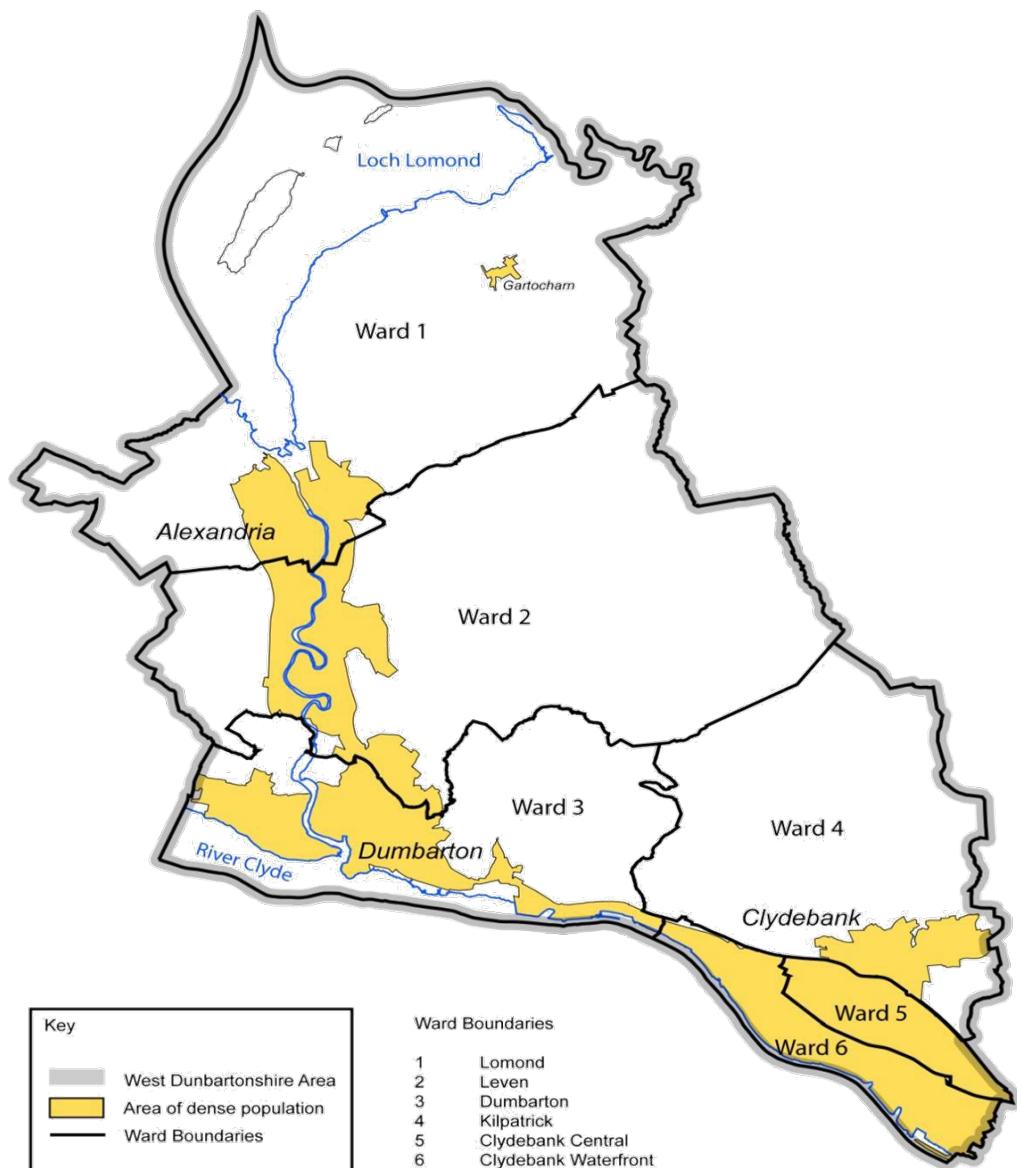


# West Dunbartonshire: Local Child Poverty Action Report 2019 -2020.



# West Dunbartonshire Multi Member Ward Map



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## Foreword

There is no universally agreed upon definition of poverty but a good starting point is the definition that the campaigning ‘Child Poverty Action Group’, uses:

*Individuals, families and groups in the population can be said to be in poverty when they lack resources to obtain the type of diet, participate in the activities and have the living conditions and amenities which are customary, or at least widely encouraged and approved, in the societies in which they belong.’*

People are poor if they are unable to live at the standard that most others would expect. Children may have housing and food, but remain poor if their parents can’t afford to put the heating on at home. Families and children may have mobile phones, mobile devices and computers, but remain poor if there isn’t sufficient connectivity to use the equipment for everyday tasks that others take for granted. Children can have warm clothes and modern footwear for school, but remain poor if there isn’t enough money for them to go on the same school trips as their classmates.

Unfortunately, child poverty is the reality of life for many children in West Dunbartonshire. A reality that is clearly illustrated in this report. Add to this the reality of the challenges we face as the wide reaching impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic take effect; the uncertainty surrounding Brexit; and the impact of Government welfare reform and we are entering a very challenging and largely unknown future.

As we work our way through these circumstances it is clear that there are significant challenges ahead that will have an impact on household incomes and living standards. The worst effects are likely to be felt most severely by those already most disadvantaged. Because of this there is a real risk that we will see rising levels of child poverty and inequality.

If you do nothing else, I recommend that you read the ‘Lived Experience’ section (pages 14 – 17) of this report: It’s both, hard hitting and thought provoking. The emotions it stirs should and will drive our determination to take action and force positive change based on equality and human rights.

This report is not offered simply as a list of good intentions. It’s has been developed as a working document for individuals and organisations seeking to improve the quality of life for families in West Dunbartonshire. The expectation is that by providing this as a key reference document we will raise awareness of available services and their aims and actions; we will provide contact details and links to further information; and we will encourage cross working between these services.

I’d like to convey my thanks to the staff delivering services for their professionalism and commitment. I hope this document will help them top continue that work and extend the reach and accessibility of support services, increase the number of families benefitting from support and, as a result, improve the quality of life for children in our communities.

For that reason I am happy to commend this document and urge everyone to make use of this as a key resource for tackling child poverty in West Dunbartonshire.

Councillor Diane Docherty West Dunbartonshire Council.

## Executive Summary

The Bill for The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 was passed by the Parliament on 8th November 2017 and received Royal Assent on 18th December 2017. The Bill requires local authorities and health boards to produce a Local Child Poverty Action Report each year. The report should describe measures being taken in the area that contribute to meeting the child poverty targets.

The Scottish Government has produced guidelines for the production of the report. This includes the requirement to identify:

- the prevalence of child poverty in the local area;
- existing action that seeks to reduce or mitigate child poverty in the local area;
- new action to reduce child poverty or expansions or modifications to existing action to increase impact;
- the local partners contributing to action and method for report management; and
- a summary of activity, the poverty driver being addressed and which groups will be supported.

However, it is recognised because of the COVID-19 pandemic that the current activity is taking place in exceptional circumstances. As such , reports covering 2019-20 should therefore provide a retrospective look at the action taken during that period and give a high-level indication of future areas of focus or challenge in order to meet the requirements set out in the Act’.

This report should be considered alongside NHSGGC’s corporate and acute services child poverty and poverty approach, which is being reviewed by the Corporate Management Team currently.

West Dunbartonshire Council is a partner on NHSGGC’s local child poverty leads network. The network has problem solved topics such as employability / parental employment fund; housing and childcare in the last year. The network has also developed a set of long term objectives to tackle child poverty, which network leads have signed up to (**Appendix 1**)

**The Introduction** provides a summary of the requirements for the report, definitions of poverty and the national targets. These are by 2030 to reduce absolute poverty to 10%, relative poverty to 5%, combined poverty to 5% and persistent poverty to 5%.

The target groups are identified. These families where: at least one member faces equalities challenges; have three or more children; young parents aged less than 25 years; children less than 1 year old; and lone parent households.

The drivers of poverty, low income, cost of living, along with personal circumstances that limit access to opportunity are identified.

**Living in West Dunbartonshire** sets out the scale of the challenge and while there are challenges in identifying comparable statistics at UK, Scottish and local level, the statistics demonstrate that West Dunbartonshire has a comparatively higher rate of child poverty.

This section also sets out some of the statistics relating to the drivers of poverty to demonstrate that income levels and access to opportunity are comparatively lower than the UK and Scottish averages.

## West Dunbartonshire Local Child Poverty Action Report 2019/2020

The '**Lived Experience**' Section provides an insight into the experience of families who are using local foodbanks and because of their limited resources the challenge they face at specific times of the year; in this instance it's the challenge of Christmas.

The statements illustrate the precarious circumstances and challenges they face.

The report then draws on the guidance produced by the Scottish Government on what should be included to provide snapshots of activity and interventions that:

- Addresses '**Work and Earnings**' and access to employment;
- '**Income Maximisation (Benefits and Debt)**': to illustrate examples of the benefits available to families with limited resources;
- '**Cost of Living**': specifically reducing costs or families including, among other costs: housing cost; the cost of the school day; childcare costs; and
- '**Supporting Families in Other Ways**' with an emphasis on support that may prevent children from disadvantaged backgrounds becoming adults in poverty.

Each example sets out activity and where appropriate in year achievements. We also provide some indication, where possible, of the scale of investment and the intended impact; the target groups and how the intervention will address the drivers. Each activity concludes with an overview of the challenges going forward and we also provide hyperlinks to further information where this is available.

The '**Planned Developments**' section provides a snapshot of some of the new developments we plan to deliver despite the on-set of the COVID-19 pandemic. This snapshot includes plans to address digital exclusion, financial capability, additional childcare and mental health. While these planned developments are to address poverty related issues, we also provide an overview of our response to the pandemic through the Crisis Support Service.

The '**Managing Child Poverty Reporting**' section provides partnership information and the management structure that will review progress and update activity. This section reflects on the role of Community Planning West Dunbartonshire and its supporting Delivery and Improvement Groups (DIGs). The membership and terms of reference for partnership groups are outlined in **Appendix 1**.

The final section, '**Assessing Impact**' provides a summary of the current position and 2023/2030 targets for reducing poverty where these statistics are available. It also summarises the actions outlined in the report to identify the action, the priority groups that the action is aimed at, the drivers of poverty being addressed and the lead agency responsible for reporting on the action.

This is our second Child Poverty Action Report and our aim is to contribute to:

**'Improved Life chances for all Children, Young People and Families' in West Dunbartonshire.**

## Introduction

### The West Dunbartonshire Local Child Poverty Action Report

The Bill for The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 was passed by the Parliament on 8th November 2017 and received Royal Assent on 18th December 2017.

The intention of the Child Poverty Bill is to ‘set targets relating to the eradication of child poverty’ as well as making provision for plans and reporting relating to achievement of these targets.

The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 requires the Scottish Government to meet four income based child poverty targets by 2030 as well as set out and report on the actions they will take to meet those targets.

In addition the Act places a duty on local authorities and health boards to report annually on what they are doing to contribute to reducing child poverty.

This is the second West Dunbartonshire Local Child Poverty Action Report and aims to be consistent with Community Planning West Dunbartonshire’s objective to: *‘Improve Life Chances for All Children, Young People and Families’*.

### Definitions of Poverty

The Act provides definitions of relative, absolute and persistent poverty and combined low income and material deprivation. It also provides guidance on the method for calculating household income, which includes the need to consider levels of poverty after housing costs have been taken into account.

#### *Relative Poverty*

Children living in households where the equivalised net income for the year is less than 60% of median equivalised net household income for the year.

#### *Absolute Poverty*

Children living in households whose equivalised net income for the year is less than 60% of the amount of median equivalised net household income for the financial year beginning in April 2010, adjusted to take account of changes in the value of money since that financial year.

#### *Combined Low Income and Material Deprivation*

Children living in households whose equivalised net income for the year is less than 70% of median equivalised net household income for the year, and experiences material deprivation in the year.

#### *Persistent Poverty*

Children that have lived in absolute poverty for at least three years with a net income less than 60% of median equivalised net household income for each survey year.

From latest figures (2016-19)<sup>1</sup> a family is considered to be in poverty if they are living on:

- Less than £373 a week or £19,400 a year for a single person with children aged 5 and 14 years;
- Less than £475 or £24,800 a year for a couple with children aged 5 and 14 years.

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<sup>1</sup> Child Poverty Action Group: <https://cpag.org.uk/scotland/child-poverty/facts>

## National Aims and Objectives

The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 sets two target milestones: the final target date of 2030, and an interim target date in 2023.

The 2030 targets, which all take housing costs into account, aim to deliver the following:

- Fewer than 10% of children living in families in relative poverty.
- Fewer than 5% of children living in families in absolute poverty.
- Fewer than 5% of children living in families in combined low income and material deprivation.
- Fewer than 5% of children living in families in persistent poverty.

## The Drivers of Poverty

The evidence suggests that child poverty in Scotland is driven by structural or institutional factors. These include:

- **Income from social security** and benefits in kind, influenced by:-
  - design and generosity;
  - benefit sanctions and recovery of advance payments;
  - hardship payments and third-party debts;
  - barriers to accessing financial support (including child maintenance).
- **Income from employment**, influenced by the availability of jobs, hours and the level of earnings, and barriers to taking up that work, such as childcare responsibilities; plus qualifications and skills, which can influence both contemporary and future child poverty.
- **Costs of living**, including housing, food and fuel costs, the poverty premium, the costs of the school day, and the extra, unavoidable costs of disability or living in a rural area.

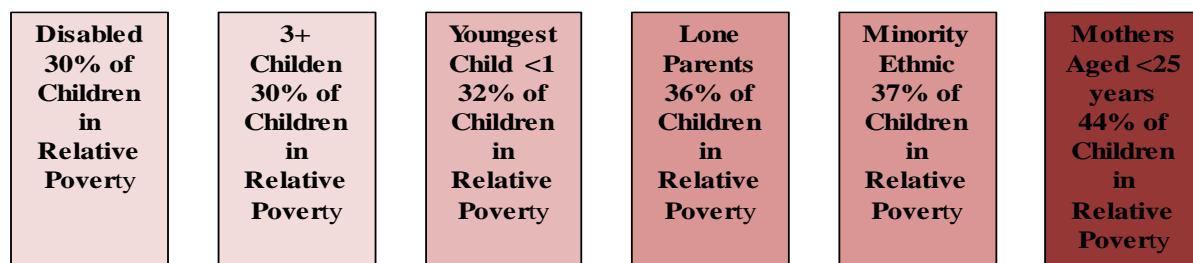
As such, the Local Child Poverty Action Report must set out a range of commitments to address these key drivers of poverty.

## Target Groups

Local partners are encouraged to give particular consideration to actions that will support the priority groups, including expectant mothers and families where there is a higher than average risk of poverty. **Diagram 1** illustrates those families most at risk of poverty.

### Diagram 1: Families in High Risk of Poverty

High Risk of Poverty



Scottish Government (2018): *Every Child Every Chance* (PP 18/19)

Figures cited are three year average poverty rates (2013-14 – 2015-16), Source: Households Below Average Income, DWP.

## West Dunbartonshire Local Child Poverty Action Report 2019/2020

At a local level Community Planning West Dunbartonshire has emphasised the need to focus efforts on:

- Families and children with experience of the care system;
- Children with caring responsibilities; and
- Those living in areas of high material deprivation.

As such the focus of much, but not all, of our attention will be placed on identifying, engaging with and supporting people from these families.

### **Addressing Barriers**

Perceived and real barriers to opportunity will have a substantial bearing on the potential for families moving from poverty. Barriers are often associated with personal circumstances and individual and external factors that may require customised support to overcome. Some of these include:

#### *Personal Circumstances*

- Family composition (young, large, lone parent, equalities);
- Transport and accessibility;
- Childcare needs;
- Physical and mental health;
- Finance and debt;
- Understanding benefits

#### *Individual Factors*

- Personal attributes, for example confidence, self esteem;
- Skills assets, qualifications and work experience; and/or
- the ability and capability to use those attributes and assets.

#### *External Factors*

- The prevailing local labour market conditions;
- Wider economic drivers;
- Employers' recruitment procedures and their attitudes and expectations of employees.

Addressing these factors will feature highly in our activities.

### **Transitions**

Life transitions are typically the most significant milestones in people's lives. As a result they often become our greatest undertakings/challenges and will have a direct impact on the quality of our lives. Our ability to cope with the impact of these transitions can be significant and will have a bearing on our well-being and prosperity.

Transitions include life stage transitions, such as having a child, a child starting primary or secondary school, or transitions to adulthood and work for young people.

Other kinds of transitions in personal circumstances which are often less easy to predict, include: relationship break-down, losing a job, falling ill, having your tenancy ended unexpectedly or imprisonment or release.

Each of these transitions has an associated cost that, in combination with other factors such as life circumstances, can exacerbate difficulties, particularly among families with limited resources such as those in our priority groups.

## West Dunbartonshire Local Child Poverty Action Report 2019/2020

It is not sufficient to focus on particular groups without understanding circumstances, transitions and barriers that affect families and individuals on a daily basis.

Our approach to addressing poverty in West Dunbartonshire is based on delivering services and support that can mitigate the negative impact of transitions; address the barriers and influence, where possible, the structural drivers of poverty.

### **COVID-19**

This report focusses on activity in the period between April 2019 and March 2020. In effect, prior to the emergence and impact of COVID-19. While the delivery of activity was affected in only the latter stages of the delivery of activity identified in the report, the planning for the continuation and development new activity has to be taken in the context of this emerging and challenging operating environment.

As such, this report will use, as a basis of reporting, the guidelines produced by the Scottish Government in May 2020 as the effects of COVID-19 on service delivery was becoming more apparent.

