

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 14 January 2026; and the verbal updates on Good Food Nation and the results of the TPRG Elections with a new Chair Keith Drysdale and Vice Chair Pamela Lough.

Pre Meeting Activity

Context

VW, Director of Public, NHS D&G showcased how their work supports the Poverty and Inequality Strategy and Partnership and benefits from its collective impact.

Key Discussion Points

- Scotland's Health Framework
- Healthy life expectancy has gone down in Scotland and Dumfries and Galloway, and it is socially patterned
- Whole system approach to identify solutions involving not only involving Health, but also Council, Third Sector and communities; to come together to make a difference
- Changes in procurement legislation will allow opportunities for more flexibility and collaboration

Action

- Agreed to share the presentation
- Members to promote the NHS Community Benefits portal to known third sector organisations.
- SOSE also has examples of the use of this available support through Scottish Land Fund (SLF) to promote

Noted it was Liz Manson's last meeting and MM would be the Council representative; the Chair on behalf of the Partnership thanked Liz for all her hard work and wished her a long and healthy retirement.

Substantive Items

1. 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

Key Discussion Points

- New funding routes identified and service map being developed re food bank supplies
- It had been an anxious time because of budgets, but the outlook was less bleak
- Benefit of participatory budgeting
- Revised action plan being developed

Actions

- To send food campaign for winter 2026 to MM and Regional Food Community Providers Network
- Building forward plan to track timely support for regional Food Providers.

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

Context

CS highlighted recent activity of increasing the uptake of Free School Meals and Child Payment Grants Project. Also the key highlights of a recent presentation on trying to prevent the rise of illegal money laundering activity across the region.

Key Discussion Points

- Delay in producing promotion materials
- Lots of debt problems experienced by individuals are for everyday living
- Need to be aware of protocols and routes to signpost for help
- All actions within the action plan reviewed and are being delivered with exception of those linked to the Referral Portal.

Action

- To circulate the presentation given to Subgroup 2 from the Illegal Money Lending Unit.

Subgroup 3 – Reducing Financial Pressures on People in Poverty

Context

MM highlighted pressure on third sector members as a result of increase in levels of referrals / contacts which each of the Subgroup 3 Projects produce; Thistle Credit Union using DAGCAS as a base; Young Person's Credit Union (16-25 year olds) based within Youth Services in Dumfries; and a hub and spoke method will be used throughout the region for a 12 month period.

Subgroup 4 – Dumfries and Galloway Fairer Futures Partnership

Context

LB highlighted ongoing refresh of the Subgroup; a service design workshop will be held on 17 March; Local Child Poverty Action Plan will be reported on earlier so that aligned with the local Poverty and Inequalities Strategy.

Action

- Work on Child Poverty Dashboard is ongoing and will be useful for everyone

2. D&G Poverty and Inequality Strategy

Context

MM provided an update on the workshop agenda for CPPB on 13 March to help develop the next Tackling Poverty and Inequalities Strategy 2027-2031.

Key Discussion Points

- Partner's support to help with next step of community engagement considering consultation fatigue
- Opportunities to make links with Participation and Engagement Working Group

Actions

- Each Subgroup to provide AN with headlines about what they have achieved, impact on people and organisations
- MM to convene and chair a short life working group to look at proposed plan for community engagement shaped by feedback from the Board

3. Partnership Budgets

Context

Partners provided an update on budget issues which impact on poverty and inequalities

Key Discussion Points

- Increased funding for school management to help children in poverty with the cost of the school day
- £630,000 discretionary grants will be recurring

- DAGCAS funding challenges will impact staffing and services provided especially in Wigtownshire
- Need to investigate alternative funding solutions – opportunity for participatory budgets to joint fund projects, positive stories about philanthropy in Ayrshire.
- NHS will need to change how they provide services to get back to a balanced budget
- Increase in safeguarding issues where individuals not getting the support they require reported by all services

Action

- To keep focussed on alternative funding opportunities

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

Context

AN presented the forward look calendar of organisational events, milestones and themed weeks across the region.

Key Discussion Points

- Easter Eggs for foodbanks
- Helping promote Volunteer's Week

Action

- EJM and IG will look at Easter Egg campaign
- TSDG and DAGCAS will connect to look at promoting Volunteers Week
- Forward any activity to AN who will populate the forward plan

6. AOB

No additional items raised.

7. Review and Close

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

Date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 13 May 2026 at a venue to be confirmed.

Meeting closed

Annex A – Attendees and Apologies

Partnership Members					
Angela Nisbet (AN)	Chair	Accepted	Sharon Ogilvie (SO)	South of Scotland Enterprise	Accepted
Lynne Burgess (LB)	Employability Skills and Partnership Manager, Dumfries & Galloway Council (Chair of Subgroup 4)	Accepted	Caroline Scott (CSc)	Social Security Scotland	Declined
Paul Dodds (PD)	Police Scotland	Accepted	Christine Sinclair (CS)	Dumfries and Galloway Citizens Advice and Chair of Subgroup 2	Accepted
Kate Glendye (KG)	Dumfries and Galloway College	Declined	Joanne Threlkeld (JT)	Wheatley Homes South	Declined
Wendy Jesson (WJ)	Poverty & Inequalities Development Officer, Dumfries & Galloway Council (Chair of Subgroup 3)	Declined	Valerie White (VW)	<u>Director of Public Health, NHS D&G</u>	Accepted
Scott Irving (SI)	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS)	Declined			
Paula Morgan Kilpatrick (PMK)	Social Security Scotland (<i>Substitute</i>)	Accepted			
Jo Kopela (JK)	Public Health Improvement Manager, D&G HSCP	Declined	Supporting Attendees & Observers		
Pamela Lough (PM)	Tackling Poverty Reference Group Member	Declined	Jennifer Burns (JB)	Secretariat	Accepted
Isabel McKnight (IM)	Third Sector Dumfries & Galloway (Chair of Subgroup 1)	Accepted			
Liz Manson (EJM)	Community Planning and Engagement Manager, Dumfries & Galloway Council	Accepted			
Mark Molloy (MM)	Dumfries & Galloway Council, Service Manager	Accepted			