

COMMUNITY PLANNING
**ANNUAL
REPORT
2020-21**





Community Planning West Dunbartonshire (CPWD)

Community Planning is about how public bodies work with each other, and with local communities, to design and deliver better services that make a real difference to people's lives.

We strive to improve the lives of West Dunbartonshire residents by bringing together local public services with the communities they serve. We want to design and deliver services together, with a focus on specific local circumstances.

As a partnership we work together to improve local services and to ensure that they meet the needs of local communities, and individuals, especially those most in need.

Progress 2020/21

This Annual Report updates on the priorities and outcomes set by Community Planning West Dunbartonshire in the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) 2017 - 2027.

The Annual Report, as required through the Community Empowerment Act, provides an overview to residents of the progress made in improving key priority areas.

This has been an exceptional year with the unprecedented pandemic which required the deployment of resources of our Community Planning partners across West Dunbartonshire to support immediate impacts and need.

This progress report reflects an honest picture of where delivery on actions and outcomes have been impacted.

For example: increases in hospital attendance, impacts on well-being and on child poverty. We are working hard to take actions as a partnership to address this in 2021-22.

Community Planning West Dunbartonshire is working with, and for, communities to improve outcomes and the case studies in this report illustrate positive partnership working.



a flourishing

West Dunbartonshire



- ◇ increased and better quality learning and employment opportunities
- ◇ enhanced quality and availability of affordable housing options
- ◇ our economy is diverse and dynamic, creating opportunities for everyone
- ◇ our local communities are sustainable and attractive

In the last year:

- ✓ median earnings have increased to £428.17
- ✓ the employment rate has increased for the fourth year
- ✓ fewer people are claiming out of work benefits for the third year
- ✗ fewer new businesses are surviving three years or more



Your Community Walkabouts

Walkabouts are planned regularly as part of the Your Community Initiative to allow the Council, partners and communities to work together to deliver improvements in West Dunbartonshire. Local people are encouraged to get involved and help make a positive difference to their neighbourhoods, and are able to identify any issues so that we can work with them and partners to find solutions, as well as prioritise areas to focus improvements. The event in Castlehill was attended by representatives from the Council and Police Scotland, as well as pupils from nearby schools and residents.

India Street Improvements

This project was identified following engagement with local community, and together ideas were generated to improve a neglected area of greenspace. The communities team supported the local community to bring their ideas to life, as well as take back ownership of the area and build on any improvements that were made. The project was a result of partnership working from Central Alexandria Tenants and Residents Association, WDC Greenspace, Community Payback, a Community Artists, WDC Libraries and more and long-lasting improvements including benches, picnic table and the new mural mean that local residents and those using the national cycle network along the riverside can enjoy the area.

Clydebank Can on the Canal

The Council is working with a range of local groups to create a new activity centre on the banks of the canal in Clydebank, including Scottish Canals, Community Links Scotland, Ysortit, Awestruck Academy, Clydebank Housing Association and Centre 81. The project, which will introduce a range of activities for local residents and visitors, with the potential to offer bike hire and repair; kayaking and canoeing hire and

tuition; a meeting place for clubs and classes, as well as a small kitchen for healthy snacks. It will also give residents direct access to the canal and improve links to the town centre. The project came about following feedback from the Clydebank charettes which requested more activity brought to the town centre and projects which could make better use of the Canal.

Viresco Studios

West Dunbartonshire Council, working in partnership with local charity Viresco Studios SCIO, has been awarded funding to create an arts and creative venue in a derelict church. The £750,000 grant from the Scottish Government's Regeneration Capital Grant Fund will go towards plans to transform the B-Listed former St Andrew's Church in Alexandria, creating studios, workshops, training space, event and exhibition areas and a cafe. The creation of Viresco Studios and Arts Centre will encourage wider participation in the arts, creative enterprises and cultural activity in the area. The programme will also engage local residents, offering them the opportunity to work alongside artists to bring their own designs to life.

