

EAST AYRSHIRE COMMUNITY PLAN 2015-2030

Safer Communities Delivery Plan 2024-2027

Year one Annual Performance Update - 2024/25



**EAST AYRSHIRE COMMUNITY PLAN 2015-2030
SAFER COMMUNITIES DELIVERY PLAN 204-27
PARTNERSHIP ACTIONS UPDATES 2024/25**

Action	Partnership Activity	Partners
S1 Deliver an effective policing response and work in partnership to reduce violence and prevent further offending	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver the priorities identified within the <u>Local Police Plan 2024-26</u>. Enhanced prevention and early intervention activity, mobilising the full partnership presence within our communities. 	Police Scotland, All Partners
<p><u>Prevention and Early Intervention:</u> An extensive range of prevention and early intervention activity has been undertaken by partners during 2024/25, including the following examples:</p> <p>Local Police Plan Priorities: The Local Police Plan 2023-26 performance is reported on quarterly basis at the East Ayrshire Police and Fire and Rescue Committee. The Annual Performance Report 2024/25 was presented to the East Ayrshire Police and Fire and Rescue Committee on the 15 June 2025, showing that overall reported crime increased by 0.4% in 2024/25. A detailed analysis of crimes reported against the 12 categories of crime is available in the 2024/25 annual report.</p> <p>Violence Prevention The Policing Together Division of Police Scotland have developed a National Violence Prevention Strategy for Police Scotland. The strategy for 2025/26 will focus on four key themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Violence and ASB at Transport Hubs Violence at Educational and Care Settings Carriage of Weapons Preventative Pathways and Interventions <p>Locally, T/Superintendent Jim McMillan now chairs a 'Youths affected by Violence' strategic group. This group aims to learn from best practice and implement local policing responses which support all young people, utilising the guidance contained within the national strategy. This is a newly established group in the summer of 2025 and it is hoped that outcomes will be reportable towards the end of the year.</p> <p>School Liaison Police Officers</p>		

School Liaison Officers continue to play a vital role in education and prevention within every school campus in Ayrshire. The role these officers have in building relationship with our young people cannot be understated. Officers work with education to deliver inputs which includes newly created topics on emerging trends within the area. Having officers based within schools allows Police to proactively and swiftly intervene when intelligence is received about any potential disorder by youths, which can then be proactively addressed.

EAC Anti-social Behaviour Team: Effective and partnership working with all partners is undertaken as part of everyday working priorities within the Housing Service and the Anti-social Behaviour Team. This process is encompassed into the established process through the Daily Tasking Meetings held every week day morning to discuss recent issues around anti-social behaviour and to identify and task appropriate actions from this meeting. The meeting is chaired by the Anti-Social Behaviour Team Manager and discussions are undertaken around local issues and anti-social behaviour to provide an early intervention and preventative approach. Partner agencies involved are EAC Anti-social Behaviour Team, Police Scotland, Health and Social Care Partnership, SFRS, Housing Options and Housing Neighbourhood Coaches.

Barnardos Respect Me programme: This programme is run throughout all our Youth groups across the Kilmarnock area and within our peer mentor programme. Reaching approx. 300 young people. The key elements of the program include; dignity and respect, privacy and confidentiality, choice and participation, safety, and protection, realising potential and equality and diversity

Action	Partnership Activity	Partners
S2 Engage with the community and partners to identify address and prevent anti-social behaviour (ASB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify opportunities to further develop partnership reporting and analysis structures to tackle community concerns; develop and implement targeted partnership response initiatives; and make better use of social media to challenge and raise awareness of ASB. Engage and further develop links with third sector partners to mitigate the effects of ASB. Further development of support spaces and the flex approach Raise awareness of the volume and locations of ASB incidents 	Police Scotland, EAC Housing & Communities, EAC Regulatory Services, EAC Education, SFRS, Locality Partnerships, Community Councils, Young Peoples Cabinet Vibrant Communities CVO EA

Police Scotland:

The Police Performance report for 24/25 is contained [here](#) and shows a reduction this year in ASB by 14.2%. PSOS work in partnership with other agencies, most notably EAC, to share information around ASB and agree responses. With the commitment by EAC to develop an ASB strategy, Police Scotland are committed to supporting the development and implementation of this.

EAC Anti-social Behaviour Team: Regular meetings have been and continue to be facilitated within local communities with Community

Councils, the East Ayrshire Federation of Tenants and Residents, Registered Tenant and Resident Groups and local consultation forums to discuss neighbour nuisance issues and provide advice, assistance and signposting to appropriate services and partners and to gather information and intelligence to be able to proactively investigate and tackle the issues that matter and are of concern to the residents of East Ayrshire.

The Anti-Social Behaviour Team has worked pro-actively to engage with young people within the education establishments/ The team provide presentations and works in focus groups to discuss anti-social behaviour and the impacts this behaviour has on the individual, the people affected and the community as a whole. The team have engaged with young people in the following schools:

- Robert Burns Academy
- Grange Academy
- Loudon Academy
- Stewarton Academy
- Doon Academy
- Kilmarnock Academy
- St Sophias Primary School
- Muirkirk Primary School
- Drongan Primary School
- Newmilns Primary School
- Hillhead Primary School
- Shortlees Primary School
- Mount Carmel Primary School
- Annanhill Primary School

The Anti-Social Behaviour Team has also been actively involved in the Vibrant Communities' Youth Action Team roadshows which are held before the summer holidays and is involved in developing and delivering a dedicated Anti-Social Behaviour Roadshow, again working with the Youth Action Team.

The team support the "Pitching In" programme, facilitated by Police Scotland. This programme focuses on the more challenging young people by engaging in educational work with them and then playing football at Kilmarnock FC to build skills, engage with the issues and challenges they are encountering and engaging in building relationships with partners going forward.

Involvement in Days of Action that are undertaken by partners including Police Scotland, Neighbourhood Coaches, Anti-Social Behaviour Team, British Transport Police, SFRS and Greener Communities. These events are undertaken to look at how to tackle various issues of

anti-social behaviour within local communities as and when issues arise. They also seek to highlight Police Scotland's Christmas Action plans, and areas of youth disorder such as the bus stations.

The Anti-Social Behaviour Team and Housing Options undertake joint visits to all tenants within temporary accommodation to provide support, advice and assistance with maintaining their home and being aware of their rights and responsibilities as a good neighbour until they transition into a settled housing solution.

Trail Bikes and Quad Bikes: Within East Ayrshire we continue to see the positive impact that Trail and Quad bikes bring to a diverse range of incidents, events and situations.

Both Trail and Quad bikes are operated by specially trained officers (12 in total) in and around East Ayrshire. High risk missing people have been traced in areas where usual conventional policing methods for searching wouldn't have safely located the person. Officers on trail bikes have charged a number persons with offences including Misuse of Drugs Offences, Road Traffic Offences (with a number off-road bikes also seized) and ASB in areas where the local community have highlighted concerns.

These assets can be deployed both within town and rural environments and have been used in various policing incidents, including at football matches at Rugby Park stadium in response to resident's concerns about adult ASB pre and post-match (including urinating, street drinking and littering). A number of fixed penalty tickets were issued by trail bike based staff as a result with residents highlighting their thanks but also the need for ongoing operations of this nature to ensure their home environments are not unduly impacted.

EAC officers are also trained in the use of quad bikes and both the ASB teams and police regularly carry out joint patrols focussing on ASB including fly tipping, thefts and other similar incidents.

To support this ongoing, effective function, funding has been secured to procure two further Quad Bikes for use primarily in the Cumnock and Doon Valley area but will be utilised as and where necessary when tackling issues around anti-social behaviour identified through community concerns.

East Ayrshire Council are in a procurement process to purchase additional quad bikes and two will be permanently based in Cumnock for officers to tackle ASB in the South of the authority. Further to that commitment, which has been in planning for some time, two further quad bikes for the South West of the authority are also being purchased. These will be based in Dalmellington for availability for deployment particularly in the Loch Doon Area. This follows significant community concerns around the behaviours of wild campers in Loch Doon and their engagement in nuisance activity including littering and loud music.

Housing's Anti-social Behaviour Team and Mediation: The Anti-Social Behaviour Team engage directly with communities through Anti-Social Behaviour Investigators who cover designated areas. The primary role of the Investigator is to investigate all complaints of neighbour

nuisance and anti-social behaviour, engage with complainers, alleged offenders and the local community to effectively tackle the issues raised. They work closely and effectively with partners to tackle the issues through information sharing and joint working. All cases undertaken are investigated and follow a customer-focused approach through providing regular contact through home visits, phone calls and email, taking appropriate actions as required. The team investigates serious and extreme cases and expedite the set process through the various warnings to court if required. There is also an established multi-agency approach gathering all relevant partners to discuss the issues prior to any legal actions. This is undertaken to identify other possible solutions with an aim to achieve resolution prior to progressing with a legal action.

The Anti-social Behaviour Team also work closely and in conjunction with Police Scotland and EAC Legal Services to look at serious and extreme cases and agree the best possible outcomes when it comes to taking an official legal action. This is to ensure that the appropriate and proportionate actions are afforded for each serious or extreme case.

The Anti-social Behaviour Team refer suitable neighbour dispute cases for mediation to Vibrant Communities. Mediation is a flexible and effective way of finding solutions to all sorts of conflicts and disagreements. It is quick, confidential, and helps find solutions everyone can live with. The mediation process gives individuals the opportunity to be fully-heard, and to hear, often for the first time, the other side of the story. Mediation provides a safe, structured and positive environment for people in dispute to come to agreements and better understanding and while it usually involves discussion of issues around past events, its main focus is on what is going to happen and how people will behave towards one another in the future.

East Ayrshire Federation of Tenants and Residents (EAFTR), Registered Tenant and Resident Organisations (RTO), Consultation Forums: EAFTR and RTOs across East Ayrshire have established effective relationships with the Council's Anti-social Behaviour Team and Police Scotland with assistance and support provided on reporting incidents of neighbour nuisance and anti-social behaviour and the roles of all stakeholders. Through the biannual EAFTR newsletter, advice on neighbour nuisance and partner contact details is provided to all tenants across East Ayrshire.

Risk Management Centre (RMC): East Ayrshire Council provides a CCTV review suite within the RMC to allow Police Scotland to view and retrieve images in relation to their investigations. This partnership ensures that data is secured as evidence at the earliest opportunity contributing to the best Community Safety outcomes. The incidents captured are collated by the Police Scotland CCTV Liaison Officer. In response to requests from our partners we currently have fixed re-deployable cameras in 10 locations across the Authority to assist in detecting and deterring crime within specific areas of concern and to assist in the prevention of anti-social behaviour and fly tipping.

The **Community Safety CCTV** Vehicle is used to provide reassurance, a visible deterrent and as a mobile evidence gathering platform. This year it was deployed to areas outlined as part of Police Scotland's action plans and undertaken joint patrols to address fly-tipping and anti-social behaviour. Additionally, it has been present at meetings / outreach events including; Fire Reach with SFRS, Licensed premise visits, Football patrols, Intelligence led operations, walk around visits with community groups and council members and taxi rank patrols,

vehicle checks with VOSA. It actively monitors areas of concern across the authority and ensures a visible presence is maintained in these hotspots to assist in the detection and deterring of anti-social behaviour. During the period the CCTV vehicle has been used primarily as a visual deterrent monitoring for youth disorder and anti-social behaviour issues in particular Kilmarnock Bus Station. It also continues to offer reassurance to remote communities not covered by traditional CCTV. In addition to this, the Anti-Social Behaviour Team operate a shift pattern to allow for further use of the CCTV vehicle with a dedicated approach. A patrol matrix is utilised to allow for up-to-date and relevant patrolling to provide a visible deterrent and public reassurance.

RMC Operations	2024/25
Number of RMC operated community alarms	4,999
Number of RMC calls received	173,351
Number of times Mobile CCTV Vans utilised	155
Number of Tech Enabled Care systems operated	7,579
Number of Domestic Abuse Calls Responded To	590

CVOEA GRAFT AND CVN PROJECT UNLOCKING POTENTIAL - Supporting people involved with the justice system and

addictions: Unlocking Potential is a community-based employability course within the GRAFT and CVN Community Hub, it provides essential work experience combined with tailored person-centred community learning for 15 unemployed participants to open doors into education or employment.