The guidance in a letter to Local Authorities states:

*'Recognising that the pandemic will have upended the landscape locally and the degree of uncertainty in at least the short and medium term, our expectation is that when local reports are published, they build on initial assessments of child poverty locally as opposed to commitments of concrete actions for the year ahead. Reports covering 2019-20 should therefore provide a retrospective look at the action taken during that period and give a high-level indication of future areas of focus or challenge in order to meet the requirements set out in the Act'.*

In addition, there is no expectation that the report would reflect the activity that has been carried out in response to COVID-19 at this stage. However, the reports should, where appropriate, provide initial reflections on the impact of COVID-19 in order to inform ongoing steps to recovery.

## Living in West Dunbartonshire

West Dunbartonshire, an area of 98 square miles, is located west of Glasgow and shares borders with Argyll and Bute, East Dunbartonshire and Stirlingshire, Renfrewshire and Glasgow. **Map 1** provides an indication of the location of West Dunbartonshire.

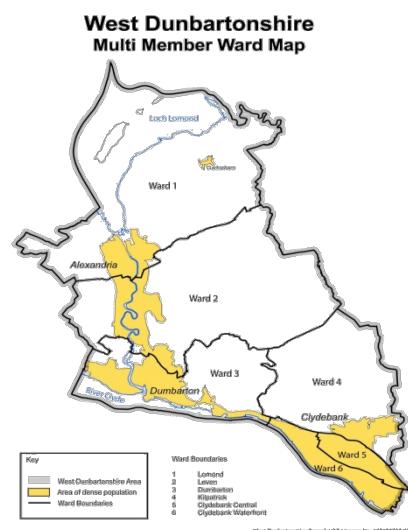


West Dunbartonshire includes the towns of Clydebank, Dumbarton and Alexandria and has a population estimate of 88,930 residents. The area consists of a lively business community that stretches along the banks of the Clyde to the shores of Loch Lomond. West Dunbartonshire has a rich past that is shaped by its world-famous shipyards, and boasts many attractions, ranging from the beauty of Dumbarton Rock to historic whisky warehouses.

The area is not only one of great diversity and natural beauty, it is also well connected. Just half an hour from the heart of Glasgow, with its opportunities for employment and learning within universities and colleges. In addition, it is conveniently located to Glasgow airport and Paisley and therefore a good location for business development.

The local authority area consists of 121 of Scotland's 6,978 Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation data zones and 17 Community Council areas. These are set within six 'multi-member' wards, illustrated in **Map 2**:

1. Lomond;
2. Leven;
3. Dumbarton;
4. Kilpatrick;
5. Clydebank Central;
6. Clydebank Waterfront.



## Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation

Despite its strengths, West Dunbartonshire is one of the areas in Scotland most affected by post-industrial decline. Its three town centres, Alexandria, Clydebank and Dumbarton have experienced steady decline in their comparative economic performance with some areas affected by wide ranging deep rooted poverty and deprivation.

As a result, West Dunbartonshire has higher than average concentrations of comparative deprivation and approximately 35,000 (37%) of the resident population have first hand experience of multiple deprivation.

**Table 1: Distribution of Most Deprived Datazones<sup>2</sup>**

Multi-member Wards	Number of Data Zones 2020	Number of Data Zones in most 20% Deprived (2016)	Number of Data Zones in most 20% Deprived (2020)	Change (2016 - 2020)
Clydebank Waterfront	21	11	11	<b>0</b>
Clydebank Central	19	9	9	<b>0</b>
Leven	26	11	10	<b>-1</b>
Kilpatrick	16	6	5	<b>-1</b>
Lomond	16	5	7	<b>2</b>
Dumbarton	23	6	6	<b>0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>0</b>

All multi-member wards have areas with comparatively high incidences of multiple deprivation and while Lomond has improved in comparative terms, this has been offset by an increase in multiple deprivation in both Leven and Kilpatrick.

## Child Poverty

In 2018 there were 12,865 children living in West Dunbartonshire:

- 7,157 pupils in the 32 primary schools in West Dunbartonshire.
- 5,155 pupils in the five secondary schools in West Dunbartonshire.
- 193 pupils in the three special need schools in West Dunbartonshire.

In 2018/2019, of the 12,865 children living in West Dunbartonshire, 2,817 children (21.9%) were living in poverty.

This figure which is calculated before housing costs are taken into account has remained comparatively higher than the figures for Scotland and Great Britain for the last five years. It is substantially higher than the target of 10% to be achieved by 2030. This trend is illustrated in **Table 2**.

<sup>2</sup> Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation: <https://simd.scot/#/simd2020/BTTTFTT/9/-4.0000/55.9000/>

## West Dunbartonshire Local Child Poverty Action Report 2019/2020

**Table 2: Changes in Child Poverty Before Housing Costs 2014 - 2019**

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017//18	2018/19	Change
West Dunbartonshire	17.7%	17.2%	19.4%	22.5%	21.9%	4.2%
Scotland	13.8%	14.1%	15.8%	17.2%	17.2%	3.4%
United Kingdom	15.6%	16.3%	17.1%	18.2%	18.4%	2.8%
Scotland 2030 Target	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%	-

While there was a marginal improvement in child poverty before housing costs in 2018/19, rather than closing the gap with the 2030 target, the trend in West Dunbartonshire has been away from the Scottish 2030 target of 10%.

It is worth noting that the rates of child poverty after housing costs have been taken into account are generally higher than rates recorded before housing costs. West Dunbartonshire is no different in this regard.

**Table 3: Child Poverty After Housing Costs 2017-2019**

	After Housing Cost*		Before Housing Cost
	2017	2019	2019
Approximate Number of children 0-15 years in poverty AHC	4,155	3,953	2,817

\*Based on percentage of children below 16years in mid year population estimates and rate of child poverty

**Table 4** illustrates the variation in child poverty across West Dunbartonshire both before and after housing costs are taken into account.

**Table 4: West Dunbartonshire Poverty Levels Before and After Housing (2017- 2019)<sup>3</sup>**

	BEFORE HOUSING COSTS		AFTER HOUSING COSTS	
	2017	2019	2017	2019
Dumbarton	12.7%	16.5%	20.4%	17.6%
Lomond	16.1%	18.9%	25.6%	23.6%
Clydebank Waterfront	16.6%	22.4%	26.3%	25.7%
Kilpatrick	16.9%	20.4%	26.9%	28.1%
Leven	18.0%	21.2%	28.4%	25.3%
Clydebank Central	19.4%	20.2%	30.5%	28.6%
West Dunbartonshire	16.7%	19.9%	26.5%	24.8%
Scotland	17.2%	17.2%	-	23%*
Great Britain	18.2%	18.4%	-	30%*

\*Three year average

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.gov.scot/publications/tackling-child-poverty-delivery-plan-second-year-progress-report-2019-20-annex-b-child-poverty-drivers-scotland-uk/>

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Housing is the biggest outgoing for most families, so the availability of affordable rented accommodation can have a big impact on poverty figures.

Since 2000, the UK private rented sector has doubled in size and research by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation<sup>4</sup> says an increasing number of the lowest incomes households are renting in this sector and this is having an impact on the levels of poverty.

The report states:

*"New analysis in the JRF Poverty in Scotland 2019 report shows that the difference in rates between Scotland and the rest of the UK is mainly due to lower rents in the social housing sector as well as Scotland having a higher proportion of social rented properties."*

While a lot of work remains to be done in addressing child poverty our approach to the provision of social housing in West Dunbartonshire has contributed to a reduction in the comparative gap between before and after housing costs over the period 2017 to 2019.

Furthermore, the rate of child poverty after housing costs in 2019, albeit significantly higher than pre housing costs, had reduced in 2019 in all but one multi member ward (Kilpatrick) in West Dunbartonshire. However, the comparatively lower level of child poverty after housing in Dumbarton appears to a key determinant in the average for West Dunbartonshire.

### Looked After Children

Child Poverty legislation states that the focus of attention, while addressing child poverty, should be placed on families identified as most vulnerable. That is: families with younger parents; single parent households; larger families; and families with a disabled person in the household.

However, West Dunbartonshire has a higher incidence of children with care experience. For example, the number of children looked after in West Dunbartonshire increased from 363 in 2016 to 505 children in July 2019.

**Table 5** summarises the circumstances of children in care in West Dunbartonshire.

**Table 5: Looked After Children by Residence**

	July 2016	July 2019
at home with parents	82	111
with friends/relatives	166	219
with foster carers (Council and other) or other community placements	78	127
looked after in other residential care settings	37	48
<b>Total</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>505</b>

As the numbers of looked after children in West Dunbartonshire increased, the comparative rate (number in care per thousand 0-18 years) in Scotland had marginally decreased; widening the gap between West Dunbartonshire and Scotland.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-51384174#:~:text=Scotland%20currently%20has%2019%25%20of,Wales%20and%2022%25%20in%20England.&text>About%2014%20million%20people%20are,children%2C%20according%20to%20the%20charity>.

**Table 6** illustrates the comparative figures in the period between 2011 and 2018.

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
West Dunbartonshire	19.7	19.2	18.5	19.6	20.5	19.4	23	24.1
Scotland	14.6	14.7	14.6	14.2	14	14	13.7	13.6

### Drivers of Poverty

The key drivers of poverty identified in the legislation include income levels and the cost of living. Income is determined, to an extent, by levels of economic activity and employment. While there are many sources of labour market information examples provided by NOMIS<sup>5</sup> (Office for National Statistics) will provide sufficient illustration of West Dunbartonshire's comparative labour market profile to suggest the need for targeted support.

### Employment:

West Dunbartonshire has a comparatively higher rate of economic inactivity with 72.6% of the 16-64 years age group in employment. The figure for Scotland is 74.5% and Great Britain's figure is 76%.

Of the available jobs there is a higher than average number of people employed in:

- elementary occupations (13%) when compared with Scotland (10.7%) and Great Britain (10.2%);
- caring and service occupations (14.3%) when compared with Scotland (10%) and Great Britain (9%); and
- administrative and secretarial (11.7%) when compared with Scotland (9.2%) and Great Britain (9.7%).

Of those in employment, there is a higher proportion in West Dunbartonshire reliant on part-time work (35.5%) than the average for Scotland (33.6%) and Great Britain (32.4%).

This is a contributory factor to the lower than average 'earnings by residence (2019)' reported by NOMIS. Earnings by residence are illustrated in **Table 7**.

	West Dunbartonshire	Scotland	Great Britain
<b>Gross weekly pay</b>	£	£	£
Full-time workers	522.7	577.7	587
Male	574.1	623.7	632
Female	472.5	527.3	528.9
<b>Hourly Pay</b>	£	£	£
Full-time workers	13.63	14.86	14.88
Male	15.39	15.33	15.44
Female	12.55	14.18	13.99

Source: NOMIS 2020

Full-time workers living in West Dunbartonshire earn, on average, less than people from other parts of Scotland and Great Britain. More noticeably, there is a substantial difference

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157435/report.aspx#> (accessed august 2020)

## West Dunbartonshire Local Child Poverty Action Report 2019/2020

between women in the workforce living in West Dunbartonshire (£472) and full-time workers in the rest of Great Britain (£587).

A review of the NOMIS statistics reveals that the job density<sup>6</sup> in West Dunbartonshire is at 0.62; this is much lower than the figure for Scotland (0.82) and Great Britain (0.86) and means there are fewer jobs available.

### Benefits

The number of people in receipt of out of work benefits is a contributory factor to the level of child poverty. In West Dunbartonshire 8.7% of the 16-64 years population is in receipt of out of work benefits. This higher than the average in Scotland (6.5%) and Great Britain (6.6%) and represents 4,935 people.

When combined with other main benefits, such as Employment Support Allowance, there are 7,300 workless households in West Dunbartonshire. This represents 23.1% of all households; a figure which is higher than the average in Scotland (17.7%) and Great Britain (13.9%).

### Summary

West Dunbartonshire has a comparatively high level of multiple deprivation. As a result the numbers of children living in poverty (before housing costs) is higher than the average in both Scotland and Great Britain. However, West Dunbartonshire Council's approach to the provision of social housing means that the area fares comparatively better on comparisons after housing costs are taken into account. However, there remains work to be done, particularly in Kilpatrick and Clydebank Central multi member wards.

West Dunbartonshire has a comparatively higher number of looked after children, as such the focus of interventions to address child poverty should include this group of families.

West Dunbartonshire has a higher than average rate of economic inactivity and a higher than average proportion of families dependent on benefits. As such efforts should focus on maximising income from benefits and reducing the cost of living, for this group where possible. This will include, for example, maximising access to passported benefits and reducing costs, such as the cost of the school day.

West Dunbartonshire has comparatively fewer local jobs and for those residents in work, the rates of pay appear to be slightly lower than the averages for similar groups in Scotland and Great Britain. As such there is a clear need not only to support people into work, but there is also a need to support them to improve their circumstances in the labour market through efforts to stimulate in-work progression. This will contribute towards addressing in-work poverty.

These challenges were prevalent before the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Evidence produced by organisations such as the Joseph Rowntree Foundation<sup>7</sup> strongly suggests that those in poverty are likely to be hardest hit by the impact of COVID-19. This being the case the challenges facing families with children in poverty in West Dunbartonshire are likely to intensify; along with the need for support.

To explore the impact of poverty on families we sought some input from families with lived experience.

<sup>6</sup> Density figures represent the ratio of total jobs to population 16 – 64 years

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.jrf.org.uk/society/coronavirus>

## Lived Experience in West Dunbartonshire

There are a number of organisations operating in West Dunbartonshire to address aspects of poverty. Prior to Christmas 2019 we asked for some feedback from two of the local food banks<sup>8</sup> operating in the area who are providing such support.

Our aim was to gather information about the impact of poverty on families facing challenges at that time. We have reproduced their anonymised comments.

### **Family 1**

*'Things have just been so tough. I get Universal Credit for me and my 2 kids, and Child Benefit. I never have enough money to last the month and always need to use the foodbank from the start of week 3 in the month. I would have no food otherwise for my kids. There is never any money for clothes or shoes and my kids are growing all the time. Mainly, my sister gives me clothing that her kids have grown out of.'*

*'My kids ask to join groups like netball and dancing but I just can't afford it. I feel really awful that I can't afford for them to join groups with their friends. We don't get many days out either.'*

*'The good thing is that they are not hungry. When I come along to the foodbank I can choose the food I take away, this is good as the girls are quite fussy eaters.'*

*'I can't work at the moment as the girls are young and I've no one to do the school run, getting a job between school hours is very difficult. I worry so much as I feel the girls are missing out on a lot of good experiences with their friends.'*

*'School holidays are now not as bad as before as you give out the brunch bags. Before I knew about this I would worry so much as I knew my money wouldn't last as long in the holidays.'*

*'I appreciate the support I receive from the project every month and really, really appreciate the help at Christmas. Last year the girls were delighted on Christmas morning when they opened their gifts from Santa (from Food share). Also, with the voucher I got, I bought lots of nice food to last the day. It was the best Christmas in years and I really appreciate your help'.*

### **Family 2**

*'Thanks for the help I got for Christmas. I'm a single parent and have no spare cash at all, all the money I get goes on gas and electricity and food. I'd never have managed to buy any presents for the kids. They asked for certain things which I couldn't buy and I was so happy when 5 of those things were in the giftbags. They were delighted when they opened them. We all had a brilliant Christmas this year as the voucher allowed us to buy food for Christmas day and the next 3 days. I cried when the girls went to bed that night as they had been so happy and for that day I forgot just how bad our situation was, thank you to everyone x'.*

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<sup>8</sup> Community Foodshare (<https://www.facebook.com/West-Dunbartonshire-Community-Foodshare-695908630505272/>) and Food 4 Thought (<https://www.facebook.com/foodforthoughtdumbarton>

**Family 3**

*'Wow this will last us a while and means I can pay extra to my debts'.*

**Family 4**

*'I have been worried sick about Christmas approaching as I have only a few pounds to get my boys a gift, now I can't wait to see their wee faces when they see Santa has been, I am totally overwhelmed with the kindness you have shown us'.*

**Family 5**

*'Can't believe the food and Christmas gifts you have given for me and the girls....this will be the best Christmas ever'.*

**Family 6**

*'I'm not doing very well at all, worrying about everything all the time. I can't see a light at the end of the tunnel. The money I get in benefits doesn't even cover the basics. This makes my mental health troubles worse which then affects how I interact with my kids. I just don't want to live like this anymore; it's not fair on the kids. I don't like having to ask for help from you but it's the only way I can have food in the kitchen for the kids'.*

We followed this up with a request for information in March/April 2020 as the impact of COVID-19 and associated 'lockdown' began to emerge. Once again we have reproduced anonymised comments...

**Family 1**

*'I really don't know what to say, I wasn't expecting to get much, but this will last me a while, thanks a million and more'.*

**Family 2**

*'I really appreciate the help I get as I have no family to help, I couldn't manage to get out and don't know what I'd have done without the deliveries, we would have had no food for me and the kids'.*

**Family 3**

*'It's just me and my son, as I'm from England I have no family here to help when I've no money. It's really hard to make the money stretch the full month so I do need to get help from the foodbank regularly to make sure my son has food each day. I can't work as my mental health is poor; I'd love to get a job but my health prevents this. I just think benefits are too low, it doesn't cover the basics we need. Coming to the foodbank was really stressful the first few times but now I know that I can talk through things with the volunteers and they help with lots, not just food'.*

**Family 4**

*'We have both worked since leaving school and we were comfortable. I'm self employed and my wife works in retail. She lost her job straightaway (March 2020) and I can't work due to COVID restrictions. We have had no income at all since the end of March and used all our savings which was a few thousand. We thought this was good savings but seen how quickly it was spent we know now it wasn't that great. I've not slept for worrying about bills and food, we*

*would never have had our child if we'd known there was going to come a time we couldn't feed him, but who expected this to happen. I am mortified at using a foodbank but when you have a child to feed then you will do anything'.*

### **Family 5**

*'I lost my job at the start of the lockdown and cried for days as I had no idea how I was feeding my child and paying bills. My wage was not that good but I did manage weekly but could never gather savings. I had heard about Universal Credit and knew there was a wait time for the first payment and just didn't know how I was going to manage. I eventually got the courage to call you up and you were so helpful, gave me lots of information and helped me so much. I received food, brunch bags each week for my child, I got a text for a £49 fuel voucher and also £40 Farmfoods voucher. I cannot begin to say how much I appreciate this and the difference this made to my wee family. It gave me time to sort out my benefits (I did get an advance on UC but after your advice I took a reduced amount to ensure my rent was not affected) and made sure that we both had enough to eat. I am not looking forward to spending time on benefits and job hunting because I know jobs will be hard to come by now, especially one which can fit around my child, I've no family who can help with childcare. I've got to just be hopeful and try to be positive but it is going to be hard, the money I have to receive each month now is not much at all but I know I can call you now when I need to'.*

The statistics and data analysis presented in the previous section of this report: ‘*Living in West Dunbartonshire*’ illustrate the prevalence and incidence of poverty and disadvantage in West Dunbartonshire. It also demonstrates trends and the prosperity gap between some people living in West Dunbartonshire and people living in other areas. The ‘lived experience’ statements add another dimension, clearly demonstrating the impact of poverty on people’s lives.

