

COMMUNITY PLANNING

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23



COMMUNITY PLANNING
WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE



Community Planning West Dunbartonshire (CPWD)

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

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

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

Executive

Summary 2022/23

This Annual Report updates on the priorities and outcomes, set by Community Planning West Dunbartonshire (CPWD) in the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (West Dunbartonshire Plan for Place) 2017 - 2027, for the year 2022-2023.

CPWD is governed by a Management Board made up of a number of key public, private and third sector organisations with a West Dunbartonshire responsibility or interest.

Meeting quarterly, the Board is the final approval and scrutiny body for the partnership and is responsible for agreeing the joint priorities for community planning and the resources required to deliver progress.

The Annual Report, as required through the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, provides an overview of the progress made towards five priorities illustrated by case studies of positive partnership working.

At the core of the priorities and aspirations of CPWD is a commitment to promote equality and reduce the impact of inequality on our residents. We will continue to progress this equality agenda, recognising the vibrant diversity within our local communities and ensuring that the needs of residents are considered and planned for in an equitable way.

During 2022-2023, the CPWD was focused on three key overarching themes and these have shaped every piece of work undertaken by CPWD as detailed in this report.

It is important to point out that while the Covid pandemic may seem like a distant memory, throughout this period our services have continued to address its long-lasting impacts and in addition, those caused by the cost of living crisis faced by so many in our area. As is clear in this report, a range of support is available to support our communities through this.



5 priorities

of West Dunbartonshire



The five priorities of West Dunbartonshire Plan for Place are delivered on behalf of Community Planning West Dunbartonshire by Delivery & Improvement Groups (DIGs). DIGs support delivery of the priority outcomes for Community Planning West Dunbartonshire, bringing together key partners to plan and deliver improvement activity over the period of the plan. This is detailed in DIG action plans, approved and reported to CPWD Management Board on a regular basis.

- 1) **A flourishing West Dunbartonshire**
- 2) **An independent West Dunbartonshire**
- 3) **A nurtured West Dunbartonshire**
- 4) **An empowered West Dunbartonshire**
- 5) **A safe West Dunbartonshire**

During 2022-23 the three over-arching themes; sustainability, wellbeing and empowerment were the continued focus for the partnership and reflected through the CPWD Management Board meetings and DIG reporting.



a flourishing West Dunbartonshire

The Flourishing DIG continues to focus on the direct and wider economic impact of the pandemic and also on the cost of living crisis impacting residents across West Dunbartonshire. The work of this partnership includes supporting high growth business startups and town centre regeneration with a focus on some key heritage assets.

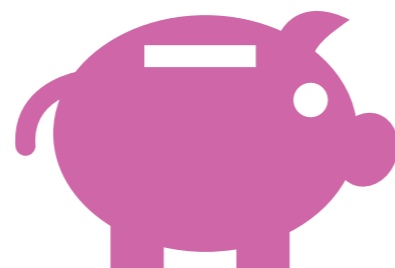
The work of partners continues to address the 4 key outcomes:



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

In the last year:

- ✓ gross median weekly earnings increased 9.7% from £574.60 in 2022 to £702.80 in 2023
- ✓ the employment rate has increased to 75% by March 2023
- ✗ slightly more people are claiming out of work benefits



UK Shared Prosperity

During 2022/23 emphasis was focussed on developing West Dunbartonshire's contribution to the Regional Investment plan for the UK Shared Prosperity fund (UKSPF). The fund has a potential value of £3.8million for West Dunbartonshire and is centred on core investment principles.

The core investment principles are:

Communities and Place

To enable places to improve their community spaces and relationships and create the foundations for economic development and resilient and safe neighbourhoods through targeted investment and crime prevention.

Supporting Local Business

Enables places to fund interventions that support local businesses to thrive, innovate and grow.

People and Skills

To reduce the barriers some people face to employment and support them to move towards employment; reduce levels of economic inactivity through investment in bespoke intensive life and employment support tailored to local need; and provide skills development through a wider range of routes.



Employability

West Dunbartonshire Council's Working4U team and partners further developed the delivery of a local employability service called 'No One Left Behind' (NOLB). This included the development of a strategic employability partnership with key agencies such as Skills Development Scotland (SDS) and the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP), who are now working alongside Working 4U and local employability service providers to co-ordinate efforts for the benefit of local residents.