The GRAFT Project (Gain Respect And Foster Trust) CVN (Community Voices Network) supports the rehabilitation of those involved in the Justice System and individuals with substance use disorder (SUD). Unlocking Potential provides an opportunity for individuals to gain invaluable work experience within a community enterprise which focuses on the development of garden and landscaping skills, woodwork, DIY and other general labour skills.

During the reporting period of 24/25, 15 individuals participated on the Unlocking Potential course engaging with a one-day work placement and one day community-based education. After completion of the course, the participants achieve the following outcomes:

- 15 participants completed the course successfully. (100% completed the course successfully)
- 11 have successfully secured employment opportunities. (74% now in employment)
- 2 have continued their placement providing significant community benefit and have continued to be supported by CVO to overcome barriers and develop personal skills. (13% still engaging with CVO)
- 2 have progressed onto further training to gain accredited qualifications to increase chances of employment. (13% in college)

Course participants successfully converted a large storage area into a fully facilitated boxing gym. This gave the team the opportunity to show the skills they have learnt by refurbishing the unit and gave our coaches the foundation to promote activities aimed at reducing anti-

social behaviour through prevention and intervention, healthy living, physical and mental wellbeing and used our own qualified instructors to deliver boxercise classes.

Participant experience is further enhanced through the peer support provided by the coaches who bring their own lived experience to the support on offer. We are pleased and excited to announce the project's boxing coach has passed his Level 2 Boxing Instructor Training, refreshed his knowledge and gained the fundamental techniques of boxing for fitness and coaching.

The project is now competently coaching the basics of boxing to participants, allowing them to work out safely whilst having fun and gaining skills.

In our coaches own words: *"These boxing classes have finally given people something positive to focus on, I wish I had had something like this when I was younger! If they're in the GRAFT Gym, learning a new craft, working as a team, showing respect for each other, then they're learning how to live their lives the correct way. Boxing has proved to be a really good tool to put people down the right path in life."*

In our Deputy Chief Executives own words: *"We will continue to develop strong relationships with employers and training providers to offer further opportunities for next steps and positive destinations."*

Action	Partnership Activity	Partners
S3 Provide an effective, supportive and victim-centred approach to rape with enhanced local support services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the ongoing development and operation of the Willows, a Sexual Assault Response Co-ordination Service (SARCS) in Ayrshire. • Sustain the work of the Police Domestic Abuse Support Team and Sexual Offences Unit • Facilitate and implement the work of specialist support services 	Police Scotland , NHS A&A, Rape Crisis Star Centre, SFRS.

Police Scotland: Rape Victim Support Update:

Police Scotland maintain strong working relationships in Ayrshire with our partners in NHS and Rape Crisis Star Centre to ensure a victim led approach to all reports of rape and serious sexual offences.

All rape investigations are SIO led with a victim centred and multi-agency approach at the forefront of actions and considerations to progress each enquiry in a sensitive and supportive manner.

If a report falls within the forensic window victim survivors are offered a Forensic Medical Examination which can be conducted within the NHS SARCS facilities at either The Willows in Prestwick or Archway in Glasgow.

All victim survivors are offered the opportunity to consent to a referral to Rape Crisis and often the Star Centre will contact Ayrshire Divisional Rape Investigation Unit directly to arrange police engagement with persons they have been supporting towards having the confidence to report to the police. The Star Centre can also provide accommodation to facilitate SOLO contact and the taking of a SOLO statement in a comfortable, supportive environment.

Feedback processes are in place with both NHS SARCS and Rape Crisis so victim survivors can offer valued insight into their experiences, positive or negative, to support continued learning and improvement in service delivery in this challenging area of work. A similar feedback process exists between Police Scotland and NHS SARCS to capture, respond to and learn from experiences during the Forensic Medical Examination arrangements, again intended to improve upon and provide the best quality of service.

Action	Partnership Activity	Partners
S4 Support people who have committed offences to move away from offending behaviour.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote both the principles and systems of the Whole System approach to Early and Effective Intervention (EEI) and Diversion from prosecution. The later will be directly delivered from April 24 as part of a justice early intervention service including bail supervision and Structured Deferred Sentence Support the ongoing implementation of the Pan-Ayrshire Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan (CJOIP) 2024-2029 Partners will Investigate and utilise innovative and cost effective approaches to reduce offending behaviours 	Community Justice Ayrshire Partnership , which includes EAC Justice Service, CPS; Police Scotland, Vibrant Communities, Third Sector Partners, SFRS, Barnados, Alcohol & Drugs Partnership

Police Scotland: Moving Offenders Away from Behaviour:

Prevention is theme which occurs throughout policing and is a requirement on the PSOS under s.32 Police & Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012. Campus officers work to prevent criminality by engaging with and educating young people on crime, the dangers and impacts on victims and perpetrators.

Within Ayrshire Custody suites, those arrested for domestic offences, regardless of whether they have been charged, are signposted to Respect, a charity that works with perpetrators of domestic abuse, aiming to keep survivors safe and hold perpetrators accountable - whilst offering them meaningful opportunities to change.

The MAPPA arrangements in place aim to assess and manage risk of sex and/or violent offenders and the framework of MAPPA aims to reduce reoffending.

While the above are mechanisms relating to offenders, Police Scotland are committed to supporting the most vulnerable members of the public and to signpost, support and safeguard them from harm. East Ayrshire has a dedicated preventions and interventions officer who is trained to carry out crime prevention surveys and offer practical advice or offer safety tools which can include camera doorbell or noise alarms. Police Scotland have a number of campaigns which operate throughout the year which focus on a wide range of topics including fraud and scam prevention and these are communicated on social channels and sometimes in wider media.

Police Scotland: Work with Recovery Enterprise – Prisoner Throughcare

Insp Griffiths continues to attend Community Justice Ayrshire meetings where alternatives to custody and managing individuals in the community are discussed on a pan-Ayrshire basis. Work with Recovery Enterprise in Kilmarnock continues, focussing on prison throughcare aimed at reducing the cycle of reoffending on prison release through supportive means and exploring employability routes at the point of entry to the prison system, with the aim of creating stability and structure. Recovery Enterprise regularly receive referrals from Police Scotland where support from them is thought to be of benefit with the aim of reducing reoffending and providing more positive outcomes.

Community Justice Ayrshire Partnership (CJAP): The CJAP CJOIP was published in April 2024 and will last for five years, mirroring the national strategy and reporting framework. Local deliverables set out what action the Partnership will take in Ayrshire to meet national priorities, and they align directly to the aims set out in the National Strategy. Each year we will review the deliverables we are working towards, adding new ones where required to focus on emerging priorities as they arise. The CJAP Data Hub monitors performance of the Partnership by tracking progress of deliverables and measuring the impact of action taken through performance indicators. Three delivery groups are responsible for progressing the local deliverables:

Diversion, Intervention and Alternatives to Custody (DIAC) Delivery Group: The DIAC Delivery Group has membership from Police Scotland, ADPs, NHS, JSW and the third sector. Work in 2024/25 included gathering quantitative and qualitative data around Diversion from prosecution to inform future service planning, including benchmarking against other areas, and getting feedback from staff and service users. Over 40 partners from across Ayrshire attended a workshop in June. The session introduced the new CJOIP, the new delivery group structure and aimed to increase partner's understanding of the role of justice social work. Partners learned more about the impact of community sentences and interventions, what they are, how they're delivered by Justice Social Work, some facts and figures around community sentencing in Ayrshire and looked at opportunities for further collaboration with wider partners and services. This included an input on Diversion from Prosecution, where JSW colleagues explained what diversion is, what it aims to achieve, what the benefits are, and the strengths and challenges of using diversion to provide early intervention and support. At the end of the workshop, partners were asked to consider within their own services if there were ways they could support diversion, including being part of the early intervention plan for people they may already be supporting, and if there is any work they do which could support someone as part of an early intervention support. Other work the group has been taking forward is around arrest referral services – where those in custody suites following arrest can be referred to support agencies to address issues, and mapping out availability of support services for people appearing at court.

Community Reintegration Delivery Group: The group includes representation from Scottish Prison Service (SPS), DWP, Justice Social Work, Health, ADP, Housing, and Third Sector organisations. A key focus of this group has been to work with HMP Kilmarnock to further develop their community reintegration processes, and how to create better links with other establishments from across the country. This work has included looking at the coordination of the liberation process to see if they can be made more effective, encourage attendance, and ultimately improve outcomes for people. The group also looked at the liberation plan which is in place for individuals, considers how to increase use of the Prison to Rehab Pathway for those with addiction issues leaving prison, and developed a Partnership Pre-Release Support Pathway document. This document outlines the multi-agency process for pre-release support planning and liberation within HMPK for men returning to Ayrshire. This process should allow us to meet the throughcare standards element of the Bail and Release from Custody Act, as well as the pre-release planning duty element. During the period of early release from prison CJAP facilitated weekly meetings took a pan-Ayrshire approach to supporting partners who are working with people being liberated, to help share information and support collaboration and coordination. At these meetings, partners had an opportunity to discuss any issues around the increased number of releases which were upcoming.

Community First Delivery Group: The Partnership's new delivery group met for the first time, and has membership from local authorities, HSCPs, NHS, Police, SDS and third sector. At the aforementioned workshop in June, inputs included on CPOs and Unpaid Work, where JSW colleagues explained what they involve, how they are managed, and the strengths and challenges, as well as some case studies. Partners were asked to consider within their own services if there were ways they could support people on CPOs and/or UPW. Areas of focus for this group include increasing staff and public awareness and confidence in Community Justice (through presentations, webinars, publicising online), considering if 'Other Activity' on UPW can be strengthened, looking at employability issues for those in the justice system – a 'Positive Pathways' event was held within HMP Kilmarnock to showcase employability options for prisoners on release during 2024/25.

CVOEA GRAFT AND CVN PROJECT UNLOCKING POTENTIAL **see narrative provided at action **S2** Engage with the community and partners to identify address and prevent anti-social behaviour (**ASB**)

EA Health and Social Care Partnership: In addition to the established relationships within the Whole System Strategic Group, the Whole System Coordinator has created links with a number of other partners and strengthened the working relationship with current partners. These include:

- Establishing 4 weekly consultations with Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
- Creating a Pilot Pathway for CAMHS assessment for children in Police or Court Custody
- Consultations with Speech, Language and Communication which has also led to input at team meetings and the opportunity for practitioners to undertake the Talking Mats training
- Providing opportunities for Group Work through Leisure Trust aiming at supporting children who are being referred through EEI

- Establishing links with YDance, a national youth dance organisation providing a range of creative and fun opportunities for children and young people
- Linking with Community Justice, CYCJ and Action for Children to support a child through the Restorative Justice Process

Groupwork Opportunities: In 2024, East Ayrshire established positive links at a national level to provide opportunities for our children and young people. One of these included a partnership with YDance, a national Youth Dance organisation. YDance is a national organisation who provide opportunities for children and young people to engage in sessions which focus on diversionary, fun, physical activity. Their ethos is to help build confidence, resilience, communication skills, team building, expression and creativity.

The group included children from a range of backgrounds including children within our children's houses and our Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC). Eight children attended the initial session and five children consistently attended going forward. East Ayrshire's Intensive Support Team facilitated, organised and planned the group, alongside YDance and the Whole System Coordinator. They also supported with identifying children who would benefit from the group and supporting the children to attend this each week. The children provided feedback that they really enjoyed the sessions and were keen to return for a group in the future. One child stated that YDance was her 'happy place'. Below are some of the comments and feedback that the children have given in relation to their experience through YDance.

Barnardo's Safe and Together Service: Supporting children and young people aged 11-17 from across East Ayrshire to reduce their alcohol/drug use to safer levels and to improve their personal outcomes. These include developing a better understanding of the negative impact alcohol/drug use can have; Identify and work towards meeting the needs and challenges which may influence their alcohol/drug use, provide information and guidance through 1-1 intensive support, group work and awareness sessions.

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) continues to enhance our links with EA 'Community Payback' Service to provide support and opportunities for those required to participate on the programme. Most recently, we have provided our Community Garden at Kilmarnock Community Fire Station for the group to utilise.

- We are continuing to develop and refine our referral pathways with partners to provide fire safety advice through our HFSV initiative and our EA LALO participates in monthly 'GIRFEC' meetings supporting partners on request.

We continue our support for HMP Kilmarnock educational programmes on request to support the reintegration offenders back into the community, and have developed working relationships with EA 'Restorative Practice' Group to engage with care experienced young people to educate and proactively discourage future offending and promote positive relationships with services.