These lived experience statements illustrate the stigma; the impact on self esteem; and the limited quality of lives of children living in these households. The statements illustrate the precarious nature and disaffection and disillusionment experienced by people and the challenges they face.

NHSGGC has consulted with lower paid staff. Many had money worries, from the research changes to attendance management procedure, wage slip messages and nurse registration processes all include money worries messages. In addition, staff money worries clinics are being piloted.

## Work and Earnings

Support to gain access to work and increase earnings is delivered through the provision of access to employability services. Employability encompasses all the things that enable people to increase their chances of getting a job, staying in a job, and progressing further in work.

### No One Left Behind

‘*No One Left Behind*’ is the collective name given to the plans in West Dunbartonshire for the integration and alignment of employability support. The aim is to support people into fair, sustainable jobs and is central to priorities set out by Community Planning West Dunbartonshire, with particular emphasis on two themes:

- **Our Economy is Flourishing-** with specific emphasis on Local Outcome 1.4 – Improved core employability skills and assisted people into work; and
- **Our Children and Young People are Nurtured.**

‘*No One Left Behind*’ will be supported by the alignment of a number of funds to provide resources that will allow us to focus on local priorities in West Dunbartonshire.

These funds include, among others:

- Scottish Employer Recruitment Incentive;
- Activity Agreements;
- Employability Fund; and
- Community Jobs Scotland.

It is anticipated that the full integration of these funds will take place over the medium to longer term, 1 – 3 years, with this alignment beginning with the Scottish Employer Recruitment Incentive and Activity Agreements.

While West Dunbartonshire Council has a key role in the development and design of employability services through Working 4U, we have established a multi agency ‘*Strategic Employability Group*’ (SEG)

The group functions as a strong network that is committed to working with all relevant key partner organisations. Where appropriate, partners will share resources and information to improve co-ordinated delivery of services for West Dunbartonshire citizens.

There are a number of programmes and initiatives that are designed to support parents into sustained employment and improve their families’ circumstances as a result. The key employability services are illustrated in the following sections.

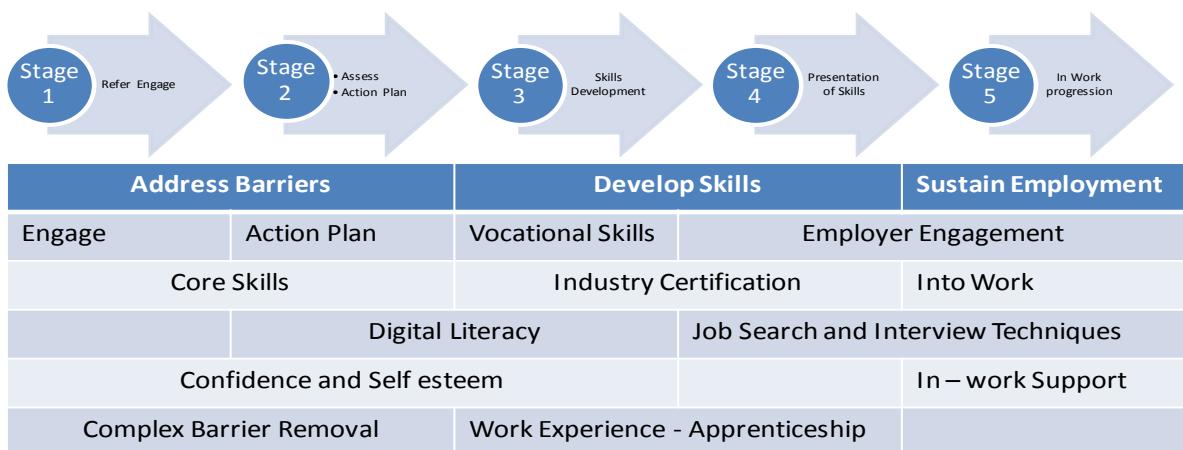
### Employability Pipeline

The employability support services are managed by Working 4U and are delivered across the five stage employability pipeline.

The employability support services at each stage of the employability pipeline are designed to meet the needs of West Dunbartonshire parents who wish to progress towards and into employment and improve their position within the labour market.

The Employability Pipeline and activities is illustrated in **Diagram 2**.

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- At stages 1 and 2** of the pipeline we support parents who are furthest from the labour market and focus on barrier removal and provide an action plan. This will set an agreed approach to skills development and encourage progression from stages 1 and 2 into vocational activity and skills development and SQA accreditation.
- Stages 3 and 4** includes job brokering, identifying appropriate opportunities for parents, employer engagement and job matching with employers who have identified a specific need or vacancy; and
- At stage 5**, we provide in-work support and aftercare, which includes continued skills development to reinforce parents' position in the labour market.

During the period 2019 – 2020 Working 4U:

- engaged with 1,027 residents;
- supported 470 people of working age to secure work and a career.

Resources	Impact Summary
<p>Working 4U has 16 case managers providing support to people of all ages seeking access to learning and training opportunities. This is funded by West Dunbartonshire Council with match funding provided by the European Social Fund.</p> <p>The team is responsible for managing and delivering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>European Social Fund Employability Pipeline;</li> <li>No One Left Behind Activity;</li> <li>Parental Employability Support;</li> <li>Kick start and the Young Persons Guarantee.</li> </ul>	<p>The Employability Pipeline aims to support people of all ages who wish to move into the labour market. As a result they will improve their resilience and income through work.</p> <p>This will assist those who are successful in securing work to shift out of poverty.</p>

In addition, National Health Service, Greater Glasgow and Clyde's (NHSGGC) recruitment team has a range of employability outreach activity, which includes West Dunbartonshire.

### Going Forward

Working 4U will consolidate the available resources for employability provision and work towards the integration of '*No One Left Behind*' aims, funds and activity. Importantly the team will review service provision matching this to the needs of parents seeking work through the use of the Parental Employability Support Fund which brings in resources that will be used solely for the benefit of families affected by poverty.

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In addition the team will focus on re-setting services to address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and support economic recovery in West Dunbartonshire through the effective use of Kickstart and Young Person Guarantee funding. NHSGGC will develop its Talent Academy further and continue with a range of employability awareness activity.

Information about, and access to Working 4U services can be found at:

<https://www.west-dunbarton.gov.uk/jobs-and-training/working4u/get-in-touch/>

## **Parental Employability Support (Working 4 Parents)**

The Parental Employability Fund investment has been developed in West Dunbartonshire to offer help by providing parents with access to an employability key worker who will help in two main areas:

- Person-centred help to address parents barriers to work, which might include health support, money advice or motivational support; and
- Help meeting the increasing challenge of in-work poverty, targeting in-work support to help parents already in jobs to remain in the workplace and gain progression through a rewarding career.

Our approach (Working4Parents) offers intensive, customised provision through a comprehensive needs assessment designed to support poverty reduction. Through this assessment we will identify participant aspirations and barriers to opportunity. This will determine the content of the tailored support and skill development that is required by parents to address their situation.

The case workers have also facilitated access to a range of activities beyond one-to-one work with individuals. This included generic skills development and employment related training. During the previous year we have supported parents to seek and secure employment in care and council services.

In addition to employability support we will provide access to financial awareness; debt management, benefit maximisation, fuel and food poverty initiatives support from health and social services and housing support services.

Key to this is our partnership working with Education services in the Family Opportunity Hubs and outreach employability services delivered in partnership with the senior phase teams within Education Services.

The programme was introduced in late 2019 and has been subject to some disruption as a result of COVID-19.

Resources	Impact Summary
Staff in West Dunbartonshire Council have developed and begun delivering the project.	Maximising opportunities for parents at risk of poverty because of limited access to employment and training opportunities

In addition, there was liaison with Local Authority Leads around NHSGGC connections in relation to the Parental Employability Fund. Also, NHSGGC commissioned workshops from Family Friendly Working Scotland for local employers in the NHSGGC area in the Healthy Working Lives Scheme.

## **Going Forward**

The Scottish Government intention is to distribute Parental Employability Support Funding across three years from 2019/20/21. We intended to use 35% of the funds to support parents to secure work and the remainder (65%) to support those in-work. This will focus on supporting people in lower paid jobs to improve their skills set and secure higher wages as a result.

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In short term however, we will consolidate the work we have started through the parental employability support fund. This will include targeted support for disabled and young parents, particularly those who have been affected by COVID-19.

We will also consolidate links with Education Services to provide access to opportunities for employment and progression in the workplace emerging as a result of the increased early year's childcare provision (Scottish Government 1,140 guaranteed hours to childcare).

## Oot Scoot and Aboot

‘Oot Scoot and Aboot’ is pre-stage 1 employability provision that aims to help young people to address barriers that prevent them from fully participating in community and social life. The approach centres on assisting personal and social development and is set within a learning agreement model that aims to encourage access to further learning, training and employment.

This very intensive programme is delivered in a partnership between Working 4U staff and Education Service’s Senior Phase Workers and targets support on young people who:

- are not in education, employment or training;
- have low self esteem and low aspirations;
- have poor mental health.

In addition the programme focusses on young people who have poverty related issues, lack skills and have very limited awareness of the opportunities / services / support that are available to them. In 2019/2020 the team provided intensive support for 16 young people.

- 12 secured a qualification that they wouldn’t have otherwise;
- 12 participated in volunteering opportunities;
- 16 participated in group training and learning;
- 8 attended residential opportunities;
- 8 moved on to further training/education.

Resources	Impact Summary
Staff at West Dunbartonshire Council developed and delivered the project.  Adhoc funding is accessed to support the group. This includes, for example, Scottish Youth Hostel Association ‘Give us a break’ funding. This provides young people with a residential opportunity.	Maximising opportunities for young people at risk of remaining in poverty by contributing to their skills attainment, resilience and positive destinations.

## Going Forward

‘Oot Scoot and Aboot’ young people already face many issues and unfortunately COVID and lockdown has added to their hardship. During lockdown these young people have lost loved ones, struggled with homelessness, addiction, food poverty and poor mental health. Feedback suggests that all these young people are currently feeling anxious and isolated even with remote support.

In light of this we will maintain contact and introduce a blended approach to support. This will include face to face youth work support and access to volunteering which will be set alongside digital (‘Zoom’) sessions that will provide young people with a sense of purpose and connection that they require.

There will also be a focus on using the programme as a gateway to ‘Parental Employability Support’; ‘No One Left Behind’ and mainstream employability. As such we will develop and strengthen working links with staff from these teams to ensure there is a seamless transition from school to work and the provision of ongoing support to reinforce the gains made by young people from this group.

## Apprenticeship Pathway

Staff at West Dunbartonshire Council have developed the Apprenticeship Pathway to give young people from disadvantaged backgrounds who have not engaged with the school curriculum the opportunity to gain confidence and progress towards work.

This approach brings together a range of support services such as: Education Services Senior phase teams; Working 4U Youth Learning Team; and the wider Youth Alliance. By working in partnership to link activity in Pupil Equity Fund programmes, Senior Phase programmes, Foundation Apprenticeships, Employability Fund and the Modern Apprenticeships programme to ensure the right support is in place for each individual.

West Dunbartonshire Council has created a £1million fund as a commitment to the Apprenticeship Pathway. This funding will be used to support apprenticeship recruitment, primarily school leavers, over four years (2018-22). Our efforts will be placed on supporting young people into a range of opportunities within Council services and the Private sector.

The investment is part of the Council's commitment to build towards a strong local economy with improved job opportunities and is consistent with Working4U's main goal of addressing the cause of poverty and improving the quality of life and resilience of West Dunbartonshire residents.

- During the period from April 2019 to March 2020 the team established the Foundation Apprentice scheme and supported 13 young people through the programme;
- In November 2019 we submitted proposals and plan to increase this figure from 13 Foundation Apprenticeships to 51 Foundation Apprenticeships;

In 2019 to 2020 the Apprenticeship Pathway Team assisted 50 young people to develop their skills through the Employability Fund. The team supported 114 young people to access a Modern Apprenticeship.

Resources	Impact Summary
Staff at West Dunbartonshire Council developed and delivered the project. £1,000,000 Apprenticeship Investment Fund to 2022	Maximising opportunities for young people and contributing to the skills attainment and positive destinations agendas in order to maximise income from work.

## Going Forward

We will continue to work with partners; West Dunbartonshire Council service departments, third sector and private sector organisations to ensure placements and employment opportunities are available for young people.

We will develop our 'No one Left Behind' provision to ensure this approach continues to support our most vulnerable young people and we will connect with colleagues delivering the Parental Employability Support activity, with emphasis on increasing access to job opportunities in social and child care. As a result we intend to increase the number and range of opportunities for young people and our efforts will focus on ensuring young people from disadvantaged backgrounds obtain equal access to the opportunities.

## Social Benefit

West Dunbartonshire Council is committed to maximising local social value from our procurement activity. This will be achieved through the inclusion of specific clauses within procurement contracts known as Social Benefit clauses. Social Benefit clauses go beyond the core purpose of a contract to deliver wider benefits to the local community. These clauses can be used to build a range of economic, social or environmental benefits into the delivery of Council contracts.

In 2019-2020 the Social Benefit Delivery Group was established. The group draws on expertise from: Working4U; Procurement, Education Services, Housing and Communities Teams. The aim is to maximise social benefits and specific emphasis is placed on supporting people who live in disadvantaged communities.

During 2019/2020 we have worked with a number of contractors including, for example:

- A construction company building local authority housing in West Dunbartonshire. The contractor has supported the delivery of a number of benefits including jobs, apprenticeships, work experience and site visits.
- A janitorial supply company: providing starter packs for residents being supported by the Homeless Services team. These starter packs include personal care items such as shampoo, shaving kits, dental kits and also household cleaning materials. The first 25 packs were delivered in February.

This year the residents of West Dunbartonshire have benefited from:

- Employers attending careers and apprenticeship events; Apprenticeships and job opportunities; and Work experience placements;
- Employability skills development - Mock interviews, Site visits and tours
- Support from volunteers;
- Financial and equipment donations.

Resources	Impact Summary
Staff in West Dunbartonshire Council has developed the project to ensure maximum social benefit is achieved through our procurement of services.	The aim is maximise access to opportunities for local people from developments in the area: in effect, inclusive growth.  These benefits will reduce costs for residents and maximise incomes through access to employment

## Going Forward

In 2020/2021 the team will continue to develop the Social Benefit project ensuring that we incorporate benefits for those people in families most likely to be affected by poverty and disadvantage. For example NHSGGC is working with a national 'Once for All' approach to procurement and community benefits clauses which covers poverty and child poverty.

Furthermore, NHSGGC achieved Living Wage Accreditation November 2020 and is encouraging partners to explore this issue more widely.

Full details of the employability pipeline and associated services can be found on the West Dunbartonshire Council website at: <https://www.west-dunbarton.gov.uk/jobs-and-training/working4u/get-in-touch/>

## **Skills Development Scotland - National Training Programmes.**

Skills Development Scotland provides Career Information, Advice and Guidance services to people of all ages with a particular focus on young people at risk of failing to progress into positive destinations. All services are equality assessed and poverty is considered in this process similarly to other protected characteristics.

SDS also manages a range of Scottish Government training and employability programmes including the Apprenticeship Family of Foundation, Modern and Graduate Apprenticeships which provide high level on-the-job training and qualifications to the Scottish population. In addition, SDS also delivers the Employability Fund, a national programme designed to deliver work experience opportunities combined with job related skills while also developing trainee's wider employability.

Opportunities are promoted widely and SDS Advisers, based in our public centres in the Clyde Shopping Centre and on Dumbarton High Street, work closely with young customers to support progression into relevant opportunities. In the year up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 SDS in West Dunbartonshire, SDS has:

- supported 4,728 school pupils through 10,202 engagements and 1,472 post school customers through 4,033 engagements;
- assisted 886 people in West Dunbartonshire to undertake a Modern Apprenticeships ;
- helped 286 young people through the use of the Employability Fund; and

To date 111 school pupils have undertaken Foundation Apprenticeships.

The Participation Measure is the Scottish Government's key statistic monitoring economic activity of all 16-19 year olds in Scotland and is widely used to inform national and local decision making on provision to support employment, training and education.

In 2020 the Participation Measure for West Dunbartonshire showed that 90.2% of 16-19 year olds were in positive destinations such as Higher Education, Further Education, employment or training.

Resources	Impact Summary
SDS has a Career Information and Guidance team of 23 advisers operating across West Dunbartonshire  In 2018/19 SDS's total spend in West Dunbartonshire was £4,205,000 incorporating staff costs, programme delivery and infrastructure costs	Skills Development Scotland delivers a targeted service to school pupils and post school young people based on a range of factors including socio-economic circumstances and educational achievement.  These services focus resources on supporting the most disadvantaged to make positive progressions.