The strategic employability partnership is focused on the most effective use of grant funding for employability and has established a procurement framework to acquire services. This was complemented with a competitive grant process providing the opportunity to draw on a broader range of specialist service provision. The grant process generated interest from 17 organisations and of that group, 14 were supported with grants to deliver employability services and access to training in sectors where opportunities exist (care, hospitality, tourism, driving).



High Growth Start-Up Challenge Fund

During 2022/23, a High Growth Start-Up Challenge Fund was developed in partnership with the Working4Business group. This supports the growth of start-up businesses that show high growth potential in West Dunbartonshire. The Challenge Fund provided a competitive grant award of up to £5,000 to high growth start-ups that could evidence the potential to grow and create employment within West Dunbartonshire.



Business Support team

The Council's Business Support team provides a range of discretionary business grants to local businesses to assist them to grow and create local jobs. During 2022/23, the team supported:

- 75 businesses with grant support to assist them to grow and create local jobs;
- 35 business employees with a training grant to assist with training costs;
- 41 businesses received a start-up grant to assist them to start-up their own business.

The Business Support team also deliver the West Dunbartonshire Business Gateway service. In 2022/23 the Business Gateway service provided:

- 205 businesses with start-up assistance;
- 35 start-ups with growth potential were given early stage growth support;
- 41 businesses with action plans through growth advisory service support.



Town Centre Regeneration

Regeneration of town centres continued to be a priority, with projects underway in Alexandria, Clydebank and Dumbarton. Placemaking projects identified in the Alexandria Town Centre Masterplan will be delivered using Place Based Investment Programme funding. In Clydebank a new Activity Centre will help activate the Canal and three Queens Square, by providing cycling activities and exercise classes to the local community.

Levelling-Up

The Levelling-Up Fund will contribute £19.9m towards a £22.1m programme of town centre regeneration which includes 3 separate but interlinked projects. Connecting Dumbarton will improve active travel links between the railway station and High Street, and create a gateway to the town centre.

The redevelopment of the Artizan Centre over the next 10-15 years will transform the underused shopping centre into a vibrant mixed use urban quarter which will include affordable housing, green spaces and public realm, improved retail, and may include a new Health and Care Centre. Finally, the Glencairn House renovation will convert the oldest building on the High Street into a state of art library and museum. Together, these project support the creation of strong, sustainable and resilient town centres.



Contemporary re-branding for Dunbartonshire Chamber of Commerce

To support Dunbartonshire Chamber of Commerce's Strategic Development engagement with the Chamber's network helped to shape future plans and decisions. A range of surveys, focus groups and consultations were undertaken to inform new services, provide new opportunities, and improve systems and communications.

The feedback received provided the basis for the development of a new brand including the Chamber's brand values, messaging and tone of voice. The brand aims to position the chamber as "Modern", "Professional", "Trustworthy", "Accessible", "Friendly" and "Connected" and reflects the value of partnerships and of being part of a supportive network. Under the "Together For Business" banner the Chamber will focus on the 4 main pillars – Connecting, Growing, Protecting and Representing.

The new Chamber brand was revealed at a showcase and launch event in September and celebrated a closer partnership working with the Golden Jubilee Conference Hotel as well as promoting ChamberFORCE, the Chamber's Armed Forces Programme.

an independent West Dunbartonshire

The Independent DIG enables a co-ordinated, multi-agency approach to supporting the services which allow West Dunbartonshire community members to live active and independent lives in suitable accommodation. The past year has seen the launch of the Carer Aware Communities Initiative and Power of Attorney project, both of which provide valuable support to residents across West Dunbartonshire.

The Independent DIG has 3 outcomes:



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

- ✓ the latest available figures show mortality rates have decreased by 1.1%
- ✗ unplanned emergency hospital attendances have increased and are close to pre pandemic levels
- ✗ emergency hospital admissions have increased by 3% since 2021/22
- ✗ the latest available data shows wellbeing has deteriorated slightly



Carer Aware Communities Initiative

The Carer Aware Communities initiative was launched by Carers of West Dunbartonshire (CoWD) in July 2022 to support the estimated 10,000 residents of West Dunbartonshire providing care to a relative or friend. The project, supported by the National Lottery Community Fund, issues a Valued Carer card to every carer registered with CoWD, unlocking unique discounts, promotions and priority services generously provided by local, independent businesses. Over 2000 carers are currently benefitting from this project.