Action	Partnership Activity	Partners
S5 Provide assurance in regard to public protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAPPA arrangements pertaining to; 	HSCP, Police , EAC Justice Service, Children &

and the reduction of serious harm for certain categories offender.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sex offenders subject to notification under the sexual offences act 2003 Mentally disordered restricted patients Offenders identified as posing a risk of serious harm by reason of their conviction Multi Agency Tasking and Co-ordination Process (MATAC) 	Families, Education, Housing, NHS, SPS, Third sector partners, MAPPA Office
<p>Police Scotland: Sex Offender Policing Unit</p> <p>MAPPA: The <u>2023/24 South West Scotland MAPPA Annual Report</u> was published in September 2024. The total number of Registered Sex Offenders in South West Scotland increased by 7% in 2023/24.</p> <p>Sex Offenders: Registered Sex Offenders (RSO's) are subject to notification requirements under the terms of the Sexual Offences Act, 2003. Each RSO is subject to management and monitoring by Police Scotland depending on the risk they are assessed to pose. Police Scotland deploys officers to conduct home visits, review devices and intrusively interview RSOs to determine current circumstances, employment status, their movements and associations in order to perform risk assessments. RSOs are managed under the MAPPA process in conjunction with partner agencies including the MAPPA coordinator, Criminal Justice Social Work, Scottish Prison Service, local Housing officers and Health board representatives. Continual information sharing takes place and those RSOs assessed as posing the greatest risk of harm to communities are subject of frequent MAPPA meetings where the risks are discussed and actions to mitigate these risks are tasked out. Joint Police/Criminal Justice visits with offenders are also commonplace and Police Scotland work in conjunction with third sector agencies to make disclosures where potential victims are identified, with the aim of keeping people safe from harm.</p> <p>Mentally Disordered Restricted Patients: These patients are managed by NHS however Police Scotland contribute to risk management plans and MAPPA meetings where patients receive escorted or unescorted leave in the community, in situations where patients have made significant improvements in mental health and are being progressed for eventual release. These releases are tightly controlled and only approved where the risk to the community is assessed as low. As with RSOs, regular multi-agency meetings take place to ensure appropriate risk management takes place.</p> <p>Offenders identified as posing a risk of serious harm by reason of their conviction: Offenders managed under this category are known as Category 3 offenders and are also managed under the MAPPA process. These are managed in a similar manner to RSOs, however they are not subject to notification requirements. They are often subject to licence conditions and are invariably managed by Criminal Justice Social Work, however Police Scotland contribute to MAPPA meetings so that effective information sharing and risk management can take place. Police Scotland support the management of these offenders by conducting bail checks, providing safety advice to potential victims and investigating any potential criminality taking place.</p>		

Multi Agency Tasking and Co-ordination Process (MATAC): MATAC is a multi-agency police-led process which identifies and targets high-tariff offenders so as to effectively investigate Domestic Abuse perpetrated against multiple partners. Offenders are identified via a variety of means, including instances of domestic abuse or intelligence. Research and analysis takes place to identify potential undisclosed offending against current and previous partners. A multi-agency meeting is held to approve the investigation and exchange information. Police Scotland then proactively engages with current and former partners to identify previous undisclosed offending and build a criminal case against the offender. Safeguarding processes are built into the MATAC investigation, with at-risk victims provided with safety advice and signposted to support agencies. This includes the Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland (DSDAS) and the Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conferencing (MARAC) process, where victims and vulnerable people (including affected children) are discussed, and a safety plan is agreed upon and instigated.

All of the above processes are subject to frequent oversight and governance by senior representatives of the involved agencies to ensure that they are fit for purpose and are used appropriately to manage offenders and keep people safe within the community.

Action	Partnership Activity	Partners
S6 Facilitate effective action against perpetrators of domestic abuse, and all forms of VAWG; improve the response and support provided for victims of domestic abuse, and all forms of VAWG, and their families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the development and implementation of the East Ayrshire Violence Against Women Partnership Strategic Plan 2024-27 (available December 2024) Continued delivery of the Caledonian Programme for those convicted of domestic abuse. Work in partnership to strengthen the housing rights of survivors of domestic abuse as a result of the Domestic Abuse (Protection)(Scotland) Bill 2021 Proactive provision of home safety equipment to mitigate risk of harm for people experiencing domestic abuse 	EAVAWP , Police Scotland, CJA; HSCP; NHS A&A; Victim Support; EAC Housing & Communities, Education and Legal Services; EA Women's Aid; SFRS; EAC Justice Service; EAC Children and Families; Third Sector partners

Violence Against Women Partnership: The East Ayrshire Violence Against Women Partnership (EAVAWP) Strategic Plan 2021-24 expired in December 2023 and work has been ongoing throughout 2024 to finalise the new strategic plan, which is due for sign off in the early months of 2025. The new strategic plan has been the focus for stakeholder groups and consultation with practitioners and women with lived experience of violence. Meanwhile, any outstanding actions from the EAVAWP Strategic Plan 2021-24 continued to be monitored throughout 2024 and these actions have all been finalised and/or incorporated into the new strategic plan.

The agreed strategic priorities for the Violence against Women and Girls Strategic plan 2024-27 are:

- We will undertake a strategic needs assessment to gain a better understanding of the prevalence and impact of VAWG in our communities, what support is available and where there are key gaps/ areas of unmet need

- We will create meaningful and trauma-informed opportunities for victims/ survivors of VAWG to play a key role in shaping and monitoring the work of EAVAWP
- We will progress activities to create cultural change around VAWG within key community settings
- We will deliver sustainable, informed and safe specialist and universal service responses for victim / survivors that are holistic and meet victim / survivors' individual needs.

The Violence Against Women Partnership took a Position Statement on the Increasing demands on Specialist Services to the Chief Officers Group in 2024 detailing the pressures on specialist VAW support services caused by increasing demand on services leading to waiting lists, short term and insecure funding arrangements resulting on some supports not being continued, pressures on staff recruitment and retention in a low paying but specialist sector and the impact on staff through vicarious trauma. It was highlighted that the risks held by specialist services were increasing in a service landscape where mainstream services were also under extreme pressures, ultimately having a detrimental impact on women and girls seeking support.

The Violence against Women Partnership also developed its offer of training for Council employees and those of Partners. There are now three Equally Safe in Practice modules available on LearnPro to East Ayrshire Council, East Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership, Ayrshire Roads Alliance and the Leisure Trust. The target is to get 75% of all staff trained in three years, through a service improvement plan approach. The face to face training has also been extended to include inputs on Technology facilitated gender based violence, Understanding online misogyny, Honour based violence, Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Female Genital Mutilation.

Trauma Informed Contact & Care (TICC): Trauma Informed Contact and Care (TICC) is a joint Police and Education early intervention, safeguarding and wellbeing initiative. The aim of the initiative is to support children and young people exposed to domestic abuse by ensuring that ECC's and schools are notified by Police Scotland, before the start of the next school day, when an incident has occurred in the previous 24 hours. TICC implementation began at the end of 2021 with rollout being completed in January 2024. This means that all children and young people in an education establishment in Ayrshire are benefitting from a wide range of supports based on their needs. There is a better understanding of domestic abuse and support is offered following established GIRFEC processes. The final rollout will be for children and young people who are not in a school or ECC.

In 2024 the Child and Young Person Police Wellbeing Concern Process was reintroduced whereby wellbeing concerns identified by the police are sent directly to the named person services in health and education. This allows for earlier intervention by universal services. The GIRFEC Child's Pathway is followed and, if appropriate, other agencies including third sector and social work are invited to a Team with the Family meeting to discuss appropriate supports and ensure a robust plan to improve wellbeing outcomes.

Relationships are being strengthened between members of school staff and children and carers who experience domestic abuse, and it is hoped that this can lead to parents/carers having the confidence to talk directly with the school and request support if an incident takes place and the police are not involved.

East Ayrshire Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC): The Ayrshire MARAC commenced operationally in August 2022 and has continued, throughout 2024-25, to make a significant contribution to improving the safety of victims of domestic abuse at risk of significant harm or death across Ayrshire.

There are three local MARAC meetings – one in each of the local authority areas in Ayrshire, centrally and consistently supported by the MARAC Coordination Team. In East Ayrshire, all of the Agency Representatives (Education, Police, Housing, Women's Aid, ASSIST, Children & Young Peoples' services, Adult services, Justice services, Health services, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service) continue to support the local meetings and several new Agency Representatives have been trained and supported to join the MARAC in 2024-25. MARAC meetings take place monthly in East Ayrshire. In 2024-25, 12 meetings took place with 155 cases referred – 152 females and 3 males. Full MARAC data and analysis for East Ayrshire (and the whole of Ayrshire) will be available in the Ayrshire MARAC Annual Performance Report 2024-25.

The Ayrshire wide MARAC Governance Group provides strategic direction from MARAC Leads. This Group meets quarterly and reports into the EAVAWP.

Additionally, a local Agency Representatives Group has continued to meet after every East Ayrshire MARAC to provide support to representatives and allow a two-way feedback process to the MARAC Coordination Team. This local Group meets quarterly but can also convenes as required to support the Agency Representatives. The programme of local MARAC training has now become an integrated part of the EAVAWP annual training calendar.

A number of developmental and improvement activities have taken place in 2024-25, all overseen by the MARAC Governance Group. As a result of the reflective learning and development session in June 2023, an action plan has been in place to support identified improvements. Actions completed in 2024-25 have included:

- Improving the interface between MARAC and Adult Support & Protection:
- Improving the alignment of MARAC and Safe & Together:
- Expanding MARAC learning opportunities to a wider group of agencies across Ayrshire.

Work continues on several other improvement actions, including:

- Exploring how to gather information to understand the impact of the MARAC process for individuals;
- Exploring and improving the MARAC information flow with primary care, including MARAC markers for primary care;
- Exploring and developing local perpetrator mapping & intervention tools in respect of MARAC risks;
- Exploring responses to and developing local confidence in relation to specific risks & safety involving perpetrators and repeat referrals;

- Developing a proportionate programme of regular self-evaluation and quality assurance work to support improvements in MARAC practice and governance.

Education Mentors In Violence Programme: The majority of secondary schools now have senior pupils trained as Mentors in Violence Prevention and they are delivering the programme to their peers in school. Supported by the Campus Police Officers, all secondary schools have been asked to continue to develop the MVP programme in their school. Regular updates are provided via the MVP Team, termly coordinator meetings and the Health and Wellbeing Newsletter.

This year, three primary schools have taken part in the Education Scotland's Everyone's Included programme which looks to address gender-based issues in ECCs and Primary settings. The HWB and Equity Education Officer is working with the schools to build on this training to embed staff CLPL and Everyone's Included and / or Gender 10 resources in their settings.

Safe & Together Implementation Plan – Phase 3 2022-23: The key principles of the Safe & Together Model are to keep children who have experienced domestic abuse safe and together with their non-abusive parent, while supporting and acknowledging the non-abusive parents' protective efforts. It ensures perpetrators are held accountable for their abuse, while connecting them to their parenting (figure) role to reduce ongoing risk of harm where safe to do so.

The Safe & Together Model focuses on gender bias, survivor strengths, protective factors and the impact of perpetrators' patterns of behaviour on the family functioning. This challenges previous approaches of victim blaming and non-accountability of perpetrators. The aim is to ensure positive outcomes for children in respect of their safety and wellbeing through keeping them safe and together with the non-abusing parent.

The Scottish Government provided funding for the pan-Ayrshire Safe & Together Lead Officer until March 2025 through the Delivering Equally Safe fund. The Lead Officer was in post from September 2022 until December 2024, and was tasked with implementing the model across the three Ayrshire HSCPs, and further, through developing practice, process and cultural change in respect of domestic abuse.

Training delivery continued throughout 2024 with Core training being delivered twice a year, a number of Overview training days are also being offered as part of the integrated VAW calendar. Training has now reached the majority of Children & Families Social Workers and Team Managers. Training will continue to prioritise places for those within children's services, however overview training is on offer to adult services including mental health and recovery services.

A key development for practice and culture change has been the Safe & Together Facilitators (formerly known as Champions) which is made up of a group of volunteers from both Social Work and Health Visiting services. The group have been working hard to practice the model and develop their understanding of domestic abuse-informed practice, in addition to the demands of their frontline responsibilities.

Their increased confidence and ability in applying the model is now notable, while their association with the model has served to promote it within their teams, spark discussions and maintain S&T at the forefront of practitioner thinking.