## **Going Forward**

In 2020/21 SDS will continue to deliver a universal and targeted service in all local schools to develop pupil's Career Management Skills and support their career decision making. In addition, the 'Next Steps' service will support the most vulnerable post school young people to overcome barriers to progression and will be delivered through a blended approach of face-to-face and remote approaches. Further details of support provided by Skills Development Scotland can be found at: <https://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/local-national-work/west-dunbartonshire/>

## Income Maximisation (Benefits and Debt)

### Benefit and Debt Management

The West Dunbartonshire Information and Advice Partnership is set within the context of strategic planning within West Dunbartonshire. The partnership aims to deliver advice and information services in West Dunbartonshire where: '*Anyone who wants to improve their life circumstances, wellbeing, independence and resilience is able to obtain the information and advice and support they need, when they need it and in the way they need it*'. The partnership in West Dunbartonshire consists of:

- West Dunbartonshire Council (Working 4U);
- West Dunbartonshire Citizens Advice Bureau;
- Clydebank Independent Resource Centre; and
- Clydebank Asbestos Group.

During 2019/2020 the newly formed Social Security Scotland Agency (SSS) had representation at the partnership meetings. The Objectives of the partnership are:

- To promote social justice and the rights of the individual by delivering information, advice and support services that make a positive impact on the well being of individuals.
- To play a full and productive part in tackling poverty in our communities through a responsive partnership approach that delivers free, high quality independent information, advice and advocacy services.

Contact with the partnership can be made at: <https://www.west-dunbarton.gov.uk/contact-us/other-council-services/welfare-rights-money-advice/>

In the period 2019/2020, the partnership supported:

- 8,193 West Dunbartonshire residents to achieve financial gains of £20million;
- 2,388 residents with £8.1 million of debt sought assistance and 616 established a debt strategy.

Of the 8,193 people seeking support, 2,526 were from households with children.

Resources	Impact Summary
There is approximately 31 full time equivalent staff working in West Dunbartonshire. These staff members are supported by 14 volunteers. The staff members are dealing with welfare rights and benefits issues.	2,526 families have benefitted from the available support to maximise income and manage debt. This represents approximately 30% of the households that sought support to maximise income through benefits and reduce costs by managing debt.

Work has continued within maternity, health visiting and family nurse partnership services to increase referrals to financial inclusion services. Best Start Grant and Best Start Foods information was shared with early year's staff and a quality improvement programme started to increase referrals.

Acute financial inclusion services support families from across NHSGGC including West Dunbartonshire. The SNIPs financial inclusion service, the Children's Hospital and the adult acute financial inclusion services all provide direct support and advice about welfare benefits and provide support to apply for and access eligible benefits, debt advice and help with

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energy issues. As part of the SNIPs service, financial inclusion service direct access pathways have been set up to prevent sanctions and issues of conditionality for women. The SNIPs financial inclusion service also has a vital advocacy support element.

NHS public health colleagues have continued partnership working with both the DWP and SSS. A NHSGCC pilot with the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) at Queen Elizabeth University Hospital (QEUh), which will, when safe to do so, will be co-located with Support Information Services and with direct patient access. This will initially support benefit issues, for example Universal Credit accounts while in hospital

### **Going Forward**

The partnership will reinforce their joint working and continue to support the most vulnerable people in West Dunbartonshire. The members of the partnership will seek to focus their efforts on the families affected by poverty by developing services in GP practices and by working with the Family/Nurse Partnership.

The partnership will continue to work with the Scottish Social Security Agency to maximise access to devolved benefits. NHSGGC will continue to take a strategic approach to increasing referrals to money advice services from early year's staff and maximising uptake on new Scottish social security benefits.

## Scottish Social Security in West Dunbartonshire

Social Security Scotland is responsible for administering a number of benefits that have been devolved to Scotland. Currently, Social Security Scotland administers eight benefits and Social Security Scotland is working in close partnership with organisations across West Dunbartonshire to maximise the uptake of these benefits. The available benefits with a link to further information are:

- [Carer's Allowance Supplement](#) – an extra payment for people in Scotland who are in receipt of Carer's Allowance.
- [Best Start Grant - Pregnancy and Baby Payment](#) – a package of three payments that provide families with extra money during the early years of a child's life. Families can apply for the Pregnancy and Baby Payment from the 24th week of pregnancy and the grant will remain available up to the day your baby is 6 months old. This is increased to one year if the parent has care responsibility for a child, for example through adoption. Families receive £600 for their first child or £300 for any subsequent child.
- [Best Start Grant - Early Learning Payment](#) – Families can apply for the Best Start Grant Early Learning Payment when their child is aged between two years old and three years, six months old. If eligible, the family will receive £250 for each child.
- [Best Start Grant - School Age Payment](#) – a £250 payment made to eligible families around the time a child normally starts Primary One.
- [Best Start Foods](#) - a new payment for low income families in receipt of benefits or tax credits. This replaces UK Government's Healthy Start Vouchers in Scotland. Families can apply for Best Start Foods from pregnancy, or any time up to the third birthday.
- [Funeral Support Payment](#) - a payment available to people in Scotland, who are in receipt of specific benefits or tax credits, and require support to meet the costs of a funeral.
- [Young Carer Grant](#) - a new yearly payment of £305.10 for young carers aged 16 to 18 years who live in Scotland.
- [Job Start Payment](#) – is a one off payment of £250 available to young people in Scotland in receipt of specific benefits, and need help with the costs of starting a new job. If the household has children, the payment may increase to £400.

## Local Activities

The Social Security Scotland Local Delivery Team for West Dunbartonshire has been engaging with the Local Authority, housing associations, third sector organisations, Health and Social Care partners and charities to raise awareness of the Agency, and the benefits being delivered. In addition the team has visited schools and nurseries and attended local meetings and events to raise awareness of the Agency's role.

As the figure is increasing on a daily basis a summary of the number of benefit applications and payments made by Local Authority area can be found on the Scottish Government website: : <https://www.gov.scot/publications/social-security-for-scotland-update-september-2020/>

Resources	Impact Summary
The Service has five people dedicated to service provision in West Dunbartonshire	The aim is to support families and increase incomes from benefits.

## **Going Forward**

Social Security Scotland will introduce a new Scottish Child Payment for low-income families with children under the age of six years. Through this low-income eligible families will be able to apply for £10 a week for each child and there are no limits placed on the number of eligible children that can be supported by the Scottish Child Payment. The Scottish Child Payment will open for applications in November 2020, with first payments beginning from the end of February 2021.

The Service will continue to engage with the local community and work with the West Dunbartonshire Information and Advice Partnership to maximise uptake of benefits. In addition, the Service will work with local employability service providers to help to maximise access to employment and training opportunities where this is appropriate.

## Scottish Welfare Fund

The Scottish Welfare Fund managed by West Dunbartonshire Council replaced the discretionary Social Fund provided by the Department for Works and Pensions and offers access to two grants: Crisis Grants and Community Care Grants.

### Crisis Grants

A grant may be available if residents need help with costs that have arisen as a result of a disaster or emergency or to keep their family safe from harm. This includes, for example: fire or flood; emergencies such as loss of money; or the need to visit a child in hospital.

### Community Care Grants

Community care grants may be available for residents if they:

- are about to leave care to live on their own in the community;
- face going into care because they don't have the things you need to continue living at home;
- are struggling to provide a safe and secure home for their family;
- need help to get essential household items like a cooker or washing machine

Further details of the grants, eligibility and the application process can be found at:

<https://www.west-dunbarton.gov.uk/welfarefund>

The team has provided information on the number and value of grants for the period from April 2018 to March 2020. **Table 8** provides information on spend and the proportion spent on white goods (reducing costs).

**Table 8: Scottish Welfare Fund Spend on White Goods in West Dunbartonshire**

Year	Budget	Spend	Proportion on White Goods
2018/19	£797,732	£814,825	22%
2019/20	£807,732	£829,519	22%

Welfare Grants are not a regular source of income. As such additional checks are included as part of the application process to ensure applicants, where appropriate, can be considered for a DWP Hardship Payment, has an application pending for a Short Term Benefit Advance, or is eligible for a Universal Credit (UC) advance.

Resources	Impact Summary
West Dunbartonshire Council distributes approximately £800,000 each year in Welfare grants.  Further information about benefits and debt advice can be obtained on the West Dunbartonshire Council website.  <a href="https://www.west-dunbarton.gov.uk/housing/council-housing/rent-arrears-benefits-and-debt-advice/">https://www.west-dunbarton.gov.uk/housing/council-housing/rent-arrears-benefits-and-debt-advice/</a>	Welfare Grants can provide an immediate source of funding to support people with limited resources to overcome difficult circumstances at trigger points that challenge their resilience.

## Going Forward

In 2020/2021 the budget for Scottish Welfare Grant Funding will be £1.38million. The Regulations limit applications to three awards in a rolling 12 month period.

## Costs of Living

### Housing and Support

The cost of housing has a significant bearing on levels of poverty as such activity around housing provision and management and associated services are important weapons for reducing poverty. The Local Housing Strategy (LHS) sets out how West Dunbartonshire Council and its partners plan to address the housing and housing related opportunities and challenges over the five year period from 2017/18 to 2021/2022.

The Local Housing Strategy not only represents West Dunbartonshire's approach to housing, homelessness; housing support services and fuel poverty, it also contains an action plan which outlines the projects/activities to be implemented to achieve the aims of the Local Housing Strategy for the period 2017 - 2022.

The Local Housing Strategy has a 10-point success plan. Some of which have a direct impact on the drivers of poverty. These include, for example:

- Maximise the delivery of new affordable housing through the 'More Homes Better Homes West Dunbartonshire' initiative;
- Reduce the impacts of climate change and fuel poverty by supporting energy efficiency measures across all housing sectors;
- Introduce a Housing Options approach to prevent homelessness;
- Work with partners to reduce repeat homelessness and increase tenancy sustainment in the social rented sector;
- Adopt a more holistic joined up approach to improving standards in the Private Rented Sector;
- Improve education, training and job opportunities for West Dunbartonshire residents by building on existing strong links through Working 4U.

Within the context of promoting good quality housing, West Dunbartonshire has introduced a **Scheme of Assistance** to help home owners with information and advice and practical assistance about improving, repairing and maintaining their homes. This wills families to reduce the associated cost of property maintenance.

In addition, the Housing team has facilitated the feasibility assessment to develop district **heating schemes** in some or all of the 19 multi-storey blocks in West Dunbartonshire. The aim is to provide alternative heating options that will, among other outcomes, reduce heating costs for tenants and owners.

The Housing Team at West Dunbartonshire Council along with partners from the social rented housing sector have established a **Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan**.

Rapid Rehousing is about taking a housing led approach for people that have experienced homelessness, making sure they reach a settled housing option as quickly as possible rather than staying in temporary accommodation for too long. Where homelessness cannot be prevented, Rapid Rehousing means:

- A settled, mainstream housing outcome as quickly as possible;
- Time spent in any form of temporary accommodation reduced to a minimum, with the fewer transitions the better; and
- When temporary accommodation is needed, the optimum type is mainstream, furnished and within a community.

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The aim is to stabilise family life and circumstances at a particularly traumatic time. This will improve children's life chances in ways not about current income or reducing cost of living – potentially relevant to future child poverty and address the threat of persistent poverty.

This is part of the general approach to 'Housing Options' that will minimise homelessness through prevention and early intervention. The aims and objectives are clear and include proactive action to address local issues, including for example:

- Strengthen partnerships with West Dunbartonshire Health and Social Care Partnership and employability services (maximise income from work);
- Mitigate the potential negative effect emerging from welfare reform (maximise benefit entitlement);
- Increase the number of people who use the housing deposit scheme in the private sector (reducing costs);
- Develop in partnership an education package that can be rolled out across the local authority (other help to prevent poverty in future years); and
- Work in partnership to ensure children are not adversely affected by homelessness (targeted interventions).

In addition West Dunbartonshire's Leaving Care Housing Protocol was approved by the Housing Improvement Board in October 2017 and was implemented from January 2018. The protocol promotes the principle that care leavers will be provided with the securest form of tenancy available to them and will not routinely be provided with homeless accommodation.

In June 2019, as a further commitment to strengthen existing services as corporate parents, the Housing Improvement Board approved a pilot Young Care Leavers Rental Exemption Scheme. This scheme supports those care leavers who wish to attend full time education by covering the rental payments of those eligible. This enables these students to fully focus on their studies and not have financial worries during this time. It also encourages more young Care Leavers to aim to further their education by undertaking further or higher studies at college or university.

As a result:

- 13 Young Care Leavers have been housed through the protocol, all of which remain in their tenancies, apart from 1 who terminated to move away from the area;
- No Young Care Leaver, put forward via the protocol, has been forced into homelessness in order to access appropriate accommodation;
- 2 have made use of the protocol and have been housed in housing association properties through existing nomination agreements;
- 4 young Care Leavers are currently housed in Catch properties, preparing for independent living;
- During 2019/20, 11 Young Care Leavers benefitted from the pilot Rental Exemption Scheme.

In addition, NHSGGC public health team participated in a working group on housing, poverty, child poverty and health. The main approach implemented was 'Housing First', in aim to prevent homelessness. The work is being taken up by a national group.

### Rent Abatement

West Dunbartonshire Council has established a process for rent abatement that aims to alleviate / prevent destitution by providing conditional short term relief from housing payments for families where tenancy sustainment is threatened. This approach is designed to

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encourage early engagement between tenant and landlord and develop short and longer term solutions.

As such the housing officer should be working with tenant to plan for the future to avoid similar situations happening again where possible. This will include a full investigation of the circumstances and only when any financial agreement to repay rent has been explored. Each circumstance will be judged on its own merit and the length of abatement determined by the circumstances.

In order to prevent re-occurrence tenants should be signposted to support services such as Working 4U and signposting to third sector agencies for financial health checks could be considered as part of the future planning.

It is recognised that having made every effort to prevent arrears and escalation, there will remain instances where a tenant falls into arrears far beyond their ability to repay in any reasonable period. Often this brings a risk of tenancy failure. In exceptional circumstances Housing services staff have the discretion to award small discretionary sums from a hardship fund to provide short term relief and avoid homelessness.

The rent abatement and hardship fund will both provide short term solutions for families in difficult circumstances. Longer term solutions will be sought through the provision of ongoing support to address the cause of these prevailing circumstances.

Resources	Impact Summary
<p>The Housing Team has committed substantial resources to improving the quality and quantity of social rented housing – a key factor in addressing poverty.</p> <p>This includes resources to overcome both short term and longer term challenges.</p>	<p>The service focusses efforts on families to ensure that those most likely to be affected by child poverty are prioritised. All target groups within child poverty will benefit from these actions.</p>

### Going Forward

The Housing Team will continue to deliver the actions within the Local Housing Strategy. Specific emphasis will be placed on:

- Establishing the Rental Exemption Scheme as permanent mainstream service provision and incorporated within the main protocol;
- Explore the possibility with Strategic Housing Partnership Forum partners for extending Rental Exemption Scheme to other social landlords in West Dunbartonshire. This would prevent Care Leavers being disadvantaged against other Care Leavers who may be in a council property and fully eligible for the rent exemption, where those in RSL properties are currently not.
- Explore the potential for extending the Rental Exemption Scheme and access to education opportunities to a broader range of young people from disadvantaged backgrounds.

NHSGGC will participate in the national group on housing and health and monitor roll out of Housing First.

## Fuel Poverty

The Local Energy Awareness Project (LEAP) was officially launched in January 2018, being joint funded by West Dunbartonshire CAB and West Dunbartonshire Council, the aim to provide advice and assistance to residents experiencing difficulty with paying their fuel bills, experiencing fuel poverty or having issues with energy suppliers. The Project also works to raise awareness of energy efficiency issues with the wider community.

## Activities

In 2019/2020 the Project worked closely with Working4U teams, West Dunbartonshire Council Tenant Participation, tenants and residents associations, housing associations, local third sector organisations, Health Visitors and family support services to raise awareness of the project. Project staff attended local events to raise awareness directly within the community of the services available. Information regarding the Project is publicised by the use of social media and press releases.

In addition the Project engaged with a number of national organisations and campaigns to feed into policy consultations and reporting on the prevalence and effects of Fuel Poverty.

## Casework

In the period April 2019 to March 2020 the project assisted 414 households with 1,858 utility issues directly relating to gas and electricity accounts and an additional 160 fuel debt issues. The Project also provides assistance to households experiencing difficulty as a result of the miss-selling of Green Deal finance products.

Resources	Impact Summary
<p>The project employs a full time member of staff to conduct home visits and liaise with grant awarding organisations to maximise access for West Dunbartonshire residents.</p> <p>NHSGGC has a programme to increase access to advice about tackling fuel poverty to those accessing NHS services (in partnership with Home Energy Scotland).</p>	<p>Reducing the cost of living with an impact on all target groups.</p> <p>Specific emphasis on families with children and those dealing with high levels of utilities debt.</p>

## Going Forward

Given the uncertainty around COVID-19 restrictions the project is developing new ways of working to continue to develop the most effective ways to engage with households and other organisations – most probably via video-conferencing. Moving forward the Project will seek to strengthen existing relationships to provide a greater resource, reaching more households experiencing fuel poverty and energy issues within West Dunbartonshire

In addition, NHSggc is exploring innovative ways to increase use of Home Energy Scotland services.

Further information about the Project can be found in the report published at:

<http://www.wdcab.co.uk/publications-news/>

## Cost of the School Day

School costs can put pressure on low-income families and put children and young people at risk of missing out on opportunities and feeling different, ashamed and stigmatised. An evaluation led by NHS Health Scotland<sup>9</sup> has found that action to reduce school-related costs is effective in helping more schools to be sensitive to poverty and more children to participate in school.

