 2023, the group's achievements were nationally recognized with a learning award, celebrating their commitment to empowering communities through education.





Theme – Where We Live (Place)

Place Overview

Dumfries and Galloway continues to face challenges compared with other local authority areas. Although full fibre broadband coverage is increasing – currently at 26% - it remains significantly below the national average. Additionally, the proportion of business premises unable to access broadband speeds of at least 10Mbps is 2% higher than the national average, highlighting ongoing digital connectivity issues.

Access deprivation is another key concern. The latest SIMD data shows that 33.31% of the population live in the 15% most access-deprived areas – twice the national average. This reflects the differences rural communities face in accessing employment, education, healthcare, leisure, and transport services.

On a more positive note, recycling rates have improved significantly over the past 5 years and are now approaching the national average. Similarly, the proportion of households with an environmental certificate rated “C” or above has increased by 9% over the same period. However, this still sits 15% below the national average, indicating further scope for improvement in energy efficiency.

Examples of Climate related activity

Natural Capital Innovation Zone (NCIZ)

The NCIZ is a Scottish Government designation covering the South of Scotland, officially awarded in 2024. It positions Dumfries & Galloway and the Scottish Borders as a “living lab and learning hub” for climate and nature-positive innovation. The NCIZ is designed to accelerate solutions to biodiversity loss and climate change, supporting a green, fair, and flourishing regional economy.

Key features include:

- **Landscape-scale nature-based solutions:** Investment and innovation address market failures and create new opportunities, shifting traditional economic models towards a wellbeing economy.
- **Guiding principles:** Circular Economy (designing out waste and regenerating nature), Creativity (arts, storytelling, and innovation to shift culture), and Community Wealth Building (ensuring local people benefit from nature-positive change).
- **Collaborative partnerships:** The NCIZ is being driven forward by SOSE and delivered through strong cross-sector partnerships, including local authorities, third sector organisations, and community groups, and is an initiative that developed from the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal.

Regional Land Use Partnership (RLUP)

The RLUP is the delivery mechanism for the NCIZ, enabling collaborative, place-based decision-making about land use.

- **Purpose:** RLUPs bring together national and local government, communities, landowners, and stakeholders to optimise sustainable land use, addressing climate change and biodiversity loss.
- **Framework:** The South of Scotland RLUP pilot (2021–2024) developed the first Regional Land Use Framework (RLUF), setting out a vision and high-level principles for land-use decisions. This framework aligns with national policy and supports the wellbeing economy, housing, transport, and skills priorities.
- **Impact:** RLUPs facilitate landscape-scale projects, such as riparian woodland, regenerative agriculture, peatland and saltmarsh restoration, and community-led innovation, ensuring that local voices shape sustainable land management.

Natural Capital Training

Natural capital training is being rolled out internally by the Natural Capital team at SOSE, with the aim of building understanding and practical skills among staff. The long-term aim is to also deliver this training to partners.

- **Content:** Training covers the meaning and opportunity of natural capital and the, how to identify and report natural capital projects, and the application of nature-based solutions and circular economy approaches covering everything from small businesses to landscape scale.
- **Delivery:** Developed in collaboration with external experts and tailored to SOSE's needs, the training includes toolkits, videos, and group activities. It is designed to be engaging and relevant, supporting both internal staff and partner organisations across the NCIZ.

- **Outcomes:** The training is intended to improve reporting, raise awareness, and enable staff to support partners in realising the benefits of natural capital, linking to circularity and net zero.

Circular Economy (CE) Partnership with Zero Waste Scotland (ZWS)

The partnership with ZWS is a critical element of NCIZ delivery, embedding circular economy principles across the region.

- **Focus:** The partnership aims to deepen the evidence base, raise awareness, and address barriers to circularity, aligning with ZWS's Corporate Plan 2024–2030.
- **Activities:** Awareness raising, linking circularity with natural capital and delivering training packages and resources to embed these principles within business activity, both internally and with clients. Strengthening collaboration between both organisations and identifying opportunities for CE approaches with high impact and scale.
- **Impact:** The partnership supports regional economic bodies, strategic partnerships, and public sector organisations in adopting circular economy practices, boosting productivity, and unlocking investment. It also enables the development of demonstrator projects, such as the Dumfries Zero Waste Park, which supports recycling, waste reduction, and regeneration.