Implementation progress was measured through a Case File Audit in late October 2024. The audit allowed for an understanding of where the strengths lie in practice, what the learning needs are and what families experiences are, this will be key to inform implementation activities. The consistent theme emerging from this evaluation is the need to develop services' understanding of coercive control, and what this means for both women and children's daily lives. This will lead to enhanced risk assessment through application of the model, which will in turn influence a collaborative and more effective, strengths-based response to risk management and mitigation of domestic abuse.

Implementation activities, over the last two years have built upon S&T training which commenced in 2020, creating a solid foundation from which culture, practice and process change can progress. The multi-agency implementation group will continue to deliver on the plan, and respond to challenges and barriers to model implementation.

Integrated VAW calendar: The integrated VAW calendar was launched in May 2024 and is circulated to partners quarterly by the HSCP Protection and Learning Team. The calendar contains training provided by the MARAC team, the East Ayrshire HSCP Protection and Learning Team, the NHS GBV team, East Ayrshire Women's Aid, the STAR Centre: Rape Crisis Ayrshire and Amina. It also promotes online modules regarding Trauma and Equally Safe in Practice.

Housing: The Housing (Scotland) Bill 2024 (the Bill) passed the Stage 1 parliamentary debate on 28 November 2024 and will proceed to Stage 2 where amendments to the Bill will be considered. The Bill includes a range of measures aimed at improving tenants' rights with a separate duty for social landlords to introduce a domestic abuse policy. The Council introduced a Domestic Abuse Policy in 2019 and a Domestic Abuse Housing Staff Protocol was implemented in 2020 with accompanying training to raise awareness of housing and tenancy rights to anyone experiencing domestic abuse.

Risk Management Centre (RMC): Community Alarm devices continue to be provided and monitored in response to partner referrals, providing reassurance and links to Police Scotland when initiated to RMC.

RMC Operations	2024/25
Number of RMC operated community alarms	4,999
Number of RMC calls received	173,351
Number of times Mobile CCTV Vans utilised	155
Number of Tech Enabled Care systems operated	7,579
Number of Domestic Abuse Calls Responded To	590

Barnardo's Safe & Together Service: supports children, young people and their families who are affected by domestic violence where alcohol/substance use is a factor. 1-1 intensive support includes : supporting the perpetrator (regardless of gender identity) to look at their behaviours and the impact on others including children; providing a safe space for children to explore their emotions and past and present experiences; Ensure a person centred and holistic approach whilst ensuring a tailor-made care/safety plan to meet the needs of the family.

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service: SFRS continue to treat all 'high' risk referrals as matters of urgency. Any referral that has identified as a 'Threat of Fire' will be contacted to offer advice and if required, specialised fire-retardant equipment will be supplied and fitted. SFRS are now fully imbedded in the MARAC partnership.

SFRS EA LALO continues to be proactive in attending EA VAW Partnership meetings, as well as assisting with the co-ordination groups for 'Safer Spaces', 'Reclaim the Night' and '16-Days of Action.'

Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland (DSDAS):

The use of the Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse continues to increase, which shows an increase in public and partner knowledge of the scheme and the benefits it can have to support decision making in those who may be at risk. The 24/25 period saw continued increase and in East Ayrshire there were 179 applications, this is a 64% increase on the previous year which had 109 applications.

Action	Partnership Activity	Partners
S7 Support and offer public protection with regard to Commercial Sexual Exploitation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness and gather information about scale of Commercial Sexual Exploitation in East Ayrshire; • Identify support, help and prevention activity available in East Ayrshire; and • Partners will offer public protection support to people looking to remove themselves from Commercial Sexual Exploitation 	EAVAWP , Police Scotland, CJA; HSCP; NHS A&A; Victim Support; EAC Housing & Communities, Education and Legal Services; EA Women's Aid; SFRS; EAC Justice Service; EAC Children and Families; Third Sector partners

Police Scotland: Throughout 2024, 12 colleagues were trained by the Women's Support Project as trainers in CSE. In East Ayrshire this involves 3 trainers based in East Ayrshire Council and East Ayrshire Women's Aid and the NHSA&A Gender Based Violence lead. All three Police Scotland LALOs were also trained. The 3 LALOs thereafter developed an awareness raising package on CSE, which was delivered to the Divisional Commander to ensure suitability for Ayrshire. Further work was thereafter carried out and it was presented to the Detective Superintendent with the National Portfolio for Human Trafficking & CSE, who gave his approval of the presentation. This has since been linked in with Scottish Government CSE working group who have offered to support. Discussions are ongoing to link this in with the Human Trafficking courses being run, as well as future Probationary courses run at Tulliallan. New probationers arriving at Ayrshire have already received this input as part of their induction to the division.

EAC Anti-social Behaviour Team: Effective and partnership working with all partners is undertaken as part of everyday working priorities within the Housing Service and the Anti-social Behaviour Team. This process is encompassed into the Daily Tasking Meetings held every week day morning to discuss recent issues around anti-social behaviour and to identify and task appropriate actions from this meeting. The meeting is chaired by the Anti-Social Behaviour Team Manager and discussions are undertaken around local issues and anti-social behaviour to provide an early intervention and preventative approach. Partner agencies involved are EAC Anti-social Behaviour Team, Police Scotland, EA Health and Social Care Partnership, SFRS, Housing Options and Housing Neighbourhood Coaches.

Throughout 2023-24, East Ayrshire Violence against Women Partnership, in collaboration with colleagues from South Ayrshire and North Ayrshire Partnership and the Women's Support Project held a year long campaign on commercial sexual exploitation. During 16 days of Action against Gender Based Violence 2023, we hosted a practitioner event for 150 front line practitioners and managers where participants learned about the 'The Big 5' practice approaches to working with women involved in CSE and the importance of trauma informed practice. This was supported by the SFRS hosting the Inside/ Outside exhibition at Kilwinning Fire Station with the aforementioned partners. This exhibition raised the voices of women with lived experience and was well attended. (Does this stay in as refers to 2023/24?)

Violence Against Women Partnership: Throughout 2024, 12 colleagues were trained by the Women's Support Project as trainers in CSE. In East Ayrshire this involves 3 trainers based in East Ayrshire Council and East Ayrshire Women's Aid and the NHSA&A Gender Based Violence lead. All three Police Scotland LALOs were also trained. In East Ayrshire we completed our year long campaign during 16 days of action 2024 with a Leadership event and the first of our CSE training which was highly evaluated by participants.

Also in 2024, the Position Statement on Commercial Sexual Exploitation was refreshed and endorsed by Full Council in September 2025.

In February 2025, the Lead Officer for VAWG presented to the members of the Integration Joint Board on the success of the campaign on commercial sexual exploitation but requested support to access services where training could be targeted. Close working relations are developing with the Alcohol and Drugs Partnership to develop a response, where many women accessing recovery services may have been exposed to CSE.

Throughout 2025, three further face to face training sessions on CSE are available for staff to access, and there is a Learnpro module available on Supporting Women who Disclose Selling or Exchanging Sex or Images.

Going forward, more robust recording and data collection requires to be collected across agencies and partnerships.

Anti-social Behaviour Team: In December 2024, EAC Housing and Communities facilitated a training session on County Lines and Cuckooing through the Anti-Social Behaviour Team to all housing staff who worked out in the communities engaging with members of public. A presentation was provided by Police Scotland in Council Chambers. The event was well-attended with over 80 members of staff

engaging in discussion. Information included awareness on sexual exploitation and human trafficking and the impact on individuals and communities.

	Partnership Activity	Partners
S8 Promote increased awareness of partnership work to improve community safety and safety behaviours (to include water and road safety)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement EA Police Plan and SFRS Local Plan activity to address road safety issues • The Road Safety Group will further explore partnership opportunities to raise awareness of road safety issues • Partnership Approach to Road Safety (PARS) group embedded across Ayrshire; • Partnership Approach to Water Safety (PAWS) group embedded across Ayrshire; • Further develop the partnership approach to Community Resilience through the East Ayrshire multiagency Strategic Resilience Group (the group monitor and plans for a range of resilience and contingencies that includes resilience planning for weather and energy resilience events. • Develop an action plan to highlight risks and identify partnership solutions to improve women's perceptions of community safety • Make use of inclusive design and infrastructure in homes and communities to promote community safety and tackle anti-social behaviour. 	<p>Safer Communities Delivery Plan Working Group / Police Scotland; SFRS; ARA; CJA; Ayrshire Council Education; Ayrshire College; Alcohol & Drugs Partnership</p> <p>EAC, NAC, SAC, Coastguard, Police Scotland, RNLI, SAS, Loch Doon Ranger, EAVAW Partnership</p>
<p>Police Scotland: CJFC Enterprise: Cumnock Juniors Football Enterprise and have arranged for locality policing to attend at a weekly walking football class, specifically aimed at those struggling with addiction. This is following work which was carried out with Samaritans in response to their 'paid yesterday, broke today' report, which has brought attention to the importance of social connection, to improve mental wellbeing.</p> <p>The purpose of local police attendance, is to positively engage with those who have previously fallen into criminal behaviour, struggling with addiction and have often had perceived negative experience with local police. Previous engagement with CJFC has highlighted the importance of how social connections can be fostered through physical activity, camaraderie and shared experience, and can provide individuals with the platform and opportunity to better their own lives.</p>		

Pebbles Academy, Muirkirk: At the request of Peebles Academy staff, for the past 3 months, a local community Police Officer has regularly attended the school on Fridays. An initial consultation was carried out with school staff who suggested some topics to provide input. These topics included hate crime, positive masculinity (incels), domestic abuse and how crimes are investigated. All of which have been delivered to a group of between 5-7 students from varied and challenging backgrounds. A mixture of power point content, and open conversations where students have opened up, sharing experiences with Police and staff alike. Staff at the school have also contributed and assisted with the delivery of inputs, providing their own experiences. Feedback has been positive so far with more dates in the diary to return, with plans to take the students to either a police station or training venue for a visit/tour. It is hoped that this work will change students' opinions of the police as many of them have had a negative experience through trauma or family life. The benefits are already being seen and are reported weekly by the staff and the officer attending is aiming to take the young people to either police control room, or the force training centre to give further insight into the Police.

The NEST Charity Group: The NEST charity group is a voluntary drop-in centre which is situated in Cumnock, the group is ran by volunteers and aims to provide people within the community the opportunity to use their services, free of charge, to obtain hot food, a safe space, and an opportunity to seek support. The NEST is founded and ran by Natalie Carmichael, supported by EAC, allowing those who attend to be referred to addiction services, SWD, housing referrals, etc. Police have been regularly attending over the past 12 months, and offers have been able to engage with individuals, providing education and signposting, whilst also being able to gather information and intelligence, due to forging trusting relationships.

Joint work with T. French Haulage and the Ayrshire Road Policing Unit: Cumnock's Campus Police Officer at Robert Burns Academy, collaborated with Stuart from T. French Haulage and the Ayrshire Road Policing Unit to host a cycling safety event for S1 students. The session focused on road safety and the importance of sharing the road responsibly. Students participated in a presentation before having the opportunity to experience a hands-on session inside a lorry. Feedback from the pupils indicated they thoroughly enjoyed the experience and gained valuable insights. This was well attended by partners and covered in local media. Learning from this will be considered for wider input throughout the authority.

YIP World: Cumnock locality police officers continue to work with Youth Information Project, the largest provider of Youth services in the Cumnock area and attend drop in sessions and event days to engage positively with service users.

Wildlife Crime: Wildlife officers PC Daniel Dunlop and PC Steven Prendergast monitor wildlife crimes across East Ayrshire, they regularly liaise with local gamekeepers, farmers and fishing clubs to educate around wildlife crime trends, evidence gathering and information sharing. They also liaise with agencies such as RSPB, offering advice and support around wildlife crime, to ensure they feel supported in reducing wildlife crime to protected areas of specific scientific interest.

Road Policing:

Police Scotland is committed to protecting all road users, particularly the vulnerable. Ayrshire Roads Policing Unit, part of the national Operational Support Division, undertake targeted patrols within East Ayrshire. This includes joint patrols with locality policing officers to target the fatal 5 offences:-

- Drink & drug driving
- Speeding
- Using a handheld mobile phone
- Careless driving
- Not wearing a seatbelt.

This joint working between local and Roads Policing has included a one-month period whereby a RP vehicle and staff member was based in the south of the authority with targeted patrols undertaken which resulted in a number of positive enforcement actions undertaken. This activity will be repeated throughout the year.