A short-life working group consisting of staff from West Dunbartonshire Education Services was established: to consult parents; conduct research; identify actions and develop resources to assist schools to understand and address issues related to the cost of the school day. Group membership is listed in **Appendix 2**.

The ‘Getting it Right for Every Child’<sup>10</sup>, (GiRFEC) the national policy framework developed to support the well being of children and young people underpinned the team’s approach and the report structure reflected on cost of the school day in the context of the framework’s wellbeing indicators. (SHANARRI- Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Respected, Responsible, Included).

## Lived Experience

The report reflected on the lived experience of parents and children that were consulted and noted that the three most concerning costs were the costs of: uniforms, lunch; and trips.

In Early Years some families were not accessing their ‘Early Learning and Childcare’ entitlement because of travel costs. Staff in childcare facilities reported that children often lack adequate clothing for weather conditions, while parents with children at primary school urged the team to consider the effect of in-work poverty and not to:

*‘Assume that working parents on low salaries can afford things better than non-working families who get more support with school meals, uniforms and trips’.*

Low income families are reported to face particular challenges triggered by fundraising events:

*‘Christmas jumper events, wear it pink, Santa Dash etc. puts parents under a lot of pressure to buy associated clothing. Not much use saying, “Oh you don’t need to wear that particular thing”, but peer pressure dictates that you do!’*

The report highlights good practice, the barriers to learning and recommendations to address the challenges:

## SAFE

Transport costs are highlighted as challenging by families who live beyond walking distance from the school or where families have travel costs for more than one child. As a result financial support is available to support families living more than two miles from the school.

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<sup>9</sup> <http://www.healthscotland.scot/publications/evaluation-of-the-cost-of-the-school-day-programme> (accessed 22/07/20)

<sup>10</sup> Scottish Government (2017): ‘Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC)’. <https://www.gov.scot/policies/girfec/> (accessed 22/07/20)

## **Healthy**

The cost of breakfast clubs and school lunches is identified as a clear challenge for low income families. Through health promotions, schools provide food which meets strict nutritional standards and through Pupil Equity Funding a number of schools have developed cookery master classes to encourage healthy choices at home.

Free breakfast clubs have been established and Early Learning Centre's provide a free snack. In addition 'holiday hunger' actions are set within school holiday programmes that are delivered in partnership with the Youth Alliance.

Schools are working hard to reduce costs for families by:

- Making washing products available in school;
- Providing access to sanitary products;
- Providing oral hygiene products; and
- Ensuring free school meals remain available to pupils when on exclusion.

## **Achieving**

It was noted that creative homework projects are good for parents and children. But quite often parents can not always afford to purchase the additional products required. While others noted the additional costs associated with subjects such as design and home economics.

The report notes there are packs of relevant resources for use by pupils at home and support for out of school hours learning has been developed in partnership with community learning colleagues. Specific focus for these activities is placed on supporting young people with care experience.

## **Nurtured**

The Cost of the School Day report notes that key characteristics of young people who are nurtured may include attributes such as confidence, happy, sociable young people. High levels of family engagement and involvement within educational settings are key, in some instances, to achieving this aim.

Psychological Services set within education venues across West Dunbartonshire Council area have increased the awareness of the principles of nurture. This will be reinforced by the aim to become a trauma informed staff to ensure social emotional development support underpins all activities.

Supporting activities include:

- Pupil Families Support;
- Care Connections;
- PPP – Parents, Pamper, Patter
- FFF Food, Families, Future; and
- Support for addressing debt, benefits and employability.

## **Active**

Having opportunities to take part in activities such as play, recreation and sport at home and in the community is critical to health growth and development. However, it comes at a cost that could be a burden to families with limited resources.

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While the schools are committed to delivering at least two hours of physical education, there is recognition that maintaining a high level of participation among children from families with lower incomes may require the provision of gym uniforms.

In addition, the report encourages schools to:

- Ensure all children participate and assist those with barriers to participation;
- Provide access to free activities at lunchtime and afterschool;
- Provide PE kits where necessary;
- Encourage the development of sports academies;
- Use Pupil Equity Funding to promote inclusion and participation.

### Respected

Children living in poverty may face additional barriers to their development as respected and respectful individuals. Issues can arise as a result of not engaging with the curriculum and with the opportunities that a creative and modern curriculum presents.

In addition, children living in poverty are often unable to join in with popular culture and trends; they may not have access to the same resources as their peers, and therefore miss out on valuable bonding and social experiences.

These children are at risk of isolation when they appear not to conform to peer group expectations, with a uniform not of the perceived required standard or, indeed no uniform at all.

To combat this, clear referral pathways and information about financial support have been established. This includes links to Citizens Advice, Child Poverty Action Line and Working 4U debt and money advice support. The aim is to ensure that families are receiving all the support they are entitled to.

In addition, safe spaces have been established and family learning opportunities are located within schools. The plan is to audit the views of parents and carers on a range of subjects including accessibility and the cost of uniforms.

### Responsible

The ‘Cost of the School Day’ Report notes that children living in poverty may face significant barriers to their development as responsible citizens. Ensuring poverty related stigma is included in anti-bullying guidelines encourages children and young people to show empathy towards their peers.

In addition children living in poverty can shoulder the burden of looking after younger siblings and are therefore at risk of missing out on educational and social experiences.

When children and young people are fully aware of the nature, causes, extent of poverty nationally and locally it creates a better understanding of the issues their peers may be facing.

Things identified for those working in Education Services to consider include:

- Referring parents to Employability and Adult Learning Support Services;
- Promoting the Educational Support Allowance; and
- Working with the third sector to develop support services, such as Y Sort-It Young Carers Support

## Included

In order to be fully included in school life and beyond children and young people should be encouraged to engage in a diverse range of school opportunities and challenges.

Participating fully in the life of the school such as representing the school at sporting/music events, engaging in local authority or even national competitions, participating in school clubs and excursions to the local and wider area.

However, again there is a cost, the impact of which was captured by a parent of two secondary school pupils:

*'Nearly £2,000 for school trip ×2, can't afford and we both work fulltime'.*

The things to consider, identified in the report, include:

- Limiting the number of fundraising events during the year and provide sufficient notice where costumes are required;
- Establishing fund raising activities for trips (bag packing);
- Raise awareness of poverty issues among staff and parents using external resources such as Poverty Truth Commission films.

Resources	Impact Summary
<p>The 'Things to Consider' section of the West Dunbartonshire '<i>Cost of The School Day</i>' report represents considerable resource for development and identifies a range of transferrable actions. This will support staff and parents of children at West Dunbartonshire schools to take positive steps to limit the cost of the school day.</p>	<p>The impact will be a reduction of costs for families who want to ensure their children are not excluded from activities and full participation in school activities and events.</p>

## Going Forward

The Cost of the School Day resource will allow staff and parents to develop a range of effective actions for the benefit of children and young people living in families with limited resources.

During the forthcoming year the team will reinforce existing actions, review through ongoing consultation on lived experience and promotion to raise awareness of available support. This will include work with school communities to reflect on and evaluate the impact of costs and how to mitigate these challenges.

## Cost of the Pregnancy Pathway

NHSGGC and NHS Ayrshire and Arran worked with Health Scotland to commission research on cost of the pregnancy pathway. Actions include how to increase NHS referrals to money advice services, local provision of 2nd hand baby equipment and clothing, travel costs to appointments, childcare costs; and increasing new maternity benefits uptake. NHSGGC will continue to work with partners on utilising the learning from the cost of the pregnancy pathway research.

## Early Learning and Childcare

Childcare costs are substantial and can add a substantial burden to family income. However, support is available. Children who are three years old are entitled to a place within an Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) setting.

At present all children who are 3 years old are entitled to 600 hours of free childcare from the term after they turn 3. Entitlement to 600 hours is usually delivered during the school year.

The 600 hours entitlement of ELC equates to daily sessions of 3 hours and 10 minutes each day, during the school term. Usually parents / carers choose to spread this over five mornings or afternoons. More flexibility can be offered which will support longer days and different patterns of attendance.

The date this access begins depends on the child's date of birth. Generally if their birthdate is between:

- 1st March and 31st August, they start in autumn term.
- 1st September and 31st December, they start in January for the spring term.
- 1st January and 28th February, they start in April for the summer term.

Nursery places for children younger than three are provided at full cost by private nurseries, unless the family is eligible for free early learning and childcare for two year olds. Eligible children are entitled to 600 hours free childcare when they become two years of age.

Families can access a funded early learning and childcare if their child has become two years old and the family is in receipt of these benefits:

- Income support (IS);
- Job Seeker's Allowance (income-based);
- Any income related element of Employment and Support Allowance;
- Incapacity or Severe Disablement Allowance;
- State Pension Credit;
- Child Tax Credit, but not Working Tax Credit and your income is £16,105 or less;
- Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit and your income is £7,320 or less;
- Supported under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999;
- Universal Credit and your household take-home pay is £610 a month or less;

Funded early learning and childcare is also available if your child is two years or over and is or has been:

- looked after by a local council;
- the subject of a kinship care order.

Local authority funded providers, funded private provider nurseries in partnership with West Dunbartonshire Council including Childminders all offer early learning and childcare for eligible two year olds. Admission is the month after your child is two years or from the term after parents receive the qualifying benefit.

Further information is available in the <https://www.west-dunbarton.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/early-years/elc-places/>

## Education Maintenance Allowance Payments

An Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is a Scottish Government initiative aimed at helping young people stay on in education. The EMA is a weekly allowance of £30 payable to young people who have achieved 100% attendance each week at school. West Dunbartonshire Council will also increase the EMA by applying a £5 additional payment each week for every young person with 100% attendance. The cumulative bonus amounts being paid twice per year, usually in December and July.

To qualify, households with one dependent child who attends school in West Dunbartonshire for a minimum of 21 hours must be earning £24,421 per year or less. Households with more than one dependent child must be earning £26,884 or less, before tax. In 2019/2020 West Dunbartonshire distributed £302,314 in EMAs to local families.

**Table 9:** illustrates the number of people who are in receipt of EMAs in West Dunbartonshire.

Table 9: Uptake of EMAs 2019/2020		
16- 19 Year old Groupings	Number	%age
16 -19 year old remaining at School in West Dunbartonshire	1,431	100% - based on figures from Seemis (Education Services management information system) , 1,431 in S5 & S6 throughout 19/20
16 -19 year old at School in West Dunbartonshire in receipt of EMA	324	23% of all pupils remaining at school in S5 & S6 in West Dunbartonshire received an EMA in 19/20

This suggests that eligible families, on average, receive approximately £900 each year to supplement their income while their children remain at school to complete their studies.

Resources	Impact Summary
West Dunbartonshire Council has introduced a number of local flexibilities to ensure a broader range of children obtain access to EMA's this year.  This is consistent with Government guidance in the face of COVID-19.	Specific emphasis has been placed on ensuring that families who have been affected by COVID-19 (furloughed, redundancy) are given the opportunity to apply for EMA. This has contributed to income maximisation among eligible families.

## Going Forward

We will continue to review the numbers in receipt of EMA's, ensuring it is accessible to all who require it. Our intention is to ensure that all pupils who are eligible receive the full entitlement. Where appropriate we will ensure families who are in receipt of EMAs also have access to full benefit entitlement through support from our colleagues in the Working 4U benefits and debt team.

More information about Education Maintenance Allowances in West Dunbartonshire can be found at: <https://www.west-dunbarton.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/school-and-educational-grants/education-maintenance-allowance/>

## Free School Meals and Clothing Grants

Free nursery/school meals and the footwear and clothing grant are available for parents on low income in West Dunbartonshire.

All children in Primary 1-3 are automatically entitled to free school meals and therefore do not have to apply for access.

Residents in West Dunbartonshire are eligible for free nursery/school meals and a school clothing grant if they are in receipt of one or some of a number of benefits, including:

- Income Support;
- Universal Credit with an annual income of £8,320 or less;
- Jobseekers Allowance (income based);
- Pension Credit;
- Employment and Support Allowance (income related);
- Working Tax Credit with income less than £9,830;
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration & Asylum Act 1999.

Residents are eligible for a school clothing grant only if they receive:

- Housing and/or Council Tax Benefit;
- Working Tax Credit with a gross annual income of £16,860.

Residents are eligible for free nursery/school meals if they are in receipt of Child Tax Credit only (but not Working Tax Credit) with income less than £17,500. In addition, free school meals are available to children who are:

- Looked after by the authority concerned or any local authority; or,
- The subject of a kinship care order or a child falling within section 71(3) (f) of the Act (referred to here as a child having a parent appointed guardian).

The School Clothing Grant is currently £100.00 per child. In 2019/2020 the total value of awards for clothing grants was £456,200 which equates to 4,562 awards.

**Table 10** summarises the number and proportion of school age children obtaining access to free school meals and number who have received a clothing grant.

Table 10: Access to Free School Meals and Clothing Grants in West Dunbartonshire							
Sector	Pupil Roll 18/08/2020	Free Meals Entitlement (Deprivation)		Free Meals Entitlement P1-P3 and Local Schemes		Number in Receipt of Clothing Grant	
		n	%	n	%	n	%
Early Years	938	61	6.5%	61	6.5%	67	7.1%
Primary	6,825	1,530	22.4%	3,666	53.7%	2,281	33.4%
Secondary	5,678	1,071	18.9%	1,071	18.9%	1,691	29.8%
Special	213	81	38.0%	118	55.4%	112	52.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,654</b>	<b>2,743</b>	<b>20.1%</b>	<b>4,916</b>	<b>36.0%</b>	<b>4,151</b>	<b>30.4%</b>

Resources	Impact Summary
West Dunbartonshire Council has introduced a number of local flexibilities to ensure a broader range of children obtain access to free school meals and clothing grants.	Specific emphasis has been placed on ensuring that children from disadvantaged backgrounds have access to free school meals.

## Going Forward

In December 2019 the West Dunbartonshire Council agreed to an expansion of access to free school meals. This major expansion, which will save local families hundreds of pounds per year, will be phased in at schools across the area over the next two years. The £950,000 investment in 2020/21 will be partially funded by a rise in Council Tax of 4.84%.

Further Information about free school meals and clothing grants can be found at:

<https://www.west-dunbarton.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/school-and-educational-grants/free-school-meals-and-clothing-grant/>

## Young Scot Card

Young Scot is the national youth information and citizenship charity providing young people aged 11-26 years with a mixture of information, ideas and incentives to help them become confident, informed and active citizens.

The Youth Scot National Entitlement Card (NEC) is one of the benefits offered and is accredited by the Proof of Age Standards Scheme (PASS). The National Entitlement Card provides access to discounts that are designed to help young people make the most of their money and increase awareness and use of local services.

As a partnership between 32 Local Authorities and the Scottish Government, managed by Young Scot, the NEC is a free smart card available to all young people aged 11–26 years. There are over 1,500 discounts available, including, for example:

- Discount on the ‘Euro 26’ network and therefore offering young people access to discounts across 42 countries;
- National concessionary travel scheme, in partnership with Transport Scotland. Young people aged 16-18 and full-time volunteers under 26 can receive discounted travel on buses, trains and ferries each year; and
- Retail discounts - National participants include the Co-operative Food and Scotmid, Topshop and BSM Driving.

The card is promoted by Education Services and youth support teams in order to ensure that we maximise the possible benefits for young people. In addition, the NEC is issued to all S1 pupils who are living in West Dunbartonshire at the beginning of each academic year. At present:

- 13,175 young people in West Dunbartonshire have a Young Scot Entitlement National Card;
- This represents 89% of the young people eligible for the card.

Resources	Impact Summary
Staff at West Dunbartonshire assist in the delivery and further development of opportunities associated with the Young Scot National Entitlement Card	The aim is to reduce the cost of living for young people with an impact on all target groups. Specific emphasis will be placed on ensuring that young people from disadvantaged backgrounds and experience of the care sector have full access to the entitlements.

## Going Forward

Through negotiations with Young Scot, we have agreed that organisations in West Dunbartonshire can now create local rewards and provide entitlements for young people. Working4U Youth Learning, along with the West Dunbartonshire Youth Council, has recently worked with the Young Scot team to develop and implement a new Young Scot Action Plan. The aim is to establish a more comprehensive and targeted approach locally and ensure young people receive the full programme of opportunities available through Young Scot. Further Information about the Young Scot card in West Dunbartonshire can be found here:

<https://young.scot/the-young-scot-card/west-dunbartonshire>

## Ending Period Poverty in the Community

In order to tackle period poverty in the community, West Dunbartonshire Council developed a new project #EndPeriodPoverty. This effort has been aided by grant funding from the Scottish Government.

The aim of the project is to end period poverty and associated stigma by ensuring that those needing sanitary products can obtain them for free, without question at accessible locations. Information about the project can be found at:

<https://www.west-dunbarton.gov.uk/health-social-care/period-poverty/>

We are being supported in these efforts by ‘Hey Girls’, a well respected social enterprise. Hey Girls are not only providing a range of products that go beyond environmental regulations, for every box distributed, ‘Hey Girls’ is also donating the equivalent to community-based projects.

In 2019/2020 we worked with 38 community and health service venues in West Dunbartonshire and established these as access points. We have also worked with four local food insecurity groups to ensure that those requiring emergency food supplies can also obtain products.

In addition, we have engaged with midwifery staff and a health visitor to raise awareness of the project and provide care packages for their mums, families and patients.

During the course of the year Syrian refugees were provided with care packs as were those affected by homelessness. We are also engaging with Police Scotland discuss the potential to provide those in custody suites with products.

We have provided products for a range of local events and development sessions run by employability, community learning, housing and criminal justice services as well as foodbanks, and those affected by domestic violence.