Case Study 5: Community Transport – Connecting Rural Lives

LOIP Outcome Contribution

LOIP Outcome 10: Improve transport connectivity across our region to increase opportunities to access employment, education and leisure, particularly in our most remote rural areas.

Background

Dumfries and Galloway is one of Scotland's most sparsely populated regions, with just 23 people per square kilometre compared to the national average of 69. Around one-third of residents live in remote rural areas, where public transport is limited and often not commercially viable. This lack of connectivity disproportionately affects low-income and vulnerable individuals, especially those without access to a private vehicle.

Project Overview

To address these challenges, Community Transport Operators across the region joined forces with statutory bodies including NHS Dumfries & Galloway, Dumfries and Galloway Council, and SWestrans through the Community Transport Strategic Development Group. Together, they developed a coordinated approach to improve transport access, particularly for non-emergency patient transport.

What has the impact been for the population?



83% of patients were over the age of 65

69% of the over 65s were over 75 years old



3,504
volunteer driver hours



Equating to
£42,778
at Nation Living Wage

What has been the impact on individuals?

B, an older resident living in a rural area of Dumfries and Galloway, was recently widowed and unable to drive. Living with restricted mobility and dementia, they couldn't use public transport and didn't qualify for the Scottish Ambulance Service's patient transport. With limited income, taxis were unaffordable.

Thanks to Galloway Community Transport, B's support worker arranged a door-to-door volunteer driver service to take them to a vital health appointment in Dumfries. The driver waited and returned them home safely. Without this service, B would have missed their appointment, potentially worsening their health.

Conclusion

This project demonstrates how community-led transport solutions can bridge critical gaps in rural connectivity, ensuring that even the most isolated residents can access essential services. It's a powerful example of how strategic collaboration and volunteering can transform lives and support inclusive, equitable access across Dumfries and Galloway.

Case Study 6:

Stranraer Borderlands Place Plan – A Community-Led Vision for the Future

LOIP Outcome Contribution:

LOIP Outcome 8: Work with our local communities to develop an inclusive, thriving economy and to promote Fair Work.

LOIP Outcome 11: Work with our communities to help reduce carbon emissions and positively combat Climate Change through education, behavioural change and supporting initiatives which will make a positive difference.

LOIP Outcome 12: Develop high quality, affordable homes to meet identified demand and improve the quality of lives of our communities.

Background

Stranraer was selected as one of five towns in Dumfries and Galloway to benefit from the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal. To access funding, a Place Plan was required—one that truly reflected the community's needs and aspirations. However, local residents were initially reluctant to engage, having experienced years of consultations with little visible impact.

What We Did

1. Connect

- A community-focused consultant led the process, starting with deep engagement:
- A launch event at the Millennium Centre
- A six-month information hub
- Outreach to schools, youth groups, clubs, and social groups
- 27 engagement events involving 2,849 participants
- Tools used included the Scottish Government's Place Standard Tool, ballot papers, and interactive boards

2. Collaborate

- Insights were grouped into five key themes:
- Quality of Life
- Work and Opportunity
- Play and Creativity
- Engagement and Climate
- Pride and Citizenship

A Co-Lab event helped identify and ballot six priority projects:

- East Pier Event Space
- Wet Weather Escapes
- The Big Makeover
- Revive: The Big Makeover
- Sanctuary Outdoor Nursery
- Dick's Hill Wellbeing Hub

3. Co-Design

A Town Team was formed, comprising local stakeholders from business, education, health, housing, and community sectors. This team:

- Oversaw the plan's development
- Ensured community ownership
- Will continue to guide project delivery

4. Create the Plan

The final Stranraer Place Plan was presented to elected members and the public, followed by a month-long consultation. It has now been approved and will inform the development of the Borderlands Town Investment Plan (BTIP).

Impact

- Community ownership restored through meaningful engagement
- Priority projects identified by the people of Stranraer
- A Town Team established to ensure long-term delivery and accountability
- A clear, community-driven roadmap for investment and regeneration
- Provision of Supported Accommodation for people with Complex Needs
- £710,000 secured from Scottish Government to support two key projects outlined in the Place Plan with a focus on town centre regeneration:

1. Town Centre Living – creation of new residential and enterprise spaces in the heart of the town; and
2. The Dickshill Community Hub – a new facility designed to service and empower the local community.

2. OUR MISSION

Mission

ONE VISION, ONE PLAN

Get locals on the same page.

Vision

ALL RISE ON THE TIDE

Put locals' first.