Businesses supporting the initiative have the opportunity to take part in Carer Awareness training with the Carers' Centre team, and can be easily identified by their "We Value Carers" window stickers. A Valued Carer hub has been established on Carers of West Dunbartonshire website:

<https://carerswd.org/valued-carer/>

"We have received some excellent feedback since the launch of Valued Carer. One lady told us that to have something in her purse that said she was valued meant the world to her, and that is really what is at the heart of this initiative - coming together as a community to support and truly value unpaid carers."

– Jenni McNab, Marketing and Engagement Manager.



Power of Attorney Project

The Power of Attorney (POA) project was established in October 2022 and will run until March 2024, working collaboratively with Carers of West Dunbartonshire, Citizen Advice Bureau and GPs in Alexandria & Dumbarton. The project provides support to carers and the cared for to develop their POA and register it with the Office of Public Guardians. The Citizen Advice Bureau support people to ensure that if they no longer have the mental capacity to make decisions about their health or finances, they have the relevant paperwork in place that someone that knows and cares about them can make these decisions on their behalf.

Referrals have been increasing and the service has been rolled out to Alzheimer Scotland, with a plan to roll out further to the Day Care Service, District Nursing, Pharmacy and Older People Mental Health Team. Carers of West Dunbartonshire have developed a short video which shows a carer talking about his experience of arranging a POA through the Citizen's Advice Bureau for him and his wife.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EFp85XppuzY>



a nurtured

West Dunbartonshire

The Nurtured DIG works through multi-agency planning to prioritise and support measures to help address challenges faced by children, young people and their families. This work reflects the ambitions of the Integrated Children's Services Plan and embedding the principles of Getting It Right For Every Child and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. During 22/23 the Nurtured DIG delivered a range of projects aimed at addressing the target outcomes.

The Nurtured DIG has 3 local outcomes:



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

In the last year:

- ✗ the latest available figures show a slight decrease in babies born with a healthy birthweight
- ✓ the latest available figures show a decrease in young people entering a positive destination on leaving school
- ✓ the latest available figures show educational attainment levels have improved slightly
- ✗ the latest available figures show child poverty rates have increased to 27% after housing costs



The Promise

The Promise Plan progressed well through 2022/23 with representation from a range of Nurtured DIG partners leading key sub groups. Two hundred and fifty staff across the CPP were trained in relation to the principles and approaches to The Promise.

Positive feedback informed work of the subgroups and individual service delivery. The progress of these plans ensures the wellbeing of care experienced children and young people remains at the forefront of the approach to support and planning and that their voices are reflected in decision making.

WDC's commitment to corporate parenting responsibilities was evident in the decision to support care leavers on low incomes to maintain their accommodation. This was achieved by expanding the current rent abatement available to care leavers who are living in their own council property and in full time education to include modern apprentices with WDC. All partners were confident this decision would improve the mental and physical health and wellbeing of our young people. This model of corporate parenting will continue to be learnt from and built upon.



Child Poverty

During 2022/23 partners continued to work together to ensure families were supported with the challenges of poverty and cost of living. Partners such as Citizens Advice Bureau, third sector groups, educational services and social work supported families via referrals to access funding set aside for those facing significant issues paying for their energy provision. This enabled a wide range of families to access an additional £200 per household.

Most schools reflected on the Cost of the School Day Toolkit and established a range of approaches to tackling additional costs of school such as uniform banks, provision of Christmas gifts/hampers and vouchers. Working4U, Educational Services and Social Work colleagues continue to work together via the Family Opportunity Hubs to support and signpost families to most appropriate help for their needs. During 2022/23 992 families have been referred to the service and 651 have taken up support offered.