Resources	Impact Summary
Staff at West Dunbartonshire Council developed and delivered the project and from August 2019 to March 2020, we distributed over £37,000 of products	Reducing the cost of living with an impact on all target groups. Specific emphasis on people facing difficult transitional circumstances

## Going Forward

Distribution venues are currently closed or restricted because of COVID-19. However, in response to this we have worked with the supplier to establish a direct supply service to home addresses in West Dunbartonshire.

We will continue to work with public sector services and community-based organisations to maintain supply of products allowing them to distribute products to their service user.

In the forthcoming year we will continue to distribute products, with a budget of £59,000 set aside for this purpose. In addition, there will be a focus on education/awareness to eradicate the stigma of periods, and the impact of period poverty.

## Food Insecurity in the Community

Food insecurity is a common experience throughout Scotland influenced by insufficient weekly income, low pay and unpredictable income. It is concentrated by higher costs of living, lack of family and food knowledge and access issues. In recognition of the prevalence of these circumstances and the growing use of local food banks among residents, West Dunbartonshire Council has taken wider action to address this situation in a number of ways, for example:

- Extending the provision of free school meals;
- Supporting programmes to address holiday hunger during school holidays;
- Addressing community-based food insecurity by providing financial support for the established foodbanks operating in West Dunbartonshire, (Community Foodshare and Food 4 Thought).

As a direct response to community based risks of food insecurity risks emerging as a direct result of the United Kingdom's exit from the European Union (Brexit), a West Dunbartonshire food insecurity group was established. The food insecurity group aims to co-ordinate support and maximise access to additional resources being made available to address food insecurity.

The food insecurity group is attended by representatives West Dunbartonshire Council (Working 4U and Communities Team) and established local food banks. The participating food banks are independent; have a long track record and experience of working in food insecurity; a wide ranging network of volunteers and a comprehensive set of policies and procedures for gathering, safely storing and supplying foodstuffs.

Foodbanks have also played a key role in the response to the COVID-19 crisis, and the need to support shielded and vulnerable families. The two main foodbanks were provided with COVID-19 specific food funding to provide emergency food supplies to households supported by the West Dunbartonshire Council Crisis Support Team.

The food insecurity group has used the COVID-19 funding:

- To meet local needs by purchasing food to be distributed by the foodbanks.
- To meet some of the additional staff costs incurred by the foodbanks as a result of the significant increase in demand.

To date the crisis support team has fielded requests for assistance from 2,290 people, with 722 households being assisted with emergency food supplies. These were families that would not have previously received support from the foodbanks and were additional to their existing workload.

Resources	Impact Summary
The food insecurity group has been formed and funding to support the development and sustainability of the foodbanks has been provided by West Dunbartonshire Council directly and indirectly through the use of the food insecurity funding provided by the Scottish Government.	Reducing the cost of living with an impact on all target groups. Specific emphasis on people facing difficult transitional circumstances

In addition, NHSGGC Support and Information Services have partnerships in place to provide emergency food packages for people in need being discharged from hospital. This

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also includes a money advice pilot for patients being discharged from Stobhill Mental Health inpatient Unit.

### Going Forward

It is anticipated that on the basis of the availability of the food insecurity fund, this additional support will remain in place until March 2021. The food insecurity group will ensure service users have access to Working 4U services.

Further information about food insecurity can be obtained at:

<https://www.west-dunbarton.gov.uk/coronavirus/additional-support/>

This is to ensure foodbank users are supported to overcome the challenges and circumstances that led them to seek support from foodbanks in the first place. This includes support to stabilise personal circumstances, maximise benefits, address debt issues and seek employment where appropriate. In effect, joint working to address cause and symptoms of poverty.

In addition, NHSGGC will continue with emergency food packages for those in need on discharge from hospital.

## Helping Families in Other Ways

### Care Connections

The **Care Connections** programme supports young people who are looked after at home, where there is a Compulsory Supervision order in place, and young carers specifically those young people who have disengaged from education.

The programme offers support that is customised to the needs of the individual and their families/carers and aims to close the poverty-related attainment gap by supporting young people to engage with and return to education.

The programme has been designed with the support of participants and is delivered by a partnership consisting of the Care Experienced Champions Board; Working 4U; and Ysortit.

Activity focuses on three key school stages providing continuous support for targeted young people across their school life. The provision typically includes:

- **P1 to P3 (prior to and beyond if required)** - Out of School Hours Learning/Homework Clubs;
- **P4 to S6 (and beyond up to age 18)** - Intandem Youth Mentoring;
- **S4 to S6** Access to the Apprenticeship Pathway.

A key element of the support being the provision of a designated Care Connect Worker supporting each young person to address any issues in their School, Community and Family life. At primary school this Care Connect worker role will be managed by Ysortit and at Secondary Working 4U will manage the Care Connect worker

In addition the support may also include a range of interventions that are delivered either one to one or in group sessions. These support measures cover a number of general areas and are customised to suit the needs of individual children and families.

**Table 11** provides an overview of the various elements delivered.

**Table 11: Care Connectors Support Activity**

Safe Space	Engagement	Group Work	Community	Family
Morning Meets	121 support	Resilience	Sports Clubs	Family Workshops
Lunch Club	Sleep Workshops	Positive Relationships	Summer/ October Programmes	Money Advice
Open Door Office	Stress Management	Goal Setting	Active Contributors	Fuel Grants
Support	Daily meetings	Barrier Removal	Apprenticeship Pathways	Free School Meals Entitlement
Emotional Wellbeing	Soft Starts	Team Building		

Resources	Impact Summary
<p>Staff at West Dunbartonshire Council developed and delivered the project.</p> <p>Education through PEF/SAC funding</p>	<p>Maximising opportunities for young people, who may be living in families affected by poverty and contributing to their skills attainment and positive destinations.</p>

## Going Forward

We will continue to focus on the young person's school, community and family life with parents/ carers being supported within the West Dunbartonshire Family Opportunity Hubs. Furthermore, we will contribute to the development of an alternative curriculum which is being developed by Education Services for those young people within the Additional Support Needs target group.

We will continue to work with partners; West Dunbartonshire Council service departments, Third Sector and Private Sector organisations to ensure placements and employment opportunities are available for young people accessing the Apprenticeship pathway.

We will also work with our colleagues delivering 'No one Left Behind' and Parental Employability Support provision to ensure that we continue to support our most vulnerable young people to make the transition from childhood to adulthood and from education to employment.

## Community Learning and Development

Community Learning and Development (CLD) plays a central part in ensuring individuals, families and communities across West Dunbartonshire reach their potential through lifelong learning, mutual self-help and community organisation - and that the available support and opportunities are community-led and built around people's aspirations.

The Community Learning and Development Teams, along with the Communities Team have developed comprehensive plans based around the development of skills for life and work and skills to empower communities by supporting them to develop resilience within communities throughout West Dunbartonshire.

### CLD Activity

Many of the activities delivered by the Community Learning and Development Teams and Communities Team in West Dunbartonshire have been consistent with the specific aims of addressing child poverty. This includes action to maximise income, reduce costs and understand the lived experience of people living in disadvantaged communities.

### Youth Alliance

- Secured funding to provide seasonal holiday programmes for young people.
- Developed a Youth Alliance Pupil Equity Fund pathway to provide schools with additional support and resources to assist them with their goal of raising attainment.
- Supported young people to develop their skills and provide them with structured opportunities.
- Established the link to apprenticeship opportunities and positive destinations for school leavers.

### Adult Learning Partnership

- Made learning more accessible and developed on-line courses.
- Supporting the development of 'Click and Connect' Centre in Balloch Library.
- Increased retention and attainment in community based vocational courses.
- Increased Learner Voice activity locally.
- Responded to need, in particular the challenges associated with Universal Credit full-service roll out.
- Supported the delivery of 'Working Matters', assisting people with long term illness to move closer to the labour market.
- Supported the development and delivery of family opportunity hubs in school in response to issues of poverty and social exclusion.
- Provided travel tokens, to encourage uptake of services.
- Community Learners on partnership courses provided with West College Scotland matriculation cards, so they can access student discounts.
- Supported the Refugee Re-settlement Programme to obtain funding for crèche support.

### Communities Team

- Worked with communities across the local authority area to develop WDC's first Community Empowerment Strategy and Action Plan.
- Increased up-take of the Improvement Fund grant aimed at delivering community-led improvements.

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- Completed the 4th Phase of Community Budgeting (CB) which delivered the greatest levels of participation in a single WDC CB event to-date.
- Delivered a successful Domestic Abuse Conference aimed at promoting conversation and addressing the silence within communities on this issue.
- Delivered successful Community Alliance Conference with representation from across the local authority.
- Undertook a review of Community Councils that led to the development of a detailed Action Plan to support their growth and development.
- Concluded the West Dunbartonshire wide conversation on the demand for Community Transport provision with a successful funding bid to support delivery of a pilot project.

Resources	Impact Summary
<p>West Dunbartonshire Council is committed to supporting Community Learning and Development and Community Empowerment.</p> <p>There are three Teams (Adult Learning, Youth Learning and Communities) delivering against clear plans that have a commitment to improving the quality of life for people in West Dunbartonshire.</p>	<p>The objectives for many of the programmes delivered by the CLD teams are consistent with the aims of child poverty legislation. This includes reducing costs of learning; promoting access to opportunity and supporting community resilience.</p>

### Going Forward

The teams will continue to develop and deliver their plans with emphasis being placed on issues such as period poverty, holiday hunger addressing illicit money lending and supporting the Connecting Scotland programme.

As COVID-19 takes hold, it is anticipated that the teams will be central to the delivery of humanitarian aid by supporting access to crisis support and providing practical support for individuals and families affected by the pandemic.

More information about CLD and Empowerment plans and activities can be found online at:

<https://www.west-dunbarton.gov.uk/council/strategies-plans-and-policies/cld-plan-2018-2021/>

<https://www.west-dunbarton.gov.uk/council/community-planning-west-dunbartonshire/community-empowerment-scotland-act-2015/>

## Access to Further Education

The collaboration between West College Scotland and West Dunbartonshire Council facilitates adults' participation in a range of learning opportunities at a variety of levels.

We have a flexible approach to learning that provides the students with clear pathways, guidance and support to positive destinations. We deliver a range of subjects many of which are geared towards opportunities in the local labour market. Drawing on support from 14 College departments we deliver course on:

- Counselling, Psychology, Mindfulness, Wellbeing;
- Childhood practice; Fashion and Textiles Technology' Upholstery; Carpentry and Joinery, Painting and Decorating;
- Criminology; Creative Writing; IT - Microsoft Apps: Word Processing, Presentations, Excel; and
- Administration; Hair and Beauty; Cookery; and Horticulture.

The venues we use are located throughout West Dunbartonshire and childcare is provided to facilitate participation and we use local centres to minimise travel costs and enable learners to engage in the opportunities from within their local communities. The facilities and their locations are illustrated in **Table 12**.

Table 12: Community Learning Venues					
Facilities	Locations				
Community Facilities	Alexandria Library	Dalmuir Community Centre	Faifley Resource Centre	Central Alexandria Tenants and Residents	
Schools	Clydebank High School	Our Holy Redeemer Primary School Clydebank	Linnvale Primary School Clydebank	Our Lady of Loretto Primary School Dalmuir	St Josephs Primary School Faifley
Partner Premises	Chest Heart & Stroke Office Dumbarton	Levengrove Training Centre Dumbarton	Safe as Houses supported accommodation Drumry	Autism and Asperger Centre Renton	West College Scotland Clydebank Campus

### In 2019/20

- 606 learners started with a retention of 57% achieved;
- Participants study for 35 SQA Units with a 49% Success/Completion of learning units achieved.

Resources	Impact Summary
West College Scotland delivers community-based learning, which, with input from West Dunbartonshire Council, provides up to 2,000 hours of learning for residents in West Dunbartonshire.	Services delivered in schools, specifically geared towards attracting parents. This not only encourages access but also reduces the cost of participation.

## Going Forward

We will continue to deliver learning services and focus on attracting learners from disadvantaged backgrounds; many of which will be delivered through a blended approach

because of the unfolding pandemic. Those opportunities with practical elements which cannot be carried out on-line will be deferred until the college opens in September.

## **Addressing Adverse Childhood Experiences**

The term Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) refers to:

*'Events that happen to a child, in the absence of safety, which are traumatic for that child and causes toxic stress, can change their biology and increase their risk of experiencing a wide range of physical and mental conditions during their life course'.*

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are stressful events occurring in childhood including, for example:

- Families experiencing domestic violence;
- parental abandonment through separation or divorce;
- living in a family with a parent with a mental health condition;
- being the victim of abuse (physical, sexual and/or emotional) ;
- being the victim of neglect (physical and emotional);
- a member of the household being in prison ;
- growing up in a household in which there are adults experiencing alcohol and drug use problems.

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are associated with poor health outcomes in the widest context. Population studies have indicated that these include: injury and death during childhood; premature mortality and suicide; disease and illness; mental illness; and poverty. The mechanisms for causing harm include health harming behaviors', social determinants of health, and neurobiological and genetic pathways. However, negative outcomes due to ACEs are not inevitable.

Tackling adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) continues to be a key priority in West Dunbartonshire. To promote the development of support to address the impact of ACEs staff at West Dunbartonshire Community Health and Social Care Partnership organised screenings of the film '*Resilience*'

The film is an award winning documentary that explores the science of Adverse Childhood Experiences and how these experiences can alter brain development; with lifelong effects on health and behaviour that can be contributory factors to poverty. The aim of the screening is to develop approaches in West Dunbartonshire that are designed to develop nurturing relationships and peer support to address the toxicity of ACEs

In 2019/20 '*Resilience*' film viewings were organised with 158 people attending. This brought the cumulative total to 1,000 people.

As a result this led to a Learning and Engagement event, 'Nurturing Individuals and Building Resilient Communities' which was held in February 2020. This was a collaboration between Clydebank High School's Learning Festival and the West Dunbartonshire HSCP. This event was attended by and culminated in the launch 300 participants and culminated in the re-launch of West Dunbartonshire's ACEs Hub transforming it into a strength-based '*Resilience*' Hub.

The purpose of the Hub will be reviewed as it evolves but it is currently to:

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- Increase awareness of ACEs and share information among people working in WD, including changes to national/local strategic context; new research; resources; video clips; training opportunities; national & local events.
- Enable networking - share organisational news or info about access to services, referral pathways, etc.
- Share good practice and information about what works.
- Stimulate action among individuals and organisations.

Resources	Impact Summary
The Resilience Hub has 412 members and provides a significant opportunity to develop the approach to supporting those affected by adverse childhood experiences and poverty.	Building the understanding of adversity across the workforce. Recognising the connection with child poverty and supporting people to address the impact of adverse childhood experiences and its potential negative impact.

### Going Forward

We will re-establish the Resilience Hub as an online forum. We will work with partners and community members to better understand what strength based approaches to adversity will support them. We will link staff development to the trauma training framework.

More information about Adverse Childhood Experiences work in West Dunbartonshire and the West Dunbartonshire Integrated Children's Services Needs Assessment 2018 can be found at:

<http://www.wdhscp.org.uk/useful-information/children-and-young-people/>

## Family Nurse Partnership

Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) is an intensive home visiting programme delivered by specially trained nurses to first time mothers aged 19 years and under. The support is provided from early in pregnancy until the child is two years of age.

In NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde (NHSGGC) 92% of FNP clients reside in the most deprived areas (SIMD 1 and 2). FNP teams routinely see families who are affected by poverty. The FNP aims to improve:

- pregnancy and birth outcomes;
- child health and development;
- parents' economic self-sufficiency.

The programme works with the strengths of the client and encourages them to fulfil their aspirations for their baby and themselves. A pattern of weekly and fortnightly visits begin early in pregnancy and continue until the child's second birthday.

The Family Nurse Partnership works with a range of organisations and agencies to facilitate access to support including support that is set out within the context of the West Dunbartonshire Integrated Services. More information about integrated children's services needs can be found at:

<http://www.wdhscp.org.uk/useful-information/children-and-young-people/>

In the period 2019/2020, 33 clients were enrolled within West Dun for Family Nurse Partnership; 82% of these clients live within areas of high deprivation. Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation levels one and two.

Currently 28 eligible families receive support from the NHSGGC Family Nurse Partnership. 31 families having graduated in the first cohort which recruited 37 families from West Dunbartonshire mainly through midwife referrals.

Resources	Impact Summary
There are now seven Family Nurse Partnership teams in NHSGGC. This will ensure all first-time mothers of 19 years and under will be eligible for a Family Nurse.	<p>The partnership specifically targets action to support young mums and will assist them to address a range of challenges associated with parenthood.</p> <p>The specific aims are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To improve antenatal health and birth outcomes.</li><li>• To improve child health and development.</li><li>• To improve parents' economic self-sufficiency.</li></ul>

## Going Forward

This pandemic continues to be extremely challenging in particular for families living on low incomes. Pre-COVID 19, Greater Glasgow and Clyde Valley had a child poverty rate higher than the national average. Family Nurses spend a great deal of time mitigating the impact of poverty. The process for FNP supporting young mums with community learning and employability opportunities along with clear referrals to welfare and benefit support will be developed in the forthcoming year.

## Domestic Abuse Partnership

West Dunbartonshire has a higher than average incidence of domestic abuse. This has the potential to have devastating consequences on families with children. As such West Dunbartonshire Council has established a Domestic Abuse Partnership that aims to fully support victims and create a culture of challenge zero tolerance to all forms of abuse.

In addition, we have established a procedure to tackle domestic abuse set around the theme of ‘No Home for Domestic Abuse’. This procedure follows two main routes of action and is based on the consent of the victim(s).

These two action points are:

- Offering the victim and any dependant/s legal claim back to the matrimonial home via Matrimonial Homes Act (Scotland) 1981; and
- Identifying and pursuing appropriate legal restriction to tackle behaviour of the offender.

The procedure is designed to protect victims and change the behaviour of perpetrators by the combined use of Multi Agency Risk and Communications Committee’ model (MARAC) and a Multi-Agency Tasking and Co-ordination (MATAC) process.