Housing: East Ayrshire's new build development proposals incorporate the principles of 'Secured by Design'. This is a Police Scotland-led initiative that encourages the incorporation of crime prevention principles into the design and layout of new developments. It requires consideration of aspects such as lighting, boundary treatments and door and window specifications, whilst placing an emphasis on passive surveillance and overlooking, to enhance safety and minimise opportunities for crime. These principles are intended to promote community safety and reduce the potential for anti-social behaviour.

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (CARS)

- SFRS continues to work collaboratively with partners through the 'Combined Ayrshire Road Safety (CARS)' Group which meets on a quarterly basis. Through 'partnership' working, we have built on strong relationships which allows for effective information sharing, implementation of good practice, and the development of educational resource.
- Our engagement work, which includes educational delivery to Primary and Secondary schools throughout East Ayrshire continues to improve the awareness of young drivers and passengers on the impact of their actions while in a vehicle. The partnership approach to this program has several benefits, but the main one is that partners can access schools at a single visit.
- We have recently participated in the 'Child Car Seat Awareness' initiatives across East Ayrshire, which provided the opportunity for members of the public to have their car seats assessed by trained members of SFRS staff, have them refitted/adjusted (if necessary) and then be provided with a 'Service' Certificate to confirm participation.
- This coordinated and proactive approach will continue to assist in the delivery of Emergency Response and Education throughout East Ayrshire and is consistent with the targets of the 'Road Safety Scotland' Framework.

Partnership Approach to Road Safety (PARS): The PARS Group was established with Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) being one of the Lead Agencies in this safety group. The group meet quarterly to discuss ongoing issues regarding Road Safety across the area and any engagement work that is being planned. Incidents are discussed and action plans implemented to try and prevent further incidents occurring.

Partnership Approach to Water Safety (PAWS): SFRS, in conjunction with Water Safety Scotland (WSS), established the Pan-Ayrshire 'Partnership Approach to Water Safety (PAWS)' Group in 2021. The Group focuses on Prevention (implementation of rescue equipment), Improved Response (multi-agency training and Waterside Responder), Review (Drowning & Incident Review (DIR) after significant incidents).

SFRS continues to work closely with our partners in East Ayrshire and Water Safety Scotland (WSS) to promote our message and increase the awareness of risk around potential areas of concern within Ayrshire. Our work at Loch Doon is an excellent best practice example of effective partnership working, and we are involved in a multi-agency task group addressing additional concerns related to the Loch Doon area, such as ASB, wild camping and wildfire risk. Our School Engagement (Primary and Secondary) programmes also aim to highlight the dangers of open water and teach awareness of lifesaving swimming techniques delivered using WSS approved resource.

We continue to contribute to the Vibrant Communities 'Danger Detective' initiative and will be heavily involved with supporting EAC RMC's upcoming Water Safety Event at Loch Doon.

Ayrshire Roads Alliance (ARA): During 2024/25 ARA Road Safety work included:

- £745k grant funding received from the Transport Scotland Active Travel Infrastructure Tier 1 Fund was invested to help deliver various active travel interventions such as the installation of a new pedestrian crossing and link footpath on Glasgow Road, Kilmarnock, pedestrian safety improvement scheme in the vicinity of Hurlford Primary School and the ongoing development and design of the Kilmarnock Green Infinity Loop network of proposed cycle paths.
- Numerous road safety initiatives such as the A71 Galston to Newmilns Speed Reduction Scheme and the A735 Dunlop Traffic Calming Scheme (in the vicinity of the new ECC) were delivered using £248k grant funding received from the Transport Scotland Road Safety Improvement Fund.
- Further EAC Capital Funding of up to £250k was utilised to help support and deliver numerous traffic calming interventions and road safety education initiatives including:-
- All primary schools were offered support and training to deliver Bikeability Level 2 skills training to upper primary pupils
- A total of 10 performances of the Road Safety Magic Show at schools across the authority area in March 2025.
- "Biker Refinement" motorcyclist event took place in May 2025, with ARA's Road Safety team working in partnership with RoSPA, IAM and Police Scotland.
- "iDRIVE" driver event took place in June 2025, with ARA's Road Safety team working in partnership with NAC road safety. Guest speakers included Michael McDonnell, Director, Road Safety Scotland; Allan Mauchline, RoSPA; Stuart Miller, French Haulage; and Police Officers, Road Policing, Police Scotland.
- In April 2025, in partnership with Scottish Fire and Rescue, ARA's road safety team carried out drive through child car seat checks at local fire stations.

Education / Danger Detectives: Danger Detectives is an experiential learning programme led by Vibrant Communities and delivered in partnership with community planning partners and other key council partners. The 8 day programme aims to build community resilience in young people as active citizens in reducing accidents and crime in their local area. This is achieved by creating a safe environment where young people can actively become aware of their personal safety both indoors and outside, learn how to react to dangerous situations, know what roles the emergency services play as well as how they can protect and support the most vulnerable individuals within their community. Key safety sets are delivered such as fire safety in the home, road and cycle safety, Hazard House, countryside safety and Water safety. This year 95% of primary schools participated with over 1600 P5 pupils engaging in these informative, fun and themed workshops.

Action	Partnership Activity	Partners
S9 Work collaboratively to promote , support and facilitate community resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued development and support of <u>Community Led Action Plans</u> Proactive support for local people and groups with neighbourhood coaching, advice and training, and provision of equipment Continued support for communities to develop Community Larders and wider dignified food provision Consider the role of EA Tenants and Residents Federation and other community based groups for information sharing Further develop the partnership approach to Community Resilience through the East Ayrshire multiagency Strategic Resilience Group (the group monitor and plans for a range of resilience and contingencies that includes resilience planning for weather and energy resilience events Improve community resilience - suicide prevention 	EAC Housing & Communities; EAC Education; SFRS; Police Scotland; CAP Steering Groups; Community Councils; Third Sector Partners; Alcohol & Drugs Partnership.

Community Led Action Plans: East Ayrshire Council, Housing and Communities has committed to roll out a programme to work with all communities within East Ayrshire to develop Community Led Action Plans over the next two years. There are currently 35 Plans developed and community groups continue to be supported to develop their plans that meet the needs for their respective areas and communities.

EAC Anti-social Behaviour Team: Regular meetings have been and continue to be facilitated within local communities with Community Councils, the East Ayrshire Federation of Tenants and Residents, Registered Tenant and Resident Groups and local consultation forums to discuss neighbour nuisance issues and provide advice, assistance and signposting to appropriate services and partners and to gather information and intelligence to be able to proactively investigate and tackle the issues that matter and are of concern to the residents of East Ayrshire.

The Anti-Social Behaviour Team engage directly with communities through Anti-Social Behaviour Investigators who cover designated areas. The primary role of the Investigator is to investigate all complaints of neighbour nuisance and anti-social behaviour, engage with complainers, alleged offenders and the local community to effectively tackle the issues raised. They work closely and effectively with partners to tackle the issues through information sharing and joint working. All cases undertaken are investigated and follow a customer-focused approach through providing regular contact through home visits, phone calls and email, taking appropriate actions as required. The team investigates serious and extreme cases and expedite the set process through the various warnings to court if required. There is also an established multi-agency approach gathering all relevant partners to discuss the issues prior to any legal actions. This is undertaken to identify other possible solutions with an aim to achieve resolution prior to progressing with a legal action.

The Team also work closely and in conjunction with Police Scotland and EAC Legal Services to look at serious and extreme cases and agree the best possible outcomes when it comes to taking an official legal action. This is to ensure that the appropriate and proportionate actions are afforded for each serious or extreme case.

CVOEA OPEN DOORS AND EAST AYRSHIRE FOODBANK: During 2024/25 the East Ayrshire Foodbank successfully relocated to Open Doors and secured funding to support a Community Connector based within the Foodbank. The role of the Foodbank Connector is to provide holistic support not only with food provision and the wider impact of poverty but also to help mitigate the issues associated with isolation and loneliness particularly in relation to mental health and wellbeing.

Neighbourhood Coaching: Neighbourhood Coaches work closely with community planning partners and the third sector to support tenants to sustain their tenancies, prevent homelessness and ensure our neighbourhoods and estates are clean, green and vibrant. Tenant and community participation is promoted and supported via Neighbourhood Coaches and the Customer Liaison Team. Neighbourhood Coaches link with colleagues in Vibrant Communities and local tenants and residents in the development of Community Led Action Plans.

Housing Services has introduced an annual Connecting Housing and Tenants (CHAT) visit to every tenant to ensure support is available at the right time when needed and avoid crisis situations from occurring. An initial 3-month pilot has been completed to implement the annual visit, which will be incrementally fully embedded throughout the year. The East Ayrshire Federation of Tenants and Residents were involved in the design and testing of CHAT to ensure tenant volunteers had the opportunity to engage in the development of the initiative as well as assist in the promotion via the biannual newsletter and their social media platforms.

A dedicated Tenant Support Fund was introduced to reduce the financial burden on tenants during the cost of living crisis to prevent and alleviate homelessness and child and fuel poverty. Support is provided via 3 tier financial support into rent accounts, support with fuel costs and an exceptional circumstances element.

Housing Support continues to be delivered to EAC tenants, this includes: help to settle in their new home, assistance with budgeting and maintaining their tenancy; supporting tenants to become part of the community; and engagement in community supports and activities.

The East Ayrshire Federation of Tenants and Residents, Registered Tenant and Resident Organisations and Consultation Forums are proactive in highlighting local issues and making recommendations to Council officers on an ongoing basis, working closely with stakeholders to support and engage with local residents. Activities include an open event for Scottish Housing Day in September 2024 at the Federation office, a tenant conference at Centrestage in December 2024 and Financial and Wellbeing Roadshows in Kilmarnock and Cumnock in January 2025 with stallholders from the Universal Credit Support Team, Housing Support and Housing Options to provide advice and assistance to the local community.

Caring, Kind Connected Referrals: The CKC referrals have now ceased operating as they previously did and they no longer are received by Vibrant Communities however a more specific and target approach to support is in place with members of the public being signposted directly to the relevant departments for advice/guidance on the issues that they face. This means that they are dealing directly with the departments rather than referrals being received in a generic mailbox and then shared with the relevant department. This was part of the development of the Council's Poverty & Inequalities focus to ensure that communities are receiving the appropriate support at the right time.

Community Larders: Vibrant Communities continue to support 18 Community Larders across East Ayrshire providing a dignified food option. East Ayrshire Foodbank takes a holistic approach to service delivery, with every referral offered additional support if required. Referral pathways have been enhanced both across external partners and internal supports available through CVO services.

Home Link Team (HLT): The Home Link service was redesigned in April 2024 and this change in practice has allowed the Home Link Team to provide tailored early intervention support* for **288** children, young people and their families (**74.65% - Q1**), of those, **153 (55.4%)** children and young people no longer require Home Link support, achieving positive outcomes. (*2,851 one-to-one sessions, 1,008 home visits, 205 Team with the Family meetings).

With a specific focus on supporting school attendance, a number of bespoke supports were delivered. Resulting in;

- Term 1, attendance improved for 45 pupils out of 129 in total (**35%**)
- Term 2, attendance improved for 66 pupils out of 128 in total (**52%**)
- Term 3, attendance improved for 69 pupils out of 109 in total (**58%**)

The Team's improving school attendance through partnerships work was published on Education Scotland's Website highlighting the good practice in relation to partnership working. During term time, the staff delivered programmes across the authority which promoted readiness to learn, wellbeing, high aspirations and broader achievement. The team developed approaches to ensure programmes gained appropriate accreditation, as such, 31 awards were secured for families.

Parental Engagement: The team worked collaboratively with external partners and community groups to run several innovative, impactful and sustainable programmes to support closing the poverty-related attainment gap. **398** parents participated over the year and **36** of them were supported to take up volunteering opportunities.

Home Link Holiday programme: **196** sessions in total we offered across the school holidays. This included **117** family learning sessions, with **466** families attending. This accumulated **570.5** hours of session delivery. In addition, there were **42** wider achievement sessions and **3** family cooking programmes. Hot meals or packed lunches were offered at all sessions, via Meals and More Funding. The team secured funding to allow wider achievement young people to experience outdoor activities e.g. bowling, paddle boarding, rock climbing, Above Adventure Dynamic Youth Award activities and sessions at Dean Castle Country Park. Over the school holiday weeks the team continued with family support, with **266** home visits taking place.

Feedback from families included;

- **94%** of families stated that after attending the sessions they felt more confident about supporting their child with their learning
- **75%** of families stated they used the activities at home to support family learning
- **100%** of families enjoyed taking part in the activities.