Care Inspection Success

Blairvadach Children's House received an outstanding Inspection from the Care Inspectorate. Feedback received highlighted the efforts of staff to support and value children and young people's family time, treating family as partners within the plans and supporting children and young people to go home. Some of the standout activities identified include Equine Therapy, building their own pizza oven, embedding relationship based practice and staff being trained in Dyadic Development Physcotherapy, a parenting approach and model of practice that uses what we know about attachment and trauma to help children and young people. This training was funded via the Care Experienced Children's Fund and was continued during 2022/23 with a range of partners.

an empowered West Dunbartonshire

The Empowered DIG comprises representatives from the public, private and third sector with a focus on empowering communities through conversations, fostering greater individual and community resilience and increasing active participation. Empowered communities support safer and more active spaces, promote a sense of wellbeing and increase social cohesion. The empowered DIG aims to promote individual and community resilience and support communities in their aims to improve their neighbourhoods.

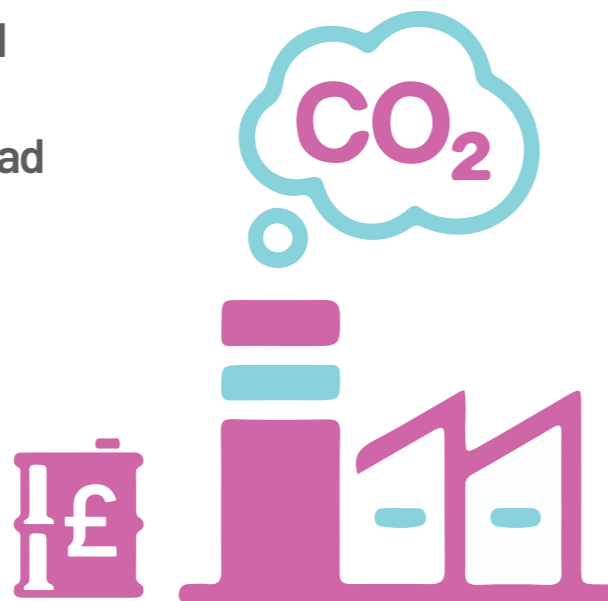
The Empowered DIG has 3 local outcomes:



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

In the last year:

- ✗ CO2 emissions have increased
- ✓ 71% of respondents felt they had no barriers to digital inclusion (citizen panel)
- ✗ the latest available figures show 29% of households in West Dunbartonshire in fuel poverty



Dementia Friendly West Dunbartonshire

This initiative, re-established in 2021-22, provides community support for people with dementia and their carers through a partnership approach involving service providers across the public, private and voluntary sectors.

The 2022/23 programme of awareness raising activity Dementia Friendly West Dunbartonshire has been completed including a re-development of the DFWD page on the WDCVS website, linking to session booking and general information. Throughout the year the project delivered training to 477 local residents and 366 pledges of follow-on support were received.

Community Budgeting with Young People

Community Budgeting (CB) Phase 6 was launched in October 2022 offering a chance of up to £5000 for constituted groups. Experience has shown community involvement in designing. The project has been invaluable and the Communities Team undertook a similar process of engaging young people through focus groups to design CB6.

This work reflected West Dunbartonshire's Empowerment Strategy, West Dunbartonshire's 3 Year CLD Plan, UN Convention on Rights of the Child, and Getting it Right for every Child (GIRFEC).

The project was developed using focus groups made up of young people from a number of community groups including Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament (SYP) and West Dunbartonshire Youth Council (WDYC). This empowered the young people to make improvements to the project that included ensuring all information was accessible in different languages and for British sign language users (BSL).

Phase 6 was launched in October 2022 and was publicised widely and consistently resulting in 53 applications being received and 42 going forward to a public vote. Over 900 people engaged with the voting process awarding £155,000 to community projects.

West Dunbartonshire Community Transport

2022/23 was a hugely successful first year for West Dunbartonshire Community Transport (WDCT) project. Following a number of years in development and a pilot project in 2020, the WDCT Hospital Appointment Transport Scheme (HATS) was launched in April 2022. Over the course of 12 months the volunteer drivers supported 276 journeys to medical appointments across West Dunbartonshire and beyond. This support is invaluable to many West Dunbartonshire residents and insured that numerous medical appointments were attended, thus reducing the cost of missed appointments.