Prioritise actions that see Stranraer flourish and locals thrive.

**Locals include all newcomers who choose the Rhins as home - from Ukrainian guests to friends who cross the sea or Border.*

Values

- FAIR** → Let's be inclusive.
- GREEN** → Let's protect and enhance our environment.
- OPEN** → Let's be open to the new: try, learn, share, improve.

STRANRAER ACCENT

Stranraer has its own accent; literally and metaphorically. The Plan's Mission, Vision and Values emerged from conversations with locals about what they want for their town.

Stranraer, at the south western tip of Scotland and historically the short sea crossing to Northern Ireland, is renowned for its broad Galloway Irish accent with long, soft vowels ('laang, saaft'). There's a particular flavour to the folk. Kind, friendly, dry, witty, spiky, resilient, brave, unflappable, unassuming. There's an equanimity of spirit that could be characterised as: "nobody's better than me and I'm no better than anybody else."

We use the Scots word 'Stran' in this Plan to theme issues and ideas, reflecting the word that is the stem of Stranraer's name - the water or lifeblood that courses through the town, charting the flow of thoughts shared by locals.



Case Study 7: Housing Investment Plan – Creating Homes for Life

LOIP Outcome Contribution

LOIP Outcome 12: Develop high quality, affordable homes to help meet identified demand and improve the quality of lives of our communities

Why This Project Is Important

Through the Strategic Housing Investment Plan, Dumfries and Galloway Council partnered with Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) and the Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) to address a critical gap: the lack of appropriate supported accommodation for people with complex needs.

This initiative aligns with the Integration Joint Board (IJB) Strategic Plan by:

- Shifting care from institutional to community-based settings
- Protecting vulnerable adults
- Making better use of technology
- Ensuring people with complex learning disabilities and/or mental health needs can live in homes for life—adaptable to their changing needs



What We Did

- Three properties were reviewed for suitability. One, privately owned and managed by Progress Care, was identified as a priority for re-provision.
- Turning Point Scotland, the care provider, collaborated with the partnership to co-design a new, purpose-built development for the four residents.
- A second property, owned by Turning Point Scotland in a rural area, was also deemed unsuitable due to its age and location.
- In partnership with Loreburn Housing Association, the Council, Scottish Government, and HSCP, a new development was created in North West Dumfries on the site of a former derelict church.
- The result: 11 accessible bungalows in Lincluden, designed with input from health professionals and families, featuring level access, lower light switches, and other adaptations.

Impact on the Population

- Improved service efficiency: Consolidating three staff teams into one central location reduced travel time and overnight staffing needs.
- Cost savings: Moving to RSL-managed properties reduced rent and Housing Benefit costs.
- Strategic location: Proximity to services and support networks improved recruitment and retention of care staff.

Impact on Individuals

- Residents now live in modern, purpose-built homes that support their independence and wellbeing.
- Homes are equipped with assistive technology and designed to adapt to changing health needs.
- Individuals and families were involved throughout the process, ensuring the homes are truly fit for life.
- The project has future-proofed supported accommodation for a vulnerable group, reducing the need for disruptive moves later in life.

Appendix

Local Outcomes Improvement Plan

Indicator Trends

Key



Since the last reported figures, performance has decreased compared with previous Dumfries and Galloway figures



Since last report, performance has not changed



Since last report, performance has improved compared with previous Dumfries and Galloway figures



Longer term trend is improving compared with previous Dumfries and Galloway figures (i.e. positive impact)



Longer term trend is staying the same



Longer term trend is worsening compared with previous Dumfries and Galloway figures (i.e. negative impact)

Please note Scotland average figures included in brackets

*statistics are aggregated over a longer period

Theme – Health and Wellbeing

LOIP Outcome 1 – Help mitigate the impacts of the Cost of Living for those who are affected most

Key Performance Measure		2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Progress	Trend Status
Percentage of households in fuel poverty Source: Community Planning Outcomes profile (CPOP)	Dumfries and Galloway	28.83	29.28	29.74	30.2		Dumfries and Galloway (DG) is sitting higher than the national average (23.8) with the 4-year trend showing a worsening picture.	
	Scotland	(24.40)	(24.40)	(24.02)	(23.8)			
Percentage of employees earning the Real living wage or more (Percentage) Source: Scottish Government – Annual survey of hours and earnings:2023	Dumfries and Galloway			80.4	86	85	DG is currently sitting 4.4 percentage points below the national average (89.9), however the longer term trend has shown an improvement	
	Scotland			(85.5)	(90.6)	(89.9)		
Median earnings (residence based) Source: Office for National Statistics. Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings.	Dumfries and Galloway	515.80	552.20	585.70	605.00	682.20	DG is currently sitting below the national average (740) however the earnings gap has closed considerably compared with the 2020/21 figures.	
	Scotland	(595.00)	(619.90)	(641.30)	(709.40)	(740.00)		