Enhanced Transition

- **167** pupils attended Enhanced Transition sessions across all 7 Education Groups. **145** sessions took place accumulating **190.5** hours of input.
- **34 Enhanced Transition sessions** were delivered across the summer holiday period, taking place within schools as well as the local community, including Cherrytrees ECC, Dean Castle Country Park, The Garage, Above Adventure, Hunter Centre Gym, Rozelle Park and Emergency One (Fire Engine Manufacturing).

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service: SFRS are integrated within EAC 'Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest' Strategy. We continue to work with Scottish Ambulance Service and Police Scotland to ensure a common referral pathway is established. This will be followed up with by further training, education, and protection for all workers. We are proactive in delivering our CPR Awareness Training to community groups across EA, specifically where defibrillators have been installed.

Police Scotland: Road Safety

A number of targeted campaigns and action plans were completed to improve road safety across East Ayrshire. This includes Motorcycle Safety Campaigns, Summer Drink & Drug Driving Campaigns, Fatal Five Campaign (NPCC) and Operation Spotlight (NPCC), the latter of which are campaigns supported by the National Police Chiefs Council and held right across the UK.

Police Scotland is committed to protecting all road users, particularly the vulnerable. Ayrshire Roads Policing Unit, part of the national Operational Support Division, undertake targeted patrols within East Ayrshire. This includes joint patrols with locality policing officers to target the fatal 5 offences:-

- Drink & drug driving
- Speeding
- Using a handheld mobile phone
- Careless driving
- Not wearing a seatbelt.

This joint working between local and Roads Policing has included a one-month period whereby a RP vehicle and staff member was based in the south of the authority with targeted patrols undertaken which resulted in a number of positive enforcement actions undertaken. This activity will be repeated throughout the year.

Barnardo's Helping Hands Pantry: Helping Hands Pantry is a local community initiative which opened in August 2024 within the Hurlford and Crookedholm area of Kilmarnock. It allows members to join for just £4.50 a week and access a weekly shop for their essential food, grocery, and toiletry items. Pantries support people on a low income or recovering from a crisis. By helping people with their food costs, they are better able to manage other debts and outgoings. They are also more able to afford to eat fresh fruit and vegetables and try new things. The pantry aims to provide:

- Support to people from reaching Crisis provision, as we are not a food bank; Dignity and choice – they choose what items to purchase and have influence on what items are stocked;
- Access to holistic, wrap-around support linked to areas such as money advice, housing, health, employment, and skills;
- Access to nutritious meals and increase fruit and vegetable consumption by utilising access to food surpluses and also
- Opportunities to volunteer – we are community led and our members and volunteers keep our shelves stocked and our Pantries open.

Food and toiletries are donated by members of the public, shops, and businesses and via partnerships with local food producers. Any monetary donations made, enables us to buy food, and buy specific items that our members have indicated their families would benefit from.

Barnardo's Summer Programme: providing a range of trips / activities and opportunities, as well encouraging involvement at local events for all children and young people and their families we work alongside during the summer period. All children and young people who attend our Barnardo's youth groups and services participate in our programme.

Barnardo's Seasons for Growth Groups: This aims to help strengthen the building of personal resilience, coping, social skills and increasing participants' sense of belonging while also working to minimise risk factors including social isolation and lack of support

networks. Seasons is an 8-week loss and grief program to support young people aged 6-18 years and any adults who are affected by change, loss and grief. Seasons for growth is based on the belief that change, loss and grief are normal and valuable parts of life. It aims to produce a sense of resilience, personal growth and acceptance of change in people's lives. Season's programme runs term time on a 8 week rolling rota based in schools across East Ayrshire.

Barnardo's Triple P (Positive Parenting Program) Is an approach to parenting which aims to promote children's development, manage children's behaviours in a constructive and non-hurtful way. It is based on good communication and positive attention to help children develop. Children who grown up with positive parenting are likely to develop their skills and feel good about themselves and less likely to develop behavioural problems. There are five key aspects to the program: Ensure safe interesting environment, creating a positive learning environment, using assertive discipline, having realistic expectations and taking care of yourself as a parent. Positive parenting programme runs term time on a rolling rota of every 6 weeks supporting families. Groups are for families of children aged 0-8 years and 8 years plus to teenagers.

Action	Partnership Activity	Partners
S10 Undertake targeted work with local partners and communities to improve women's perceptions of public safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop an action plan to highlight risks and identify partnership solutions Make use of inclusive design and infrastructure in homes and communities to promote community safety and tackle anti-social behaviour. 	Safer Communities Delivery Plan Working Group , EAVAW Partnership

16 Days of Action to eradicate Violence Against Women: The 2024 Scottish theme for 16 days of Action remained 'Imagine a Scotland without Gender Based Violence'. In preparation for this, planning groups met on both a pan-Ayrshire and East Ayrshire basis. In East Ayrshire the focus was on engaging communities and we launched 16 days of Action through a White Ribbon signing event at Kilmarnock Train Station in collaboration with Scotrail and the British Transport Police. During that event we promoted the Railway Guardian App aimed at keeping women safe on the rail network as well as the suite of services in East Ayrshire available to support women and girls experiencing VAWG.

The following day we held a White Ribbon event at Tesco In Kilmarnock, prior to the Reclaim the night March, and had the opportunity to speak to many people from the community about gender based violence. The Reclaim the night March left from Tesco car park and walked through Howard Park, reclaiming this unsafe space for women and girls. The march was well supported by Elected Members, including the Provost, professionals, members of the community and survivors of VAW, and ably led by the STAR Centre drumming group. Survivors and professionals spoke of feeling empowered by the march. An after march event was held at WG13 where speeches were heard from the Provost, the Chair of the Board at the STAR Centre: Rape Crisis Ayrshire and the Student President of Kilmarnock College. On display was the work of the students of SL33 and 66 and the Hive, who had engaged with prevention workers from STAR Centre: Rape Crisis

Ayrshire and East Ayrshire Women's Aid on what gender based violence means to them. The march was well attended and supported across the VAW partnership.

Throughout 16 days of Action, White Ribbon pledge signings took place at East Ayrshire Community Hospital Cumnock, with Kilmarnock Fire station crew and also at the Robert Burns Academy, Stewarton Academy, the Grange and Loudon Academy with pupils, supported by the Campus Cops engaging young people in this work. The STAR Centre: Rape Crisis Ayrshire also undertook work in Kilmarnock college and with the Police run Pitching In programme raising awareness of violence against women.

There was a 'Festival of Learning' promoting webinars on a wide range of topics including Stalking Awareness, Technology Facilitated GBV, Understanding the Manosphere - Online Misogyny and Honour Based Abuse. These sessions were well attended.

The communications campaign was also successful this year with social media campaigns led by East Ayrshire Council, Health and Social Care Partnership and the STAR Centre: Rape Crisis Ayrshire.

East Ayrshire Women's Aid: East Ayrshire Women's Aid provide a holistic pathway of services which aim to support women and children experiencing domestic abuse from the point of crisis right through to sustainable safety and independence.

Between 1st April 2024 and 31st December March 2024, 338 women, children and young people contacted were supported by East Ayrshire Women's Aid

Throughout the year, Women's Aid has played an active role in EAVAWP including providing the vice-chair, contributing to Equally Safe at Work, Equally Safe in Practice, Safe Spaces Scheme, 16 Days of Action and the development of the partnership's new Strategic Plan. EAWA provides Independent Domestic Abuse Advocate (IDAA) support to women referred to Ayrshire MARAC and are members of the MARAC Governance Group.

East Ayrshire Women's Aid also deliver multi-agency domestic abuse training on behalf of the partnership. Courses delivered include:

- The Dynamics of Domestic Abuse
- Children and Young People's Experiences of Domestic Abuse
- Identifying Risk and Supporting Recovery
- Domestic Abuse & Substance Abuse.

ASSIST Update: In East Ayrshire, ASSIST is currently supporting 62 clients, with 125 open referrals. Across the West Command area of Police Scotland, ASSIST is supporting a total of 1,289 clients. From April 1, 2024, to March 31 2025, ASSIST received 263 referrals in East Ayrshire, which represents a decrease of approximately 13.5% compared to the previous year. This year, ASSIST supported 125 high-risk clients through the MARAC process, with 14 of these cases still open.

The Safe Spaces Update: The Safe Spaces – Smile on Service was developed in 2020 as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic and associated restrictions to support those experiencing domestic abuse to access specialist support through a 'safe space' at the North West Area Resource Centre, Kilmarnock. People can:

- Phone the Police to report domestic abuse or access further support;
- Access the National Domestic Abuse and Forced Marriage Helpline (services for men are accessible too)
- Access East Ayrshire Women's Aid for confidential support at a time and place that meets a person's safety & needs (services for children are available)
- Access information on support services to take away or use as appropriate.

The initiative was led by the Public Dental Service (PDS) and East Ayrshire Women's Aid who continue to provide ongoing training to staff within the Public Dental Service (PDS) at North West Area Resource Centre, Kilmarnock. Staff identify a physical space and designated staff member at each daily huddle.

Women can access the Smile on Service by:

- Attending the NWAC during normal opening hours and going to the Public Dental Services reception and asking for the Smile on Service.
- A staff member will confirm they are there for the Smile on Service and will show them to the confidential Safe Space. Once inside, all the specialist domestic abuse support information will be available to access.

Work has been taking place throughout 2024 to develop a safe space within Centrestage, Kilmarnock which will provide similar access to information. Staff at Centrestage have completed their training with East Ayrshire Women's Aid and the service will soon be available.

Housing: A dedicated prevention officer and Neighbourhood Coach continues to be a weekly presence in many of our third sector support hubs throughout the community (EACHa, Centrestage, SL33, Recovery Enterprises and Each Recovery Matters), supporting women with the provision of housing assistance and preventing homelessness.

Reporting of Sexual Crimes:

The Police performance report for the East Ayrshire Police and Fire and Rescue Committee shows a decrease in sexual crime reporting in the reporting period. Reporting is down 5.6% on the 5 year average and 20% on the previous year. 44% of reported crimes are non-recent and the public confidence to report non-recent sexual crime is a positive. Police Scotland will continue to relentlessly respond to sexual crime reports to bring offenders to justice and safeguard the public.

Work is ongoing with partners such as 'Expect Respect' (raising awareness of sexual violence and acceptable behaviour in higher and further education) has led to raised awareness of reporting mechanism, and also contributes to increased confidence in reporting. This work is vitally important and ongoing.

You, Me, Together this programme, created by Police Scotland in partnership with Education Scotland teaches secondary school pupils about domestic abuse in young relationships, including coercive control, inappropriate relationships and peer pressure. This programme is very relevant to issues faced by young people and continues to be rolled out.

Evidence demonstrates that domestic abuse can begin in relationships between young people. 'You, Me, Together' is aimed at young people and seeks to influence and address issues at a time when young people are starting to form relationships and behaviours are being learned. It talks about healthy relationships but also about the warning signs when things are not right. It aims to empower young people, giving them advice and information, and helping them make a choice and take action when something doesn't feel right.

The programme was piloted in schools in East Ayrshire and across Scotland during 2022 and feedback from teachers and pupils was used to help develop and refine the package into its final form. It will be delivered within the existing personal and social education (PSE) curriculum and is expected to be available for use in schools across Scotland from late 2023. Teachers will have a number of resources to work with to help facilitate open and safe discussions about what can be an emotive subject for young men and women.

Victim Survivor Feedback – Police Scotland*: An online form has been added to the Police Scotland website to gain anonymous feedback from victims of domestic abuse, rape or other sexual crime, to help improve the quality of the service we provide. The aim of the form is to gain honest feedback from victims and survivors about how Police Scotland handle criminal incidents of this type and where improvements can be made with the service provided. Respondents are not asked to provide any information that could identify them or their location.

Vibrant Communities: Phase 1 of the **Place Based Hub** approach is complete, which has resulted in a staff directory being produced. A place based mapping tool with local assets is being developed. Vibrant Communities have developed an EngagementHQ Place Based page which will help direct staff to local supports.

Barnardos Child Sexual Exploitation and Online Safety: Bespoke programs aimed for parent / carers as well as children and young people. This allows them to gain the skills to act appropriately and confidentially to protect children and young people. It also further develops awareness and knowledge on how to use the internet safely and how to keep children and young people safe from any form of abuse.