The WDCT group has been established with the on-going commitment of WDC's Communities Team and with the financial support from Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT). Crucially, the group also benefited from the experience of the South West Community Transport organisation who shared their experience of running a Hospital Appointment Transport Scheme.

This project supported the delivery of the Council's 3 Year Community Learning and Development (CLD) Plan through on-going community development allowing the project to continue into its second full year of operation and with plans to expand the offer.



a safe West Dunbartonshire

The Safe DIG facilitates discussion amongst organisations and bodies involved in community safety activities, to allow information exchange on new and ongoing initiatives and to work towards a safer West Dunbartonshire. All partners contribute to the following local outcomes.

The Safe DIG has 3 local outcomes:



- residents live in a safe and positive community
- our communities are supported and included
- we encourage enhanced water safety

In the last year:

- ✓ the latest available figures show decrease of 7.1% in total dwelling fires
- ✗ the rate of recorded crimes has increased by 1% since 21/22



Community Policing Team

A revised policing model was created in West Dunbartonshire which now has a dedicated Community Policing Team to provide high visibility and better connectivity with partners from an operational perspective. Improved results were quickly noticeable particularly around the Dalmuir area where a dedicated action plan was progressed to tackle some key challenges. The Safe DIG recognised the benefit of this team linking in with Housing and the Alcohol and Drugs Partnership.

Wilful Fire-raising Group

A multi-agency Wilful Fire-raising group was formed to ensure a fully connected partnership approach to tackling this issue. Whilst reported incidents have fallen from the previous year, there were some serious fires causing community concern. Stronger links with education were also developed with commitment to establish two "Emergency Service" days per year into the curriculum. The first of these was in Autumn and covered fireworks, fire-raising, alcohol and drugs and anti-social behaviour. The second took place in Spring and covered water safety, personal safety, alcohol and drugs and anti-social behaviour. The target audience was those in S1 and S2 with P7 included where suitable. The group also targeted the owners of derelict properties in a move to reduce the impact of wilful fire-raising on communities.



Public Space CCTV Service

The effectiveness of West Dunbartonshire Council's Communities Team and Police Scotland (PS) partnership working around public space CCTV was the focus of the Council's application for UK Shared Prosperity Funding this year. If successful the funding will provide important CCTV infrastructure up-grades allowing the team to continue this important work to keep the communities of West Dunbartonshire safe.

The West Dunbartonshire CCTV operators were also highly commended runners up at the Argyll and West Dunbartonshire Award Ceremony in the category of Partner of the Year and thanks was expressed to their excellent work in contributing to the safety of communities throughout West Dunbartonshire.



This document is also available in other languages, large print and audio format on request.

Arabic

هذه الوثيقة متاحة أيضا بلغات أخرى والأحرف الطباعية الكبيرة وبطريقة سمعية عند الطلب.

Hindi

अनुरोध पर यह दस्तावेज़ अन्य भाषाओं में, बड़े अक्षरों की छपाई और सुनने वाले माध्यम पर भी उपलब्ध है

Punjabi

ਇਹ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਹੋਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵਿਚ, ਵੱਡੇ ਅੱਖਰਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਅਤੇ ਆਡੀਓ ਟੇਪ 'ਤੇ ਰਿਕਾਰਡ ਹੋਇਆ ਵੀ ਮੰਗ ਕੇ ਲਿਆ ਜਾ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ।

Urdu

درخواست پر یہ دستاویز دیگر زبانوں میں، بڑے حروف کی چھپائی اور سننے والے ذرائع پر بھی میسر ہے۔

Chinese (Cantonese)

本文件也可應要求，製作成其他語文或特大字體版本，也可製作成錄音帶。

Polish

Dokument ten jest na życzenie udostępniany także w innych wersjach językowych, w dużym druku lub w formacie audio.

British Sign Language



BSL users can contact us via contactSCOTLAND-BSL, the on-line British Sign Language interpreting service.

 01389 737527

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For more information on Community Planning in West Dunbartonshire please check out our webpages:
<https://www.west-dunbarton.gov.uk/community/community-planning-west-dunbartonshire/>
Or contact the Communities Team by email: empowerment@west-dunbarton.gov.uk