Theme – Health and Wellbeing

LOIP Outcome 2 – Reduce health inequalities in the areas of our region which experience the greatest negative impacts

Key Performance Measure		2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Progress	Trend Status
Alcohol-related hospital admissions (Age-sex standardised rate per 100,000) Source: Scottish Public Health Observatory (ScotPHO)	Dumfries and Galloway	442.2	425.3	448.6	429	423.5	There has been a downward trend in this indicator over the past 20 years, with DG performing well against Scotland. The gap has begun to narrow in recent years as there has been a steeper decline across Scotland.	
	Scotland	(638.2)	(617.4)	(615.2)	(532)	(548.5)		
Alcohol-specific deaths (Age-sex standardised rate per 100,000)* Source: Scottish Public Health Observatory (ScotPHO)	Dumfries and Galloway	13.3	13.4	15.9	16.8		There has been a general increase in this indicator since around 2010, both nationally and within the region. DG has performed better than Scotland, though the gap is beginning to narrow.	
	Scotland	(20.7)	(21)	(21.4)	(21.8)			
Deaths under 75 years (Age-sex standardised rate per 100,000)* Source: Scottish Public Health Observatory (ScotPHO)	Dumfries and Galloway	378.2	405.1	421	425.6		DG has performed well against Scotland for many years, with the gap narrowing as premature mortality has increased in the region since around 2019/2020, possibly due to the pandemic. This has begun to level off in recent years.	
	Scotland	(435.7)	(447.3)	(453)	(447.7)			
Developmental concerns at 27-30 months (Percentage)* Source: Scottish Public Health Observatory (ScotPHO)	Dumfries and Galloway	15.6	15.6	17.2	19.2		This indicator has risen since around 2019/20, both nationally and within the region. DG has consistently performed less well against the national picture.	
	Scotland	(14.7)	(14.6)	(15.6)	(16.9)			

Theme – Health and Wellbeing

LOIP Outcome 2 – Reduce health inequalities in the areas of our region which experience the greatest negative impacts

Key Performance Measure		2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Progress	Trend Status
Drug- related hospital admissions (Age-sex standardised rate per 100,000)* Source: Scottish Public Health Observatory (ScotPHO)	Dumfries and Galloway	242.6	247.3	241.1	205.8	189.7	The pattern in DG has followed that of Scotland for many years, and continues to do so. There has been a general pattern of decline since around 2019/2020	
	Scotland	(224.6)	(237.8)	(233.4)	(201.5)	(181.2)		
Drug-related deaths (Age-sex standardised rate per 100,000)* Source: Scottish Public Health Observatory (ScotPHO)	Dumfries and Galloway	31.3	18.3	29.3	31.5	10.8	This indicator has shown a volatile picture at a regional level with often dramatic rises and falls year on year, falling lower and rising higher than national averages. Nationally, 2021 saw a peak with lower rates in subsequent years	
	Scotland	(24.9)	(25.9)	(25.8)	(20.2)	(22.6)		
Health Life expectancy, females (Years) * Source: Scottish Public Health Observatory (ScotPHO)	Dumfries and Galloway	62.5	61.4	59.2			Healthy Life Expectancy for women in DG has been declining and now sits lower than the national average	
	Scotland	(61.9)	(61.8)	(61.1)				
Health life expectancy males (Years) Source: Scottish Public Health Observatory (ScotPHO)	Dumfries and Galloway	62.4	63.1	62.3			HLE for men in DG has for some time been above that for men in Scotland and despite a recent decline, continues to be so.	
	Scotland	(61.7)	(60.9)	(60.4)				
Child Healthy Weight (Percentage) Source: Scottish Public Health Observatory (ScotPHO)	Dumfries and Galloway	74.9		71.1	73.2	75.6	There has been a consistent upward trend in this indicator, while closing the gap between the region and Scotland as a whole.	
	Scotland	(76.3)	(69.9)	(74.7)	(76.8)	(76.5)		