Action	Partnership Activity	Partners
S11 Further embed place-based multi-agency working in the heart of our communities and strengthen partnership capacity for frontline response.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and improve the effectiveness of multi-agency community clinics and partner events to facilitate and improve visibility and proximity of partners to communities. Maximise partnership involvement in joint public facing community initiatives Enhanced information sharing across partner agencies. 	All , Police Scotland, SFRS, Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS), EAC Housing & Communities, Education; CVO; All

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced communication to ensure service users are aware of available supports/referred appropriately at first point of contact. • Enhanced delivery of comprehensive Home Safety Visits by SFRS • Continued delivery of CVO Open Doors Initiative • Explore potential Tri-Service officer role 	
<p>Housing Support: The Council's Housing Support Services work closely with Social Work Teams, Radar, Police Scotland, EA Advocacy Service, EA recovery services, GP's Community Connectors and Community groups to enable people to sustain tenancies. Neighbourhood Coaches attend place-based hubs and drop-in sessions at SL33 and EACHa to offer advice and assistance to people experiencing financial insecurity or who may be at risk of homelessness.</p> <p>Housing Support is also delivered on behalf of East Ayrshire Council's Housing Service via a number of externally contracted providers for dedicated groups in relation to young people, and those who required intensive housing support and Housing First intensive housing support.</p> <p>East Ayrshire Council's Housing Service also commission a dedicated information and advice service for people in prison to prevent and alleviate homelessness.</p> <p>Resettlement: The Council continues to be committed to supporting those displaced by war and conflict and supports those resettling in East Ayrshire through the recognised UK Resettlement Schemes – UKRS, Ukraine Resettlement Schemes and the Afghan Resettlement Schemes.</p> <p>East Ayrshire also supports UASK – Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking children either through residential or supported properties.</p> <p>East Ayrshire is now an Asylum Dispersal area, currently supported by MEARS and the Resettlement Team and Housing Options work closely and offer support when required.</p> <p>Embedded within our core resettlement processes is the fundamental recognition of our parental and safeguarding responsibilities. Prior to families and individuals arriving through UK-wide resettlement schemes, permanent furnished accommodation is identified which is safe and will meet the needs of the children.</p> <p>On arrival families are appointed a dedicated Key Worker who assists parents and carers with:</p>		

- Registration in nurseries and schools, school clothing grant and free school meals applications;
- All health and public Health requirements;
- Benefits claims;
- Budgeting support and guidance; and
- Childcare arrangements were required to afford adults the opportunity to attend community language classes to assist with integration within communities.

Close working arrangements are in place with our Community Planning Partners and with the Scottish and UK Governments to highlight, respond and escalate any safeguarding concerns where required.

Resettlement Scheme	Number of Families	Number of Adults	Number of Children
Ukrainian Resettlement	97	162	98
UKRS (UK Resettlement Scheme)	12	28	18
ARAP (Afghan Resettlement Scheme)	2	4	8
Total	111	194	124

More information on the support provided to unaccompanied asylum seeking children in East Ayrshire can be found in the East Ayrshire Children and Young Peoples Services Plan, Annual Report 2023/24.

CVOEA OPEN DOORS AND EMPLOYABILITY: Over the course of the past year CVO secured Recruitment Incentive Grants (RIG) for three posts. RIG funding supports salary costs for people over the age of 25 who were not in employment, education or training. All three employees completed the six months contract with two of the participants securing permanent posts with the CVO while the third secured a place at college and continues to work with CVO on a bank basis to accommodate their studies.

The two permanent members of staff have both resettled in East Ayrshire from Ukraine and Peru with one of them coming to live in the area as a result of conflict. They were keen to use their experience to support others in a similar situation and have now established a drop in group within Open Doors which provides an opportunity for social interaction and access to tailored supports to meet their needs. This group is growing each week with new activities being led and directed by group members.

Partnership Clinics: Every 5 weeks (or dependent on demand), Locality Policing Teams hold a Police clinic in their local community as part of the “You said, we did” approach. This has seen some positive feedback in relation to taking action on matters identified by

communities during these clinics and importantly being able to feedback on the result of reports / action carried out. Attendance has been variable at clinics with some localities participating more widely in the clinics. As a result the clinic approach continues to be tailored within specific localities and refined to provide a service balanced on the needs and requirements of the community with other policing requirements. As Community Councils have been re-established in most areas the need for the clinics has reduced. Police are contactable in many ways from 101 or our Contact Us' with contact via their Elected Member.

Clean, Greener and Vibrant Communities: Vibrant Communities have further developed their place based approach to the services they deliver in 6 localities across East Ayrshire. This approach sees each locality area operating in a model which meets the needs of their communities, however we are seeing representation from community organisations and wider Council services which is adding value to the meetings and the development of the Place Based approach. This has led to new working relationships between services and additional support provided to community partners.

Scottish Attainment Challenge (SAC): Via their extensive Vibrant Communities and partnership connections, the SAC Home Link Workers assist schools to embed place-based multi-agency working at the heart of their community.

Barnardo's Safe and Together Service: The team have provided and scheduled three training / development sessions for all staff who work at the 3 residential houses across East Ayrshire (Benrig, Montgomery and Sunnyside houses). Elements of the training sessions highlighted the following: Assessment Tools and Resources in common substance use and drug trends within the local area; Strategies and Safety Planning for individuals and Sign Posting in relation to substance use as well as other issues that may go alongside this surrounding Mental Health and wellbeing. These training / development sessions have also been offered to partner agencies within East Ayrshire Council where staff working with the Young People, Sport & Diversion team can also attend where appropriate.

Action	Partnership Activity	Partners
S12 Proactive multi agency response to meet housing needs and support tenancy sustainment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued implementation and development of Housing First, (maintaining tenancies / preventing homelessness) to ensure that people are settled in their homes and linked in to all appropriate partnership services and community supports Ensure SHORE standards (Sustainable Housing on Release for Everyone) are met Support asylum seeker dispersal to East Ayrshire to find and maintain a housing tenancy, access local services and integrate within their local host community. 	EAC Housing & Communities; EAC Justice Service; HMP Kilmarnock; Private Landlords; Blue Triangle; HSCP; NHS A&A; CJA; SFRS, third sector, Ayr Housing Aid.

Housing: Neighbourhood Coaches work closely with community planning partners and the third sector to support tenants to sustain their tenancies, prevent homelessness and ensure our neighbourhoods and estates are clean, green and vibrant. Tenant and community

participation is promoted and supported via Neighbourhood Coaches and the Customer Liaison Team. Neighbourhood Coaches link with colleagues in Vibrant Communities and local tenants and residents in the development of Community Led Action Plans.

The Council's Housing Support Services work closely with Social Work Teams, Radar, Police Scotland, EA Advocacy Service, EA recovery services, GP's Community Connectors and Community groups to enable people to sustain tenancies. Neighbourhood Coaches attend place-based hubs and drop-in sessions at SL33 and EACHa to offer advice and assistance to people experiencing financial insecurity or who may be at risk of homelessness.

Housing Support is also delivered on behalf of East Ayrshire Council's Housing Service via a number of externally contracted providers for dedicated groups in relation to young people, and those who required intensive housing support and Housing First intensive housing support.

East Ayrshire Council's Housing Service also commission a dedicated information and advice service for people in prison to prevent and alleviate homelessness.

EAC Anti-Social Behaviour Team are pro-active in working closely with other departments and teams to promote positive working, tackle anti-social behaviour and increase tenancy sustainability through customer-focused engagement. The Anti-Social Behaviour Team also work closely with Neighbourhood Coaches to tackle anti-social behaviour and any associated problems such as tenancy repairs, garden condition, rent arrears and tenancy sustainment. This is an effective approach to identify and engage the tenant with a range of issues and to offer information, support and assistance as required.

Action	Partnership Activity	Partners
S13 Minimise the impact of drugs use and excessive consumption of alcohol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the ongoing development and implementation of the East Ayrshire Alcohol and Drugs Partnership Strategic Improvement Plan 2024-2027 Embed the joint service, Rapid Access to Drugs and Alcohol Recovery (RADAR) Support those in contact with the justice system to address drug and alcohol problems EAC Education Service & partner delivery of the Substance Misuse Curriculum Continued implementation of a range of Health and Homelessness Service initiatives 	Alcohol & Drugs Partnership , EAC Education, Community Justice Ayrshire, Police Scotland, HMP Kilmarnock, SFRS, EAC Justice Service, Ayrshire Partnership Services; Vibrant Communities, Barnardos

Alcohol and Drug Partnership: The East Ayrshire Alcohol and Drug Partnership, Strategic Improvement Plan 2024-27 was approved by the East Ayrshire Integrated Joint Board on the 5 February 2025. The plan aims to improve the lives of people in East Ayrshire who use

alcohol and / or drugs as well as their families, loved ones, and the wider community. The plan is aligned to the Scottish Government's national framework on alcohol and drugs and has been developed to reflect the specific needs, challenges, and opportunities specific to communities within East Ayrshire. Work will also be undertaken to ensure that the plan complies with the aims and ambitions of the new National Collaborative Charter of Rights for People Affected by Substance Use.

Alcohol

- Delivery of a range of activities including advice and guidance on low risk alcohol use to 'whole population' during alcohol awareness week 7-13 July 2025.
- Continue to promote low risk alcohol use via ongoing social media campaigns
- Produce an alcohol needs assessment during 2025-2026
- Develop and deliver a community alcohol seminar (Winter 2025)

Drug Related Deaths

- Establishment of a multi-agency oversight group to develop specific actions to reduce drug related deaths and non-fatal overdoses
- Expand the reach of naloxone and increase number of those trained in its use in the face of increased evidence of synthetic opioids
- Deliver the annual international overdose awareness day walk
- Support the development of expansion of place based community outreach workers

Police Scotland: Drug Use

Officers in East Ayrshire have built strong links with Each Recovery Matters in John Finnie Street, engaging those struggling with dependency issues with a focus on working closely with addictions services. Progress is being made alongside Public Health Scotland working closely with police to reduce drugs deaths and raise awareness of trending dangers via social media and personal interaction. Officers have built strong links with statutory partners and the third sector which has led to a reduction in stigma and built trust with officers and those in addiction. With Each Recovery Matters now moving to larger premises, it will allow officers to build upon the relationship with the potential for multi-agency meetings and a safe space.

Digital Inclusion: Work with community partners to ensure increased access to digital technology and training to promote inclusion.

Learning and development: Roll out training in relation to commercial sexual exploitation (CSE)

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service: SFRS officers now trained on use of Naloxone and carry this in their SFRS vehicles to support early emergency intervention.

Barnardo's Safe and Together Service Supports children, young people and their families who are affected by domestic abuse where alcohol is a factor. 1-1 intensive support includes: supporting the perpetrator (regardless of gender identity) to look at their behaviours and

the impact on others including children; providing a safe space for children to explore their emotions and past and present experiences; Ensure a person centred and holistic approach whilst ensuring a tailor-made care plan to meet the needs of the family. Barnardo's Safe and Together team have also been providing intensive 1-1 support and group work program in relation to substance use within school at The Robert Burn Academy, Cumnock from August 2024-June 2025. This support has included working alongside children and young people aged 11-17 to reduce their alcohol / drug use to safer levels and to improve their personal outcomes. These outcomes have been working towards developing a better understanding of the negative impact alcohol / drug use can have; Identify and work towards meeting the needs and challenges which may influence their alcohol / drug use and providing any information and guidance surrounding their substance use including how best to keep safe.

<p>S14 Work across organisations and community groups to better understand harm and build capacity to support harm prevention</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proactively support and raise awareness of the activity and related plans of the Children's Strategic Partnership, Adult and Child Protection Committees; and Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA). • Staff training provision to raise awareness of symptoms of harm and abuse and to report to appropriate services as required • Partners will review and develop improved processes in relation to missing person support • Improve community resilience - suicide prevention 	<p>All Ayrshire Equalities Partnership</p>
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Police Scotland: Police Scotland continue to engage with young people in the community. East Ayrshire Preventions and Interventions Officer attends youth groups such as Scouts and Boys Brigade where he provides inputs on topics like anti-social behaviour, safe use of social media and the dangers of drugs.

The annual Danger Detectives program takes place from 8th to 15th June 2025 where young people from Schools across East Ayrshire will attend dean park and take place in activities from several partner agencies such as Police, SFRS, Ayrshire Road Alliance and RNLI. The aim of these sessions to raise awareness of dangers in and out with the home and how young people can enjoy the summer holidays while remaining safe from harm.