The MARAC model involves a thorough risk assessment in all reported cases of domestic abuse to identify those at highest risk and to establish the foundation for a multi-agency approach.

This is complemented by the MATAC process that aims to identify and target the most harmful perpetrators through analysis of incidents, their frequency and gravity of offending. Identified perpetrators will be referred into the MATAC process where a bespoke set of interventions will be established using a ‘*Domestic Abuse Toolkit for West Dunbartonshire*’.

The No Home for Domestic Abuse service, whether MARAC or MATAC offers

- a comprehensive, confidential assessment of accommodation and support needs;
- advice, assistance and housing options as well as advice on rights as a homeless person;
- temporary or permanent accommodation as appropriate or where required;
- access to specialists support services such as Women’s Aid and Cara Project;
- access to benefits and debt and money advice to maximise income and reduce the burden of debt.

Resources	Impact Summary
Four Tenant Liaison Officers have been appointed to enhance the level of assistance provided by the current Domestic Abuse Liaison Officer. This enables a greater scale of person-centred assistance to be provided to victims to ensure the assistance they need is available as and when they require it.	The aim is to support families through difficult transitions caused by domestic abuse. This includes, where appropriate, addressing issues around housing, income and access to opportunity for family members.

## Going Forward

The Council’s No Home for Domestic Abuse service has expanded with the appointment of Tenant Liaison Officers to ensure service capacity and resilience.

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An amendment to the Council's housing allocations policy is being made in order to ensure victims can always be assisted to remain in their home and perpetrators rehoused elsewhere. This also takes account of changes to Domestic Abuse legislation.

<https://www.improvementservice.org.uk/case-studies/west-dunbartonshire-council/west-dunbartonshire-council-urges-domestic-abuse-victims-to-seek-support-during-pandemic>

More details about the 'No Home for Domestic Abuse' programme can be found at:

<https://www.west-dunbarton.gov.uk/housing/no-home-for-domestic-abuse/>

## Family Opportunity Hubs

The West Dunbartonshire Family Opportunities Hub is a collaborative effort between West Dunbartonshire Council, '*Housing and Employability Service*' (Working 4U) and West Dunbartonshire, '*Education Services*' which is partly funded through European Social Funds and Scottish Attainment Challenge Funds. The aim is to provide support for families, particularly those on the verge of crisis, to stabilise their family circumstances and help their children to meet the demands of the school day.

The Hubs are located in three secondary schools in West Dunbartonshire ('*Our Lady and St Patrick's*', '*Clydebank High School*' and most recently '*Vale of Leven Academy*'). The Hub in the Vale of Leven was launched in February 2020). Hub support is extended to local primary schools and early education and childcare centres.

The Hubs are delivered by staff with experience of employability and welfare rights services. The team uses of a broad assessment tool and work on a 1:2:1 basis with parents to identify and address issues they face in their daily lives. This self-assessment explores issues such as:

- '**Pockets**', - maximising household resources/income from benefits and addressing debt;
- '**Prospects**'- tackling the underlying barriers that prevent people from capitalising on opportunity, for example issues related to health and well being, numeracy/literacy, confidence, skills;
- '**Place**' - addressing place based issues that act as a barrier to inclusion and progression, for example, cost of living, energy efficiency housing and community based issues.

Support generally consists of money, welfare, fuel and financial services as well as improving financial capability, access to affordable products. As a result parents will improve financial inclusion and improve their financial capability.

In addition we also support training and learning that will focus on language skills, literacy, numeracy and vocational and non vocational skills. This will allow participants to make a positive contribution to their families' development needs; assist them to contribute to their local community; and secure employment.

During the period April 2019 to March 2020, the Family Opportunity Hub Team supported:

- 140 people to develop an action plan to improve their circumstances;
- 13 people with literacies or confidence building;
- 73 people to address their financial circumstances;
- 12 people to receive fuel poverty assistance;
- 8 people to secure employment; and
- 59 people supported with intensive barrier removal.

Resources	Impact Summary
5 members of staff at West Dunbartonshire Council with employability and welfare experience deliver the service.	The project supports all families from the child poverty target group and assists them to reduce their cost of living, maximise benefits and overcome issues at challenging life transitions.

## **Going Forward**

The Family Opportunity Hubs in West Dunbartonshire in the next 12 months are to increase the number of staff and will be operational from bases in five secondary schools. This will allow us to provide more support in each geographical area to parents of children attending all educational establishments, including primary schools and early education and childcare centres, as well as increasing capacity to deal with referrals from other services such as Housing, Social Work and NHS.

In addition, the team will work with colleagues delivering the Connecting Scotland project to maximise access to digital equipment and provide support for families through our Digital Champion. We will also work with colleagues delivering the Parental Employability Support project to ensure parents supported in the Hub have access to opportunities emerging from that programme.

More information about the Family Opportunity Hub can be found at:

<https://www.west-dunbarton.gov.uk/jobs-and-training/working4u/work/adult/family-opportunity-hubs/>

## West Dunbartonshire Improving the Cancer Journey Service

Cancer doesn't just affect your physical wellbeing it can affect every aspect of your life, from your emotions to your finances. However, people often don't know where to turn for support. That's why West Dunbartonshire Council and Macmillan Cancer Support have launched the Improving the Cancer Journey Service. Our Service is here to help people affected by cancer get the support they need, whether it's financial, emotional, medical or practical.

Improving the cancer journey is a service available to all cancer patients within the West Dunbartonshire Council area; however, while we prioritise everyone, our focus is places on those already experiencing disadvantage, including those affected by family poverty.

The initiative is funded and supported by Macmillan Cancer Support (Scotland). The team is comprised of an ICJ manager, two ICJ Link Workers and an admin support worker. The service sets out to:

- Invite all with a cancer diagnosis in West Dunbartonshire to complete a Holistic Needs Assessment (HNA) and develop an individual care plan that includes carers and family members;
- Provide the dedicated support of a named 'link Worker' to everyone in West Dunbartonshire with a cancer diagnosis, and to his or her carer or family; and
- Facilitate the delivery of effective Health and Social Care support solutions, based on their needs.

Since launching late April 2019, West Dunbartonshire ICJ has:

- Assisted 300 people in West Dunbartonshire who have a cancer diagnosis;
- Generated £427,000 in benefit entitlement; and
- Secured new central heating systems for two service users, new boilers for three service users and white goods for 17 services users. All of the aforementioned items have been provided to West Dunbartonshire residents free of charge, through the Macmillan 'Warm at Home' scheme.

Resources	Impact Summary
The Improving the Cancer Journey Service is funded by Macmillan Cancer Support directly and is delivered by West Dunbartonshire Council.	Reducing debt, improving financial outcomes, and ensuring houses are properly and efficiently heated, impacts on outcomes for the entire family unit, not just the person affected directly by cancer.

## Going Forward

We will continue to focus on people affected by cancer, their wider families, and the wider community within the West Dunbartonshire boundary. Furthermore, we will contribute to the development of integrated referral pathways between council, HSCP and third sector organisations across the local authority area, to meet the needs of those affected by cancer, and to help families in poverty.

Further information about 'Improving the Cancer Journey in West Dunbartonshire can be found at: [www.west-dunbarton.gov.uk/jobs-and-training/working4u/money-advice/cancer-journey-service/](http://www.west-dunbarton.gov.uk/jobs-and-training/working4u/money-advice/cancer-journey-service/), call the Macmillan Support Line on 08009809070 or email [improving.cancerjourney@west-dunbarton.gov.uk](mailto:improving.cancerjourney@west-dunbarton.gov.uk)

## Planned Developments

In this section we provide examples of some of the planned activities in the forthcoming year. This is not an exhaustive list of intended developments, but rather an illustration of the emerging partnership working that cuts across service departments and organisation aims.

### Entitlement to 1,140 Hours Childcare

From August 2020 the Scottish Government is increasing the number of funded hours available to families in early learning and childcare. The entitlement will increase from 600 hours to 1,140 hours.

As well as an increase in hours West Dunbartonshire Council will introduce an approach where the ‘funding follows the child’. In effect this will mean families will be able to access the entitlement and use this within different types of setting and using different patterns of provision. This will include provision in local authority settings; partnership childcare settings and childminders.

In order to provide flexibility families will be able to use a more blended model, drawing on the availability of the various types of childcare required to meet the needs of the family. In addition, families can opt for full or part days; term time or all year round.

To deliver the funded entitlement of 1,140 hours for eligible two year olds and all three and four year olds by school session 2020/2021 we require to create additional nursery places to meet this need. We are doing this by creating early learning and childcare centres in some of our schools. In addition to this, some of our early learning and childcare centres are being refurbished.

Furthermore, the additional childcare capacity will require an increase in staff numbers. The team is working with employability services at West Dunbartonshire Council to develop recruitment and training solutions that will allow us to recruit staff and meet the higher level of service demand.

Resources	Impact Summary
An increase in funded hours from 600 to 1,140 will require the development of facilities and staffing.	The project supports all families from the child poverty target group and assists them to reduce their cost of childcare.

More information about entitlement to childcare can be found at:

<https://www.west-dunbarton.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/early-years/elc-expansion/entitlement-to-1140-hours/>

## **Understanding Credit (Illicit Money Lending)**

During the period 2019/20 we developed a proposal to work with Trading Standards Scotland to highlight the risk of illicit and high interest lending and support people to make informed decisions about the choices they make when deciding to take on debt.

The project was developed on the basis of a number of key objectives including raising awareness in West Dunbartonshire to ensure residents will be more aware of:

- the dangers and consequence of illegal money lending;
- methods for avoiding the use of money lenders and high interest lending; and
- The support available to help them to extricate themselves from difficult circumstances and manage debt.

Our objectives for the project are to:

- educate residents on the issue of illegal money lending;
- increase and improve budgeting skills among vulnerable groups and individuals;
- support transition of clients to bank accounts;
- support exploration of savings opportunities;
- raise awareness of the issue and the support and referral routes among staff within intermediary organisations, health, social care, housing, education services;
- develop a group of volunteer community champions;
- disseminate project learning beyond West Dunbartonshire.

Our project will not only engage with families that are most at risk of illegal money lending or engaging in high interest loans, we will also engage with children and young people in a school setting to take an early intervention approach.

Resources	Impact Summary
<p>The project design and preparation has been carried out by the community learning team at West Dunbartonshire Council (Working 4U Learning); the Youth Alliance/Adult Learning Partnership; and West Dunbartonshire Trading Standards Team.</p> <p>Working with Trading Standards Scotland, we have secured funding to employ a project co-ordinator for two years.</p>	<p>Reducing the cost of living with an impact on all target groups.</p> <p>Specific emphasis on people facing difficult transitions in their family circumstances that requires access to credit/debt.</p>

## **Going Forward**

A project officer will be appointed and, with the learning resources developed, a series of learner engagement events and awareness events will be delivered. The initial focus will be on raising awareness of credit/debt and financial capability within schools will be followed by a series of community-based events.

## Connecting Scotland

Connecting Scotland is a Scottish Government programme set up in response to COVID-19. The programme provides iPads, Chromebooks and support to develop digital skills for people who are digitally excluded and on low incomes.

In order to reach these people, Connecting Scotland collaborates with local councils, public and third sector organisations who are already working with them. Those eligible for support will be assisted in three ways, providing:

- equipment – internet enabled devices;
- connectivity – through mobile data;
- training and support – for staff and volunteers to become ‘digital champions’.

The project will be delivered in a number of phases.

**Phase 1** (April – July 2020) focused on those who were at risk of isolation due to COVID-19 because they were in the extremely high vulnerability group ('shielding') or the higher risk of severe illness group. West Dunbartonshire had 150 devices to distribute

Organisations in West Dunbartonshire successful in securing devices to assist their service users to overcome digital exclusion were:

- Work Connect, Specialist Supported Employment Service.
- Glasgow and Clyde Rape Crisis.
- West Dunbartonshire Council.
- West Dunbartonshire Council Homelessness Team.
- West Dunbartonshire Council's Working 4U Adult Learning and Literacies Team.
- West Dunbartonshire Council's Working 4U Crisis Support Team.
- Bellsmyre Digital Community.
- Carers of West Dunbartonshire.
- Clyde Shopmobility.
- Dumbarton District Women's Aid.

**Phase 2:** The number of devices available will increase to 545 and the target groups for phase 2 are:

- households with children, or where a child is normally resident (this includes pregnant women with no child in the household);
- Care leavers up to the age of 26 (in line with eligibility for aftercare support).

Awards for Phase 2 were announced in November 2020.

Resources	Impact Summary
<p>The project has provided approximately 700 families with equipment, Wi-Fi accessibility and training in the use of the equipment.</p> <p>In addition approximately 80 people in West Dunbartonshire have been trained as digital champions and will continue to provide support for families with the devices.</p>	<p>The project reduces the cost of living with an impact on all target groups.</p> <p>The second phase has placed specific emphasis on families identified in the Child Poverty legislation as most vulnerable to disadvantage.</p>

## Going Forward

Phase 3 has yet to be announced; nevertheless the focus will be placed on supporting families who are experiencing disadvantage. Further details of the Connecting Scotland phases can be obtained at:

<https://connecting.scot/>

## Addressing Mental Health

In July 2019, the Children and Young People's Mental Health Taskforce which was jointly commissioned by the Scottish Government and COSLA published their recommendations <https://www.gov.scot/publications/children-young-peoples-mental-health-task-force-recommendations/>

As a result planning is underway in West Dunbartonshire to undertake a comprehensive local review and analysis of the services available, their accessibility and value to the local community.

This includes a review of access to Children & Young People's Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Services and Supports. The aim is to ensure that children, young people, their families and carers know what services are available, know how to gain access to the services and have confidence that the services are of sufficient quality to meet their needs.

Resources	Impact Summary
Additional Scottish Government Resources for Children and Young Peoples Mental Health - Specifics to be confirmed.	Building the understanding of what services and supports are available. Recognising and raising awareness of the connection with child and family poverty.

## Going Forward

We will commission a review of analysis of the locally available Children & Young People's Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Services and Supports. We will consider how best to meet the immediate COVID-19 related mental health and wellbeing needs of children and young people

## Crisis Support

Over 3,000 people in West Dunbartonshire were advised in April that their existing medical conditions put them at the highest clinical risk of severe illness from COVID-19. These medical conditions were identified by the Chief Medical Officers across the UK.

Those affected were advised to ‘shield’ in order protect themselves by minimising all interaction between them and others to prevent them from coming into contact with the virus.

Support was offered to everyone in West Dunbartonshire who was within this category. The Crisis Support Team was established in recognition that while many may have a support network already. There will be some who have no local support networks and who will need support during this period of self-isolation.

A contact and support infrastructure was established to provide access to emergency food supplies, advice on debt and welfare and for the provision of practical support. **Table 13** Summarises the scale of support provided from April to November 2020.

**Table 13: Number of Residents Supported by Covid-19 Crisis Support**

Total Referrals	2,453
Repeat referrals	686
Total Number of Individuals supported	1,875
Shielded residents	1,198
Test and Protect	61
Follow up calls made	3,383
Practical support (Volunteer Management Team)	791
Emergency Food referrals (foodbank )	823
Referred and supported by ‘Able to Pay Service’ (food delivery)	145
Scottish Gov care box submissions on behalf of digital excluded	545
Scottish Gov supermarket support submissions	191

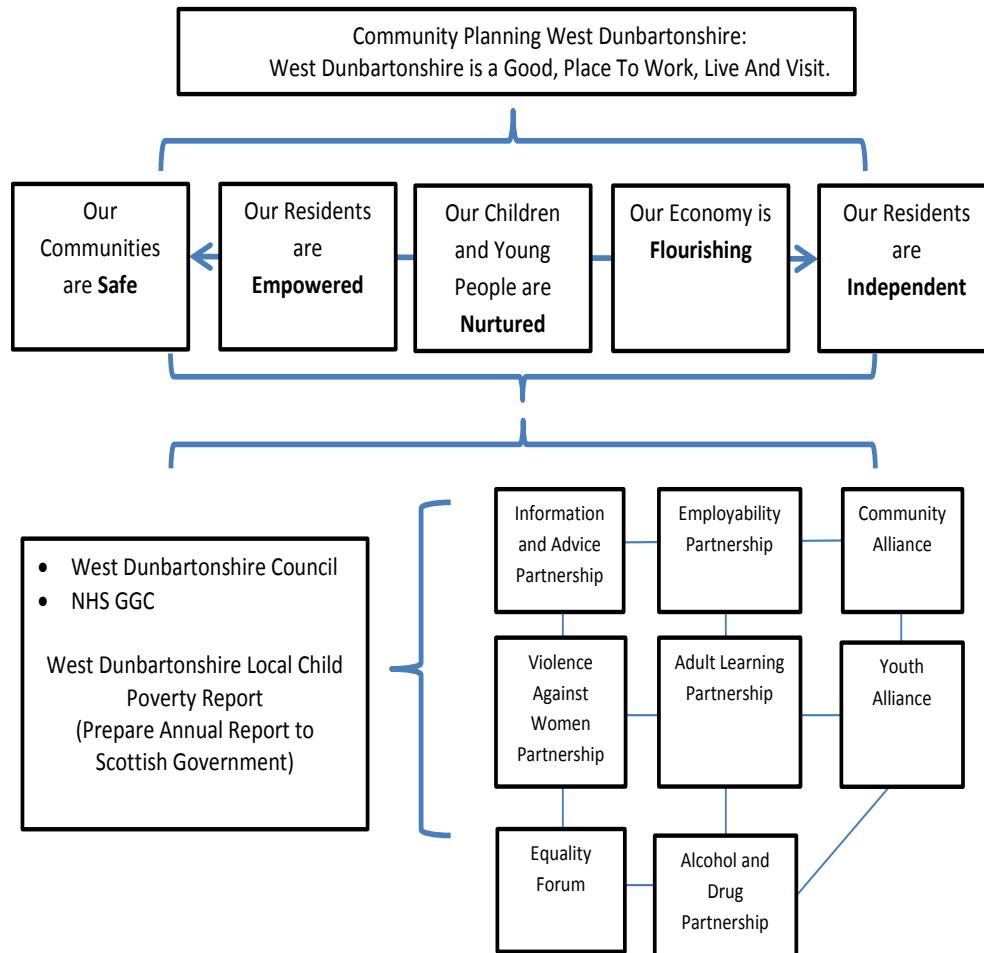
## Going Forward

The Crisis Support Team will continue to deliver support to the most vulnerable in our communities, assisting them with practical support, access to emergency food and advice on maximising benefits. In addition, this service will be extended to those within the Test, Trace, Isolate programme who have been asked to self isolate at short notice. The service will continue indefinitely until a vaccine is discovered and COVID-19 restrictions lifted.