Theme – Health and Wellbeing

LOIP Outcome 3 – Improve the health and wellbeing of our citizens through targeted approaches

Key Performance Measure		2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Progress	Trend Status
People aged 65+ with high levels of care needs who are cared for at home (Percentage)	Dumfries and Galloway	40.4	41.6	41	41.8	41.4	The percentage of those being cared for at home has increased over the 5-year period and sits above the national average.	
Source: Scottish Public Health Observatory (ScotPHO)	Scotland	(35.5)	(37.6)	(36.7)	(36.4)	(36.9)		
Early Mortality (Number of European age standardised deaths for persons under 75 per 100,000 persons)	Dumfries and Galloway	388.8	392.1	450.6	434		There has been a slight decrease in numbers from 2021/22 but the longer-term trend has shown an increase.	
Source: Scottish Public Health Observatory (ScotPHO)	Scotland	(425.8)	(457.4)	(465.9)	(449)			
Emergency Admissions (Number of emergency hospital admissions (aged 65+) per 100,000 population (aged 65+))	Dumfries and Galloway	23773.2	22733.2	22308.6	21602.6	22157.8	There has been an increasing trend over the last 3 years but less than the 2019/20 figure and less than the national average.	
Source: Scottish Public Health Observatory (ScotPHO)	Scotland	(26253.5)	(24864.6)	(24159.2)	(23298.2)	(23998.6)		
Healthy Birth Weight (Percentage)	Dumfries and Galloway	82.3	81.2	79.6	79.6	79.9	Whilst there has been a small improvement in 2023/24, Dumfries and Galloway has remained below the national average for the last 3 reporting years.	
Source: Scottish Public Health Observatory (ScotPHO)	Scotland	(80.7)	(80.8)	(80.6)	(80.7)	(80.9)		
Unplanned Hospital Attendances (Number of emergency department attendances per 100,000 population)	Dumfries and Galloway	31255.64	22164.0	26626.78	29705.62		There has been an increasing trend over the last 3 years and consistently higher than the national average.	
Source: Scottish Public Health Observatory (ScotPHO)	Scotland	(25664.70)	(18629.30)	(23584.64)	(24101.58)			

Theme – Health and Wellbeing

LOIP Outcome 3 – Improve the health and wellbeing of our citizens through targeted approaches

Key Performance Measure		2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Progress	Trend Status
Well-being (Average score) Community Planning Outcomes profile(CPOP)	Dumfries and Galloway	7.7675	7.5	7.59	7.36		Whilst Dumfries and Galloway sits slightly above the national average there has been a year on year decline in terms of well-being satisfaction rates	
	Scotland	(7.4625)	(7.255)	(7.35)	(7.35)			
Adults meeting physical activity recommendations (Percentage) Source: Scottish Health Survey: statistics.gov.scot : Scottish Health Survey-Local area level data	Dumfries and Galloway	66	69	66	64		The trend picture is showing a slight decline in the % meeting the national recommended levels and slightly below the national average.	
	Scotland	(65)	(66)	(66)	(65)			
Women smoking during pregnancy (Percentage) Source: Scottish Public Health Observatory (ScotPHO)	Dumfries and Galloway			14.2	13.8	12.9	The trend picture has improved but is still well above the national average.	
	Scotland			(11.6)	(10.7)	(9.6)		
Women smoking during pregnancy in most deprived quintile (1) (Percentage) Source: Scottish Public Health Observatory (ScotPHO)	Dumfries and Galloway			24.7	22.7	21.8	The trend picture has improved but still higher than the national average.	
	Scotland			(22.1)	(20.4)	(18.2)		
Women smoking during pregnancy in least deprived quintile (5) (Percentage) Source: Scottish Public Health Observatory (ScotPHO)	Dumfries and Galloway			6.2	6.3	4.6	The trend picture has improved but still higher than the national average.	
	Scotland			(2.3)	(2.1)	(1.8)		