Tool Library

Residents brought their broken tools to be mended at the launch of the tool library. The new service at Alexandria Library provides residents unique access to support and tuition to fix broken equipment. It is part of the social enterprise Rag & Bone project, which also allows residents to borrow equipment, with a view to cutting down on cost and reducing waste. Residents brought along their broken belongings and also learned how to fix them with support from the volunteers and staff. The Rag and Bone Project was founded 18 months ago, and offers members access to tools for DIY, gardening, decorating and machine repair for a small membership fee.

an independent West Dunbartonshire



- ◇ adults and older people are able to live independently in the community
- ◇ quality of life is improved for our older residents
- ◇ housing options are responsive to changing need over time

In the last year:

- ✓ mortality rates have decreased
- ✗ unplanned emergency hospital attendances have increased
- ✗ emergency hospital admissions have increased
- ✗ wellbeing has deteriorated slightly



Improving the cancer journey

A pioneering service for people affected by cancer in West Dunbartonshire has supported more than 300 people in its first year.

Macmillan Improving the Cancer Journey (ICJ), which is a partnership between West Dunbartonshire Council and Macmillan Cancer Support, offers all newly-diagnosed adults the opportunity to meet with a dedicated support worker on a one-to-one basis. The worker will then help the patient access a wide range of support, from benefits advice and emotional support to help at home or with other practical needs.

As well as supporting over 300 people who have been diagnosed with cancer, the team has generated £427,000 in benefit entitlement for service users, by supporting them to navigate and understand what they are entitled to. In addition, the team has secured practical items for vulnerable service users including two new central heating systems, three new boilers and 17 new white goods for residents who required them due to changes in their circumstances. All of the items have been provided to West Dunbartonshire residents free of charge through the Macmillan Warm at Home scheme.

£427,000
in benefit
entitlement
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users

In addition, the service has made numerous referrals to Occupational Therapy to ensure people are allocated any item that will support them through their cancer journey, including grab rails, chair lifts, new steps and new showers. Counselling and clinical psychology referrals have also been made to help people receive the psychological support they need following their diagnosis. In partnership with West Dunbartonshire Leisure Trust's Live Active Programme, the ICJ team have also provided opportunities to help service users improve physical fitness, as well as build friendships and resilience.

Dementia Friendly West Dunbartonshire (DFWD)

This initiative brings together partners from a range of services across the statutory, voluntary and independent sector to increase day-to-day community support for people with dementia and their carers.

Born from community feedback received as part of a Change Fund research survey, DFWD takes a community development approach to promoting awareness and active citizenship and offers free awareness training to individuals, community groups, businesses and agencies in return for a pledge of commitment to help now or in the future. To date over 6,000 individuals have participated with almost 75% making good on their pledge within 3 months of attending a session.

Ongoing work will feature on integrated the Purple Alert and Herbert Protocol initiatives into local practice, further strengthening community engagement in this important field of activity.

a nurtured

West Dunbartonshire



- ◇ all West Dunbartonshire children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed
- ◇ families are supported in accessing education, learning and attainment opportunities
- ◇ improved life chances for all children, young people and families

In the last year:

- ✓ more babies have been born with a healthy birthweight
- ✓ more young people have gone on to a positive destination on leaving school
- ✓ educational attainment levels have been maintained
- ✗ the BMI of Primary 1 children has increased
- ✗ child poverty rates have increased



Holiday Hunger

The WD Holiday Hunger Programme recognises that 33% of our children live in poverty and 28% currently receive free school meals.

The impact of COVID upon food poverty amongst local families in 2020, was evidenced by a 30% increase in Holiday Hunger participation/demand on 2019 figures.

Led by Educational Services, Holiday Hunger 2020 involved successful partnership working across the council including Education, Pupil & Family Support Officers, schools, W4U, Facilities Management and WD Leisure and the Nurtured Deliver and Improvement Group. Supported by 14 community based 3rd sector partners across West Dunbartonshire such as Y Sort-It, Haldane Youth Service, Golden Friendships, Centre81, Made with Love and Tulloch. Delivery of the programme was adapted to meet the restrictions of COVID and it's impact on local families.