Information about access to the crisis support service can be found at:

<https://www.west-dunbarton.gov.uk/coronavirus/additional-support/>

## Managing Child Poverty Action Reporting – Community Planning



### Strategic Direction

Community Planning West Dunbartonshire and NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde will provide strategic oversight and scrutiny to ensure the West Dunbartonshire Local Child Poverty Action Report not only complies with the statutory requirements within the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 but also makes a real contribution to addressing child poverty in West Dunbartonshire.

### Management and Activity Reporting

Each Delivery Improvement Group consists of representation from key strategic partners and has responsibility for specific policy and strategic areas and will have an interest in the various components of the West Dunbartonshire Local Child Poverty Action Report. The Nurtured Delivery Improvement Group will play a lead role in development, delivery and monitoring progress of actions within the Local Child Poverty Action Report. The Nurtured DIG is also lead group, among other strategic management responsibilities, for the *Integrated Children Services Plan* and the *Community Learning and Development Plan*.

### Report Responsibility and Support

The responsibility for the Local Child Poverty Action Report lies with West Dunbartonshire Council and NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde. Working 4U staff members will take responsibility for compiling the annual report with support from staff at NHS GG&C.

### Delivery

Each of the key partners within and beyond West Dunbartonshire Council and Health Services will contribute towards the child poverty objectives. The Key partners will also contribute towards activity that will address child poverty through the various local partnership structures/organisations. These partnerships draw membership from public, private and third sector organisations and include, for example, the Information and Advice Partnership, Employability Partnership, Community Alliance, Adult Learning and Youth Alliance among others. Details of partnerships their remit and membership is outlined in **Appendix 2**

## Assessing Impact

Government and independent statistics will provide valuable information about the incidence, and trends in levels of poverty. The most recent child poverty statistics, published in March 2020, relate to the period from April 2018 to March 2019.

These are the first statistics that cover the period after the Delivery Plan was published in June 2018. Persistent poverty statistics that cover the period after the Delivery Plan was published are not yet available. **Table 14** summarises the available figures for Scotland and the United Kingdom (UK)

**Table 14: Child Poverty levels 2019 against Targets (2023 and 2030)**

	Scotland Latest Position	UK Latest Position	Scotland Targets	
	2018/19	2018/19	2023	2030
Relative Poverty	23%	30%	18%	10%
Absolute Poverty	20%	28%	14%	5%
Low Income and Material Deprivation	12% )	14%	8%	5%
Persistent Poverty (2013/2017)	17%	20%	8%	5%

\*Source: Every Child Every Chance: Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan, Second Year Report pp58- 59. Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/tackling-child-poverty-delivery-plan-second-year-progress-report-2019-20/>

The comparative statistics illustrated in **Table 14** are not available for West Dunbartonshire. However, **Table 15** provides estimated rates of poverty after housing costs (AHC) have been taken into account. This table uses the DWP/HMRC local indicators combined with information about housing costs at the local level to estimate poverty rates after housing costs and include figures for West Dunbartonshire.

**Table 15: Estimated Rates of Poverty After Housing Costs**

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
United Kingdom	30%	30%	30%
Scotland	26%	24%	25%
West Dunbartonshire	26.1%	27.3%	27.4%

Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/children-in-low-income-families-local-area-statistics>

The incidence of child poverty in West Dunbartonshire varies throughout the area. Table 16 (below) provides an illustration of that variation at the Ward level.

**Table 16: Child Poverty levels 2019 by West Dunbartonshire Council Ward**

Lomond	24%	Dumbarton	18%
Kilpatrick	28%	Clydebank Central	29%
Leven	25%	Clydebank Waterfront	26%

## West Dunbartonshire Local Child Poverty Action Report 2019/2020

These figures provide a baseline for understanding the scale of child poverty in West Dunbartonshire and the combined effect of changing economic/social circumstances at a national level and our activity at a local level.

### West Dunbartonshire – Action on Child Poverty

We have summarised the actions outlined in the report and provided information about the key target groups and expected outcomes from the activity. We have also identified the lead partner for the continued development and delivery of the actions. **Table 17** provides a key to abbreviations in **Table 18** to **Table 22** where the action outlined in this document is summarised.

**Table 17: Key to Target Groups and Actions in the Action Summary**

Key Target Groups		Key – Expected Outcome	
<b>LP</b>	Lone Parents	<b>Emp</b>	Increasing Income from Employment – Relevant to four targets
<b>ME</b>	Minority Ethnic	<b>HC</b>	Reducing cost- Relevant to four targets
<b>YM</b>	Mothers Aged <25 years	<b>OC</b>	Reducing other costs of living – relevant to low income and material deprivation target
<b>&lt;1</b>	Youngest Child <1	<b>SS</b>	Increasing income from Social Security and benefits in kind – relevant to all four targets
<b>3+</b>	3+ Children	<b>LC</b>	Improving children's life chances in ways not about current income or reducing cost of living – potentially relevant to future child poverty, when children become parents themselves
<b>DAC</b>	Disabled Adult or Child		

**Table 18: Action Addressing Child Poverty – Work and Earnings**

Action	Priority Groups benefitting from the action	Expected Outcome	Lead Agency
No One Left Behind	All	EMP	WDC - Education Services/Working 4U
Employability Pipeline	All	EMP	WDC - Working 4U
Apprenticeship Pathway	All	EMP	WDC - Working 4U/Education Services
Oot Scoot and Aboot	All	EMP	WDC - Working 4U/Education Services

**Table 18: Action Addressing Child Poverty – Work and Earnings**

Action	Priority Groups benefitting from the action	Expected Outcome	Lead Agency
Parental Employability Support	All – but especially LP, DAC	EMP	WDC - Working 4U
Social Benefit	All	EMP	WDC – Procurement Service
National Training Programmes	All	EMP	Skills Development Scotland
NHSGGC employability programmes	All	EMP	NHSGGC
NHSGGC community benefits clauses	All	EMP	NHSGGC

**Table 19: Action Addressing Child Poverty – Income Maximisation (Benefits)**

Action	Priority Groups benefitting from the action	Expected Outcome	Lead Agency
Income Maximisation	All	SS	WDC - Working 4U/Information and Advice Partnership
Social Security in West Dunbartonshire	All	SS	Scottish Social Security Agency
Scottish Welfare Fund	All	SS	WDC – Corporate Services
Healthier Wealthier Children	All	SS	NHSGGC and HSCPs
NHSGGC staff money worries clinics	All	SS	NHSGGC

<b>Table 20: Action Addressing Child Poverty – Cost of Living</b>			
<b>Action</b>	<b>Priority Groups benefitting from the action</b>	<b>Expected Outcome</b>	<b>Lead Agency</b>
Cost of the School Day	All	OC	WDC – Education Services
Early Learning and Childcare	All	HC	WDC – Education Services
Educational Maintenance Allowance	All	OC	WDC - Education Services /Corporate Services
Free School Meals and Clothing Grants	All	OC	WDC - Education Services /Corporate Services
Young Scot	All	OC	WDC – Citizen and Digital Services
Affordable Housing	All	HC, LC	WDC - Housing
Homelessness	All	HC,LC	WDC - Housing
Rent Abatement	All	HC,LC	WDC - Housing
Tenancy Sustainment	All	HC, LC	WDC - Housing
Fuel Poverty	All	OC	West Dunbartonshire Information and Advice Partnership
Ending Period Poverty	All – but especially 3+	OC	WDC – Working 4U/ Education Services
Food Insecurity	All- especially 3+	OC, SS	WDC – Working 4U/Food insecurity Group
NHSGGC Support and Information services emergency food packages provision	All	OC	NHSGGC
NHSGGC partnership with Home Energy Scotland	All	OC	NHSGGC, Home Energy Scotland

<b>Table 21: Action Addressing Child Poverty – Helping Families in Other Ways</b>			
Action	Priority Groups benefitting from the action	Expected Outcome	Lead Agency
Care Connections	All	LC	WDC Working 4U/ - Education Services
Community Learning and Development	All	LC, EMP	WDC - Communities Team and Working 4U, West College Scotland
Access to Further Education	All	LC	West College Scotland
Adverse Childhood Experiences	All	LC	West Dunbartonshire HSCP/Education Services
No Home for Domestic Abuse	All	LC	WDC - Housing
Family Opportunity Hubs	All	LC, EMP	WDC – Working 4U/ Education Services
Family Nurse Partnership	YM, <1	OC	West Dunbartonshire - Community Health Partnership

<b>Table 22: Action Addressing Child Poverty – Planned Developments</b>			
<b>Action</b>	<b>Priority Groups benefitting from the action</b>	<b>Expected Outcome</b>	<b>Lead Agency</b>
Understanding Credit (Illicit Money Lending)	All	OC	WDC – Working 4U
Connecting Scotland	Al	Emp, HC, SS, LC	WDC – Working 4U/ Communities Team
Addressing Mental Health	All	LC	West Dunbartonshire - Community Health Partnership
West Dunbartonshire Crisis Support Service	All	Emp, HC, SS, LC	WDC – Working 4U/ Communities Team

## **Appendix 1: NHSGGC Child Poverty Leads Group:**

### **Joint long term objectives**

There are 6 Local Authorities within the NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde area. In response to the 2019 Poverty and Inequality Commission review of year one Local Child Poverty Action Reports, an increased focus on partnership working and long term objective setting has been agreed between child poverty leads across NHSGGC

The following joint long term objectives will be reviewed by the NHSGGC child poverty leads group on an annual basis.

#### **1. Role as an employer**

- Increase family friendly working approaches
- Attaining and maintaining Living Wage Employer Accreditation
- Parents as a priority group for interventions with staff who have money and debt worries
- Parents as a priority group in our Employment and Health approach
- Parents as a priority group for recruitment initiatives
- Child poverty a feature, as appropriate of Learning and Education programmes
- Child poverty outcomes in community benefit clauses

#### **2. Role as a service provider (Children and Families Settings)**

- Ensure every opportunity is used to maximise income and reduce outgoings
- Develop innovative co-location models (e.g. with Social Security Services Scotland, Department of Work and Pensions)
- Ensure engagement with people with lived experience of child poverty to inform planning and review
- Analysis, where possible, of reach of interventions by Child Poverty Act priority groups (i.e. children of lone and/or young parents, children with disabilities and/or children of parents with a disability and black and minority ethnic children and also kinship carers)

#### **3. Role as a partner**

- Leadership on child poverty at Community Planning Partnership Boards
- Influencing, from local and regional perspectives, key national partners (e.g. SSS, DWP, Health Scotland)
- Influencing, from a child poverty perspective, housing policy
- Influencing, from a child poverty perspective, transport policy

In addition, NHSGGC will -

- Ensure child poverty is comprehensively addressed in the Children and Families Universal Pathway
- Develop child poverty, as appropriate, as a ‘golden thread’ in Acute health improvement programmes
- Providing public health data for use in Acute and CPP areas

And - All LCPARs in the NHSGGC area aim to optimise flexible childcare approaches.

## Appendix 2: Partnership Group Membership

Partnership Members	Remit
Community Planning West Dunbartonshire Nurtured Delivery Improvement Group.	<p>The Nurtured DIG is also lead group, among other strategic management responsibilities, for the <i>Integrated Children Services Plan</i> and the <i>Community Learning and Development Plan</i>.</p> <p>As such this group provides strategic oversight and support for the development and implementation of actions outlined in the in West Dunbartonshire Local Child Poverty Action Report.</p>
<p>The Strategic Employability Group in West Dunbartonshire consists of representatives from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• West Dunbartonshire Council - Working 4U;</li> <li>• West Dunbartonshire Council Education Services;</li> <li>• Skills Development Scotland;</li> <li>• DWP/JCP;</li> <li>• West College Scotland;</li> <li>• Work Connect;</li> <li>• Developing Scotland's Young Workforce (DSYW);</li> <li>• West Dunbartonshire CVS; and</li> <li>• SQA.</li> </ul>	<p>Main objectives centre on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To co-ordinate improved service delivery to West Dunbartonshire citizens accessing local employability services through an agreed agenda.</li> <li>• To identify priority geographical areas and generic issues and to co-ordinate multi-agency initiatives to respond effectively.</li> <li>• To improve opportunities for citizens to gain access to appropriate learning, education, volunteering, training and employment.</li> </ul>
<p>Adult Learning Partnership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HSCP</li> <li>• West Dunbartonshire Libraries</li> <li>• Communities Team, West Dunbartonshire Council</li> <li>• West College Scotland</li> <li>• West College Scotland</li> <li>• Skills Development Scotland (SDS)</li> <li>• West Dunbartonshire Council for Voluntary Services (WDCVS)</li> <li>• Clydebank Housing Association</li> <li>• Adult Learning and Literacies, Working4U</li> </ul>	<p>The Adult Learning Partnership is a forum to create and support a shared vision of Community Based Adult Learning in West Dunbartonshire through effective partnership working.</p> <p>Our partnership work is in the context of West Dunbartonshire's Local Outcome Improvement Plan: Plan for Place 2017 – 27; the Strategic Guidance for Community Planning Partnerships for Community Learning and Development (2012);</p> <p>Activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accessibility: explore ways to improve access to services in terms of child care, venues, timetable and IT resources</li> <li>• Guidance and progression: strengthen the Partnership's approach to providing Adult Learning guidance for West Dunbartonshire Learners</li> </ul>
<p>The Youth Alliance in West Dunbartonshire consists of representatives from;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• West Dunbartonshire Council – Working 4U;</li> <li>• Police Scotland;</li> <li>• Y Sort-it</li> <li>• Tullochan Trust</li> <li>• West Dunbartonshire Council – Housing</li> <li>• West Dunbartonshire Council – Throughcare and Aftercare Teams</li> <li>• Action for Children</li> </ul>	<p>Main objectives centre on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To co-ordinate improved service delivery for young people through an agreed agenda.</li> <li>• To identify priority geographical areas and generic issues and to co-ordinate multi-agency initiatives to respond effectively to young people's needs and aspirations.</li> <li>• To develop a high quality youth participation and engagement structure that partners can utilise to inform future service delivery and which gives young people a voice.</li> </ul>

Partnership Members	Remit
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skapade</li> <li>• West Dunbartonshire HSCP</li> <li>• West Dunbartonshire Champions Board</li> <li>• West Dunbartonshire Education</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To improve access to a range of joined-up services for young people that will keep them safe and improve their life chances, health and well-being.</li> <li>• To improve opportunities for young people to gain access to appropriate learning, education, volunteering, training and employment.</li> <li>• To have a shared approach to funding for youth work/youth services to ensure strategic use of funding across the partnership.</li> </ul>
<p>West Dunbartonshire Information and Advice Partnership.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• West Dunbartonshire Council – Working 4U;</li> <li>• West Dunbartonshire CAB;</li> <li>• Clydebank Independent Resource Centre;</li> <li>• Clydebank Asbestos Group;</li> <li>• Scottish Social Security Agency;</li> <li>• DWP – West Dunbartonshire</li> </ul>	<p>To coordinate welfare/debt information and advice services maximising local investment in services and responding effectively to emerging issues.</p>
<p>Strategic Solutions Partnership</p> <p>Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• West Dunbartonshire Council;</li> <li>• West Dunbartonshire Registered Social Landlords.</li> </ul>	<p>Aim:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actively participate in the West Dunbartonshire Housing Solutions Partnership and assist in the monitoring and implementation of West Dunbartonshire Council's Rapid Re-housing Transition Plan (R RTP) to ensure the progression of the transition to Rapid Rehousing within West Dunbartonshire is carried out efficiently.</li> <li>• Contribute to an annual review and update of our R RTP.</li> <li>• Work in collaboration to build funding mechanisms to ensure future service provision.</li> <li>• Play a positive role in the delivery of the 5-year action plan.</li> </ul>
<p>Food Insecurity Group consists of representatives from::</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• West Dunbartonshire Council Working 4U;</li> <li>• WDC Communities Team;</li> <li>• West Dunbartonshire Food4Thought;</li> <li>• West Dunbartonshire Community Foodshare</li> </ul>	<p>The group was established to manage the risk of food insecurity emerging as a result of Britain's exit from the European Union. The group has subsequently established responses to COVID-19.</p> <p>The aim is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to maximise access to food resources in West Dunbartonshire;</li> <li>• Establish and maintain process to ensure that those most in need secure emergency food supplies;</li> <li>• Coordinate the distribution of food;</li> <li>• Provide access to support that will address the causes that drove service users to require emergency food.</li> </ul>
<p>Cost of the School Day – Short-life working group.</p> <p>To research and identify actions designed to reduce</p>	<p>Members of the short life working group:</p>

<b>Partnership Members</b>	<b>Remit</b>
the cost of the school day.	C, Kelly. – Teacher Vale of Leven Academy; L, Daley. – Head of Centre Meadowview ELCC; J, Martin.- Depute Head Teacher, Renton Primary; A, Mulvenna. – Depute Head Teacher – Our Lady of Loretto Primary; T, King. – Education Support Officer.