Theme – Health and Wellbeing

LOIP Outcome 4 – Work together as partners to eliminate child poverty

Key Performance Measure		2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Progress	Trend Status
Attainment (Average highest attainment)	Dumfries and Galloway	5.50	5.52	5.52	5.6		The latest trend shows that Dumfries and Galloway is on par with the national average.	
Source: Community Planning Outcomes profile(CPOP)	Scotland	(5.53)	(5.56)	(5.58)	(5.6)			
Families with Dependent Children eligible for Child Benefit (%)	Dumfries and Galloway	97.46	97.34	97.07	96.87	96.39	There has been a slight improvement over recent years but still well above the national average	
Source: UK Government, Child Benefit – annual release	Scotland	(93.03)	(92.53)	(92.12)	(91.68)	(90.79)		
Absolute Low Income	Dumfries and Galloway	17.3	15.2	14.4	15.8	15.5	The % in the region has remained consistently above the national average over the 5 year period but has show a recent slight improvement	
Please note percentage of children aged 0 to 15 years living in absolute low income households Source: Department for Work and Pensions. Children in Low Income Families	Scotland	(14.8)	(13.6)	(12.7)	(13.7)	(13.2)		
Relative Low Income	Dumfries and Galloway	23.2	19.2	19.4	20.5	19.2	The % has shown an improvement over the 5 year trend history but still sits well above the national average.	
Please note percentage of children aged 0 to 15 years living in relative low income households Source: Department for Work and Pensions. Children in Low Income Families	Scotland	(19.7)	(17.0)	(17.0)	(17.7)	(16.3)		
Child Poverty (Percentage)	Dumfries and Galloway	26.7	22.9	26	26.9	22.7	Child poverty rates decreased in 23/24 after being above the national average for the two years prior.	
Source: End Child Poverty : Local Child Poverty Statistics	Scotland	(23)	(24)	(24)	(24)	(23)		
Childcare (Estimated number of children registered with early learning and childcare services)	Dumfries and Galloway	22.2*	19.9*	19.44	19.53	19.53		
Source: Care Inspectorate – statistics and analysis	Scotland	(27.2)	(23.3)	(24.34)	(24.44)	(24.29)		

Theme – Work

LOIP Outcome 5 – Grown and maximise the potential of the working age population to help increase employability

Key Performance Measure		2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Progress	Trend Status
Dependency Ratio (Ratio) Source: Scottish Government statistics	Dumfries and Galloway	71.01	72.07	72.32	73.75		The dependency ratio has increased over the last 4 reporting years and is sitting well above the national average.	
	Scotland	(56.19)	(56.48)	(56.81)	(57.52)			
Participation rates (those aged 16-19) leaving school and entering employment, education or training Source: Skills Development Scotland – Annual Participation Measure	Dumfries and Galloway	91.89	91.9	93.3	94	94.4	The trend picture is at a 5 year high and above the national average.	
	Scotland	(92.13)	(92.1)	(92.3)	(92.6)	(92.7)		
Percentage of workless households Source: Office for National Statistics. Annual population survey - households by combined economic activity status	Dumfries and Galloway	18.1	23.7	22.6	22.5	24.4	The number of workless households is at a 5-year high and well above the national average.	
	Scotland	(17.7)	(18.1)	(18.6)	(17.8)	(17.4)		

Theme – Work

LOIP Outcome 6 – Address the skills and recruitment gaps in key sector specific posts to increase capacity, capabilities and ease workforce pressures

Key Performance Measure		2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Progress	Trend Status
Adults (16-64 years) with low or no qualifications (Percentage)	Dumfries and Galloway	8.8	8.9	9.7	7.0	3.8		
Source: Office for National Statistics. Annual Population Survey*	Scotland	(8.1)	(7.8)	(8.0)	(8.2)	(8.2)		

LOIP Outcome 7 – Increase volunteering opportunities to help develop skills, build capacity and support progression into employability

Key Performance Measure		2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Progress	Trend Status
Employment Rate (Percentage) (agreed 16 – 64)	Dumfries and Galloway	68.1	70.9	67.3	67.8	80*		↑
Source: Office for National Statistics. Annual Population Survey*	Scotland	(73.4)	(73.2)	(74.4)	(74.7)	(74.2)		
*Please note concerns nationally regarding accuracy of this figure as detailed in covering report.								
Employees earning the real living wage or more (Percent)	Dumfries and Galloway			80.4*	86	85*	There has been overall improvement since 2021/22 however below the national average.	↑
Source: Scottish Government Annual Survey of hours and earnings:2023	Scotland			(85.5)	(90.6)	(89.9)		
5 years % change in median income vs change in lowest quintile*	Dumfries and Galloway	-2.6	0.4	-7.8	-8.7	-5.8	Wages for those on lower incomes (25th percentile) have increased at a faster rate compared to those on median incomes (50th percentile) in the last five years in Dumfries and Galloway, but the gap between lower income and median earnings is still larger than in Scotland.	↓
Source: Office for National Statistics. Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings.	Scotland	(-2.0)	(-1.9)	(-4.3)	(-3.3)	(-4.8)		