By working collaboratively it is estimated that Holiday Hunger 2020 actively supported more than 21,000 young people and families. Working together with local community groups 14,700 packed lunches, family weekly brunch bags and activity packs were distributed during the Easter and Summer school holidays. Any uncollected lunches were redistributed to local families and to shielded members of the community. 1,524 4 - 17 year olds participated in 6 free activity projects across the authority during summer 2020, learning news skills, exploring their environment and undertaking inter-generational work linking up with Strathleven Care home.



14,700 packed lunches distributed

Pupil Equity Funding St Peter the Apostle

Learning Community have continued to implement a project which is developing Approaches to Enhanced Transition. This has resulted in a reduction in exclusion data and improved well-being outcomes for target groups with a specific focus on learners in SIMD 1+2. Improved partnership working including health, social work, psychological services and 3rd sector organisations have been developed and improved parental engagement in supporting learner participation in enhanced transition opportunities.

The Care Experienced fund focused on six main work-streams identified by multi-agency partners as addressing the needs of care experienced children and young people from Early Years to Senior Phase. These included:

- **Increasing mentoring opportunities via MCR Pathways and Y-Sort-it**
- **Developing the Interrupted Learner Service to include community classroom approaches and increase engagement opportunities with school and community partners**
- **Developing Family Group Therapy in order to support and maintain family placements**
- **Supporting community engagement with Youth Alliance and development of Care Connectors programme**
- **Supporting the language acquisition and development of 3-5 year olds and the capacity of their parents to help with this.**

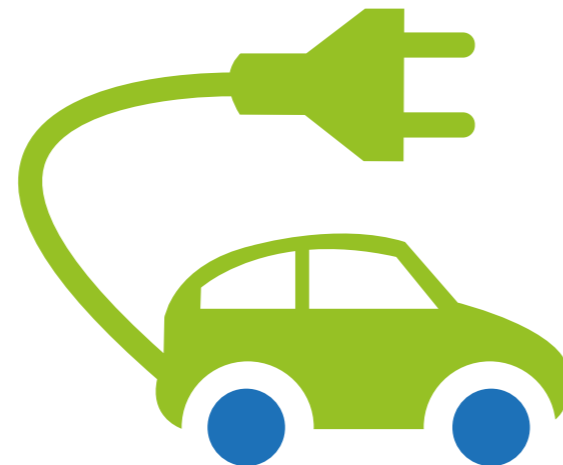
an empowered West Dunbartonshire



- ◇ we live in engaged and cohesive communities
- ◇ citizens are confident, resilient and responsible
- ◇ carers are supported to address their needs

In the last year:

- ✓ CO2 emissions have reduced
- ✗ fuel poverty has increased
- ✗ community fragility has increased



Community Budgeting

Community Budgeting is part of West Dunbartonshire Council's Your Community Initiative, which is a partnership approach, designed to empower local communities to make lasting improvements in their area. Community Budgeting Phase 5 is ongoing, with digital voting opening later this month. The last phase in 2018 involved an event in Clydebank Town Hall with each project having their own stall with information. The event allowed more than 700 residents who attended to make their way around the stalls before voting on the project they felt was most deserving of the funding. Overall, approximately 6,000 residents were involved in the wider digital voting process, with 45 local groups benefitting from a total of £158,000.

Community Alliance Community Conference

Representatives of groups such as Community Councils, Tenants and Residents Association, Parent Councils and the Champions Board gathered with service providers including Scottish Community Development Centre, Police Scotland, British Transport Police, Scottish Fire and Rescue Services, Greenspace and HSPC and community media group The Clydesider for the first ever community alliance conference in 2020. The event was organised and facilitated by four members of the Community Alliance, supported by West Dunbartonshire Council, and aimed to raise awareness of the Community Alliance and its role as well as to promote and increase membership.

Over the course of the day attendees participated in a soft launch of the WDC Community Empowerment Strategy and Action Plan, received inputs from the Community Transport Action Group and The Clydesider both raising awareness of their role and then culminated in the afternoon with a presentation from the Community

Alliance. After each of the themed presentations on Empowerment and Community Alliance, attendees were invited to participate in workshops to answer challenging questions regarding Empowerment and the Community Alliance. Workshops were facilitated by a mixture of service providers and council employees who used the opportunity to stimulate meaningful discussion, receive feedback from the community and identify solutions to barriers to participations.

Community Soup

The first Community Soup event was held in Whitecrook, Clydebank, This was jointly staged by West Dunbartonshire's Communities Team and Clydebank Housing Association staff based at the centre.

Community Soup is a simple idea which allows local people to provide small amounts of funding to support projects and ideas being delivered in their area. Local people are asked to turn up on the night, donate what they can afford to gain entry at the door, enjoy a bowl of soup, listen to people from their local community speak about projects they would like to deliver in the area and vote on which project they think should be funded. The project or idea which gets the most votes on the night takes away the money raised on the door to deliver their idea to the community.



a safe

West Dunbartonshire



- ◇ improved community justice outcomes ensure the area is a safe and inclusive place to live
- ◇ all partners deliver early and effective interventions targeted at reducing the impact of domestic abuse
- ◇ residents live in positive, health promoting local environments where the impact of alcohol and drugs is addressed
- ◇ our residents are supported to improve their emotional and mental health and wellbeing

In the last year:

- ✓ total dwelling fires have decreased
- ✓ the rate of recorded crimes has decreased



Domestic Abuse Conference

A ground breaking community conference to help break the cycle of domestic violence has been held in West Dunbartonshire. More than 200 people attended at Clydebank Town Hall for the Breaking the Cycle conference in November 2019 to join the conversation about what role the community can play in helping reducing domestic crime. The Council joined forces with partners at West Dunbartonshire Health and Social Care Partnership, West Dunbartonshire CVS, and Police Scotland to ensure residents are clear of how they can help tackle the problem. The guests heard from officers behind the Council's innovative No Home for Domestic Abuse policy, which introduced a zero tolerance approach to domestic abuse in Council homes. Officers from Police Scotland also spoke about the ways in which a perpetrator can hide their behaviour, as well as detailing of some of the worst cases of domestic violence and coercive control that have occurred in recent years. Most importantly, the attendees had the opportunity to participate in a round-table discussion considering what barriers exist to ridding society of domestic abuse and what steps the community can take. A range of stalls were also available at the event, including Working4U and Womens Aid, to give specific information on how to access support to help friends or neighbours experiencing domestic abuse.



National Park Crisis Response Group

Following the easing of the Covid-19 travel restrictions there was an increase in persons visiting locations within the Argyll and West Dunbartonshire Division for exercise, recreation and leisure which resulted in a number of issues impacting on local communities at these locations; a lack of facilities such as parking and toilets all exasperated by levels of conduct clearly not in keeping with Government Guidance. One area significantly affected was the Lomond & Trossachs National Park and surrounding areas. High volumes of visitors at beauty spots and locations on the loch were not compatible with social distancing regulations. Numerous complaints were received in respect this and general anti-social behaviour, urinating in public, littering. Road traffic complaints also featured with dangerous parking on road verges and reports of vehicles travelling at high speed. These issues all attracted high levels of media attention. While an existing partnership existed with the National Park it was necessary to escalate this to a Crisis Response Group meeting to include management representation from the Local Authorities, Forestry Commission, Traffic Scotland, Police Scotland across 3 Divisions and the National Park. Extensive work was required to provide a daily response ensuring consistent and key media messaging, local policing plans supported by partners where available and a cross partnership communication product to provide real time management of developing issues.

For more information please contact:

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