Theme – Work

LOIP Outcome 7 – Increase volunteering opportunities to help develop skills, build capacity and support progression into employability

Key Performance Measure		2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Progress	Trend Status
Out of work Benefits (percentage) Source: Department for Work and Pensions. Benefit Combinations for Scotland - Data from May 2019.	Dumfries and Galloway	16.4	15.2	16	16.9	18.3	Over the last 4 years there is an increase in those receiving benefits and which sits above national average.	
	Scotland	(16.1)	(14.5)	(14.6)	(15.4)	(16.7)		
Gross value added (balanced) per head of population at current basic prices (Pounds) Source: Office of national statistics	Dumfries and Galloway	23906	22908	23772	25568		The gap has increased over the 4 year period compared with the national average.	
	Scotland	(27255)	(25745)	(27646)	(30419)			
Whether or not adults have done formal volunteering in the last 12 months by year Source: Scottish Household Survey	Dumfries and Galloway	20.8			18.7	20	The most recent trend indicates that D&G are now performing better than the national average.	
	Scotland	(26)			(21.6)	(18.4)		
Gross weekly earnings residence based (Mean GBP) Please note weekly pay for full time employees Source: Office for National Statistics. Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings	Dumfries and Galloway	515.80	552.20	585.70	605.00	682.20	Gross weekly earnings have continued to increase, however continue to sit well below the national average, however the gap has closed significantly since 2020.	
	Scotland	(595.00)	(619.90)	(641.30)	(709.40)	(740.00)		
Gross weekly earnings workplace based Source: Office for National Statistics. Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings	Dumfries and Galloway	507.30	562.10	560.70	599.90	676.30	The gross weekly earnings have increased, however the earnings gap compared to Scotland has continued to increase over the last 3 years and still sits well below the national average.	
	Scotland	(592.20)	(620.70)	(640.50)	(709.20)	(739.70)		

Theme – Work

LOIP Outcome 8 – Work with our local communities to develop an inclusive, thriving economy and to promote Fair Work

Key Performance Measure		2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Progress	Trend Status
Business Survival (Proportion of new enterprises surviving 3 years) Source: Community Planning Outcomes profile(CPOP)	Dumfries and Galloway	64.10	60	64.93	61.6		The survival rates compare well with the national average, but the D&G trend has worsened.	
	Scotland	(56.53)	(55.87)	(58.97)	(57.4)			
Disability Employment Gap of people aged 16 to 64 Source: Office for National Statistics. Annual Population Survey	Dumfries and Galloway	39.5	37.6	43.6	31.7	46.8	Whilst the trend picture is negative and above the national average there is some concern over the reliability of these figures and therefore should be treated with caution.	
	Scotland	(33.1)	(32.5)	(31.3)	(30.5)	(30)		
Fragility (Index) Source: Community Planning Outcomes profile(CPOP)	Dumfries and Galloway	108.3	109.2	110.1	111		The fragility index is a combined index of three measures: depopulation, old age dependency ratio (ratio of those aged 65 plus against those aged 16 to 64 years) and rural depopulation. Dumfries and Galloway and Scotland's fragility index measure continues to increase over time, indicating a worsening trend in these measures, with this being a worse issue in Dumfries and Galloway than in Scotland.	
	Scotland	(106.88)	(107.52)	(108.17)	(109.2)			
Gender Pay Gap (Ratio) Source: Office for National Statistics. Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings. N.B. a positive number indicates females earning more than males	Dumfries and Galloway	21.4	21.4	15.3	23.3	7.4	This is a long-standing issue around male pay being particularly poor in Dumfries and Galloway compared to Scotland. The gap between male pay and female pay in Dumfries and Galloway has narrowed in recent years, yet male pay is still lower than female pay, unlike the gender pay gap in Scotland. There are a number of explanations, such as low paying industry sectors i.e. agriculture and public sector being one of the largest and highest paying sectors.	
	Scotland	(-2.9)	(-3.0)	(-3.0)	(-1.4)	(-2.2)		

Theme – Where we live (Place)

LOIP Outcome 9 – Capitalise on opportunities to collaborate digitally and eliminate digital exclusion

Key Performance Measure		2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Progress	Trend Status
Full fibre coverage of premises (%)	Dumfries and Galloway	4	6	8	19	26	Whilst its is an improving picture the trend is significantly lower than the national average.	
Source:OFCOM	Scotland	(8)	(16)	(26)	(39)	(52)		
>=30Mbit/s coverage of premises (%)	Dumfries and Galloway	84	85	85	88	90	Trend dhows an improving picture over the 5 year period.	
Source:OFCOM	Scotland	(92)	(93)	(93)	(94)	(95)		
Premises unable to access 10Mbs broadband (%)	Dumfries and Galloway	9	8	9	6	5	Trend shows an improving picture over the 5 year period.	
Source:OFCOM	Scotland	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)		

LOIP Outcome 10 – Improve transport connectivity across our region to increase opportunities to access employment, education and leisure, particularly in our most rural areas

Key Performance Measure		2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Progress	Trend Status
SIMD Access (Percentage of people living in 15% 'most access' deprived areas)	Dumfries and Galloway	32.6	32.7	32.6			The % of people living in access deprived SIMD areas has remained at a similar level over the 3 year period, however is nearly double the national average.	
Source: The Scottish Government. Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020; National Records of Scotland. Small-area Population Estimates.	Scotland	(15.8)	(16.2)	(16.4)				

LOIP Outcome 11 – Work with our communities to help reduce Carbon Emissions and positively combat Climate Change through education, behavioural change and supporting initiatives which will make a positive difference

Key Performance Measure		2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Progress	Trend Status
Carbon Emissions (Carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions per capita)	Dumfries and Galloway	6.63	5.99	6.84	5.7		The five year trend shows an improving picture, however sitting higher than the national average.	
Source: Community Planning Outcomes profile(CPOP)	Scotland	(4.66)	(4.12)	(4.56)	(4.3)			
Percentage of household waste recycled	Dumfries and Galloway	29.52	30.10	39.83	45.05	41.2	The five year trend shows an improving picture.	
	Scotland	(44.85)	(42.01)	(43.00)	(43.34)	(43.5)		

LOIP Outcome 12 – Develop high quality, affordable homes to help meet identified demand and improve the quality of lives of our communities

Key Performance Measure		2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Progress	Trend Status
Crime Rate (per 10,000 working age population)	Dumfries and Galloway	570	555	588	530	541	The 5-year trend has shown an improvement, with the last 2 years being below the national average	
Source: Scottish Government Recorded Crimes in Scotland	Scotland	(564)	(554)	(529)	(531)	(546)		
% of Dwellings with Rising or Penetrating Damp	Dumfries and Galloway	6.2	Data no longer available					
Source: Scottish House Condition Survey	Scotland	(2.5)						

% of dwellings with wall insulation	Dumfries and Galloway	57	Data no longer available					
Source:Scottish House Condition Survey	Scotland	(59.2)						
Dwelling Fires (Number of dwelling fires per 100,000 population)	Dumfries and Galloway	65.83	49.90	61.83	60.4		↑	
Source: Community Planning Outcome Profiles	Scotland	(89.50)	(85.29)	(84.52)	(79.02)			
Percentage of dwellings with an Environmental Performance Certificate band C or above	Dumfries and Galloway	40	33.82	39.07	34.65	49.03	The five year trend has shown an overall improvement but still well below the national average.	↑
Source: Scottish Government: Domestic Energy Performance Certificates	Scotland	(60.75)	(63.07)	(64.8)	(66.53)	(64.56)		
Common Assault (per 10,000 population)	Dumfries and Galloway	119	104	123	104	120	There have been fluctuations across the 5 year reporting period with Dumfries and Galloway sitting above the national average	↔
Source: Scottish Government Recorded Crimes in Scotland	Scotland	(107)	(96)	(108)	(106)	(108)		
Breach of the peace (Crude rate per 10,000 population) N.B. now classed under “Threatening / Abusive Behaviour”	Dumfries and Galloway	124	117	136	121	114	Whilst the D&G trend has continued to decrease over the last 3 years, the current figures are sitting above the national average.	↑
Source: Scottish Government Recorded Crimes in Scotland	Scotland	(91)	(90)	(88)	(80)	(78)		
Road traffic accident casualties (Age-sex standardised rate per 100,000)*	Dumfries and Galloway	69.2		69.8			↔	
		(54.7)		(51)				
Source: Scottish Public Health Observatory (ScotPHO)	Scotland							