East Ayrshire Campus Officers continue to engage with young people in Schools supporting the learning of the curriculum.

The "Pitching In" project run by Campus Officers runs from 30th April to 18th June 2025 and has several inputs such as anti-social behaviour, smoking prevention and drugs.

Adult Protection: East Ayrshire Adult Protection Committee (EAAPC) have circulated 3 x Newsletters to improve the communication between strategic and frontline staff:in May 2024, November 2024 and February 2025

he Improvement Subgroup undertook their annual multi-agency audit which included a literature review on self-neglect conducted by Public Health. The Audit aims to provide assurance to the APC and therefore Chief Officers (COG) around the effective operation and collaboration in respect of adult support and protection practice standards and service response across and between partners in East Ayrshire that ensure the best outcome for our citizens. The findings from the literature review were presented to those involved in the multi-agency case file audit and the Strategic Planning Group. ~~and~~ It was agreed that specific reference to this work would be housed within the Wellbeing theme of the Strategic Plan and it would include a cross cutting action within the APC ASP Improvement Plan 2025 – 2026 which has been actioned. The Plan for this work is for Public Health to collate their findings into an SBAR (Situation Background Assessment and Recommendation) and to provide recommendations to partners.

The East Ayrshire Adult Protection Committee hosted the Ayrshire wide Annual Learning Event which focused on [Self-Neglect as a Public Health issue](#).

The NHS undertook a self-assessment using the NHS Public Protection Accountability and Assurance Framework 2022. The outcome of this assessment was reported through the Adult Protection Committee with areas for improvement identified in relation to ASP by 30 August 2024.

The Chair of East Ayrshire Adult Protection Committee produced the Biennial Report for Scottish Government, a [summary report was also produced](#): and published

Using the Annual Audit and the Chairs Biennial Report, the Adult Protection Committee Improvement Plan for 2024 – 2025 has been developed and came into effect on 1 January 2025.

[Adult Protection Committee Improvement Plan 2025 – 2026](#)
[Graphic Summary of East Ayrshire Improvement Plan 2025 - 2026](#)

East Ayrshire Advocacy provided the Improvement Subgroup with their annual Report for the Lived Experience Project, a project set up to gather real time feedback from adults, family and carers who have gone through their adult protection journey.



Paper 5 - EAAS ASP
LEP - Annual Report 2

There have been 11 Council Officers trained in 2024/25 which increases the total available Council Officers to 70 as at 31 December 2024. There is a further Council Officer training session in March 2025 with 8 scheduled to attend, however we are also aware that 4 Council Officers will have left by 31 March 2025.

As part of the learning from previous Learning Reviews it was an action to improve the workforce's legal literacy and support a better understanding of executive capacity whilst encouraging professional curiosity. As a result, Adults with Incapacity training which includes executive capacity has been developed and rolled out during 2024/25. Whilst there were existing multi-agency self-neglect sessions available, an additional course has been added "Care Managing People Who Self-Neglect" and this includes professional curiosity.

A practice guidance on Professional Curiosity has been developed alongside a 7-minute briefing and a good practice example which will shortly be available via the Intranet.

Crossing the Acts training has also been added to the training calendar which covers Adults with Incapacity, Mental Health (Care and Treatment) and Adult Support and Protection. These training together will enhance the knowledge of the workforce in relation to harm prevention and better support them to be able to respond to and support adults at risk of harm.

A multi-agency staff survey was undertaken in December 2024. The analysis will be presented to the Improvement Subgroup in April 2025 for consideration and identification of any improvement to take forward.

Work has been undertaken as per the 2023 – 2024 Improvement Plan to increase activity on both the Internet and Intranet for ASP. This has been successful as per the report attached.

CHILD PROTECTION

Implementation of Pan Ayrshire CP Procedures - revised guidance June 2025: Following on from the Pan Ayrshire agreement to develop an Ayrshire multi agency CP practitioner guidance, following on from the National Child Protection Guidance 2021, updated 2023. Ayrshire has an updated Pan Ayrshire Guidance that has been revised and updated and ratified at East Ayrshire's Child Protection Committee in June 2025. This will be the substantive guidance and due for review within the next three years.

Young People at Risk of Harm CPC Subgroup and Operational Procedure for the Vulnerable Young Person Group: The High Risk Vulnerable Young Person CPC Subgroup was established in May 2022 as a CPC subgroup. The group continues to be chaired by Moira McKinnon, CPC chair and focuses on areas of concerns such as child exploitation in its varying forms, missing children / young people, trafficking and extra familial harm, the focus of development is our understanding and intervention around contextual safeguarding. As of May 2024 the group have changed its name to the Young People at Risk of Harm CPC Subgroup. The group has linked with our multi-agency training partners and completed child sexual exploitation training across East Ayrshire. In 2024-2025 has been the development of the operational guidance for the implementation of the Vulnerable Young Person's Operational Group. This will be led by Police colleagues and be a forum for discussion for some of our most vulnerable young people at risk of all forms of exploitation including criminal and sexual exploitation, high risk of harm missing young people and trafficking. This operational group is planned to have started by September 2025.

Children & young People Engagement CPC Subgroup: As a primary focus of the CPC, the views and experience of children and young people are integral to the CPC's work and future trajectory of priorities. The subgroup is now established with a first meeting taking place May 2024. The primary focus of the group is to increase the knowledge, understanding and awareness of Child Protection across East Ayrshire, whilst ensuring the voice of lived experience is central to improvements being made and influences the work of East Ayrshire Child Protection Committee. The groups approach and work will also be informed by Article 12 of the UNCRC and connect with UNCRC Champions work across East Ayrshire. The group continues to support access to advocacy for children and young people who may be in need of care and protection and supporting a rights based approach to voice, family and support to understand the impact of our intervention. Digital solutions are being explored to support engagement and participation.

Pan Ayrshire Implementation of the revised National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021 (updated 2023): With the publication of this document in September 2021, East, North and South Ayrshire Child Protection Committees (CPC) jointly agreed to a Pan Ayrshire approach to implementation of the guidance. This guidance has been completed and launched 23/24. Multi-agency partners continue to work together supported by the CPC around many areas of work including improving training, audit and practice in Initial Referral Discussions, the essential multiagency communication to initiate Child Protection procedures and ensure safe care planning for children and young people at significant risk of harm. The CPC subgroup, Children at Risk of Harm supported development, distribution and implementation of Child Sexual Exploitation and Contextual Safeguarding. Quality assurance and improvement work is a priority partners supported by CPC. Child Protection Planning Meetings are now in place in line with National and Pan-Ayrshire guidance, as is various updated practice guidance to ensure rights based, inclusive, strength based practice with infant, children, young people and their families. The implementation of the National Guidance has now been completed with refreshed local guidance and next steps to refresh our Child Protection training in line with restorative practice.

Pan Ayrshire Bairns Hoose Strategic Group: Ayrshire has established a joint investigative interview team, trained in the Scottish Child Interview Model. This team is part of a children's rights approach to children who have been victims or witnesses of abuse, to provide trauma informed, interview, recovery and rights based intervention within the justice journey. Ayrshire partnership now has Bairns Hoose affiliate status and is providing recovery intervention to children who have been offered a joint investigative interview. Work continues to find suitable premises in East Ayrshire for our children to be able to have the best care, interview and recovery experience through their justice journey, adhering to the Bairns Hoose standards. Supporting our most vulnerable children and young people through participation and co-production of service design has been a focus of work into 2025.

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service: Within EA, SFRS have participated in the recent EAC ASP Audit, and our CAT and crews have been educated on the impact of Self Neglect and how to identify notable signs when conducting Home Fire Safety Visits.

Youth engagement – PSYV work with care experienced children.:

Aligned with Care Experienced week in October and the Promise, the Ayrshire Partnerships dept worked with SFRS, SAS and East Ayrshire Council on the creation and delivery of a three-day programme, the first of its kind aimed at care experienced 12-15 year olds,

the Ayrshire Aspire Award. There were 3 care experienced young people from East Ayrshire in attendance. Multiple skills were taught, including CPR/first aid, catering, search and rescue techniques and a visit to the Mounted Branch in Stewarton. This culminated in each child being awarded a certificate of attendance from the Emergency Services and East Ayrshire Council and a host of transferrable skills.

Another event took place over three days in July on the Isle of Arran between the Ayrshire Police Scotland Youth Volunteers and Scottish Fire and Rescue where youth volunteers including some from care settings attended a team building session at the Outdoor Education Centre, Lamlash. PSYV have also been taking part in the “It’ll Cost You” campaign with the aim of reducing the purchase of alcohol for young persons

Action	Partnership Activity	Partners
<p>S15 Partnership Activity to protect vulnerable people and empower residents to prevent personal and financial harm at home.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovative use of community alarm technology and housing adaptations to assist individuals in their own home in prevention and alert of harm. • Development and implementation of the SFRS Safe and Well Strategy and enhanced home safety visit provision • Explore opportunities for developing and funding a person centred approach to personal and financial harm that includes exploration of approaches such as East Renfrewshire model of Financial Harm Toolkits and Confidence at Home Packages. • Use social media and Granicus to advise of current scams and how to protect against them • Implementation of partnership initiatives such as “Shut out Scammers” and the provision of call blockers to vulnerable people. • Maintain monthly contact with older adults in supported or amenity housing to monitor potential financial harms. • Targeted engagement with East Ayrshire Tenants and Residents Federation and other community based groups. • Utilise Connect Call to protect vulnerable people from financial harm 	<p>EAC; Police Scotland; SFRS, HSCP; NHS A&A; EAC Trading Standards; Third Sector Partners. EAC Housing and Communities; Education; Ayrshire College, Adult Protection Committee, CAB and other third sector partners, Independent Care Sector; Youth and Elderly Forums</p>
<p>Police Scotland:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police in East Ayrshire continue to support education to reduce the risk of financial harm. • Regular social media posts / campaigns highlight the frauds and scams targeting the vulnerable members of the community. 		

- Preventions and Interventions Officer attends community events and conducts fraud and scam awareness session.
- PC Mitchell has attended various groups such as Scottish Women's Institute, Centre Stage, local banks, and the Older Persons Conference held in The Park Hotel, Kilmarnock.

The national "Shut out Scammers" campaign returns in June with the "Scam Van" visiting areas across Ayrshire. In East Ayrshire the van will be crewed by Police Scotland and Trading Standards officers working in partnership.

- A partnership working opportunity with Barclays Bank, based in Centre Stage, is being developed with several events having been held already.
- There is a joint scam / fraud awareness session planned for 30th May.
- PC Mitchell introduced a representative from Barclays Bank to the National Business Crime Team, this introduction may lead to partnership working at the National level.

The Preventions and Interventions Officer continues to monitor incidents and crimes involving fraud and scams and contacts the victims to provide advice and reassurance. Repeat victims are offered a home security survey where more personalised advice is delivered depending on the victim's circumstances.

CVOEA Connect Call: Connect Call is a free, confidential telephone call service for vulnerable people who may be at risk of financial harm. In addition to providing a means of reducing the risk of financial harm the service helps mitigate the impact of loneliness and isolation for vulnerable people throughout East Ayrshire. The clients receive a phone call on a weekly basis. The service is supported by trained volunteers who provide emotional support, offering a friendly voice and companionship to those who have limited or no regular social interaction.

Where concerns are raised as a result of the telephone engagement the person is linked directly into the most appropriate service. Over the past few months referrals have been made to the Community Connectors, Social Work, Adult Protection Team, the Foodbank, GP's and Learning Disability Teams.

Connect Call currently has 14 volunteers who undertake to do at least one three-hour shift per week on either a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. At present Connect Call has 220 clients. Referrals to the service come from a range of agencies including NHS staff, GP's, Social Workers, Mental Health Teams, third sector organisations and family members. The current age of clients ranges from 29 -102 years.

Christmas presents, a card and a newsletter were personally delivered to all clients across East Ayrshire. The gifts were gratefully received as often this is the only present and card that many of our clients receive.

ADULT SUPPORT

National ASP Day (20 February 2025) and local ASP Week (17 – 21 February 2025) focused on Financial Harm and General Awareness Raising for Adult Support and Protection. A full programme of events was delivered throughout the multi-agency partners which included:

Website

- Landing page: a webpage that hosted campaign messages, information about financial harm, ASP Day 2025 video, links to further information and how to report a concern. Social media posts directed visitors to this page.
- An Engagement HQ page has been developed requesting our business community to play their part in public protection and join our alliance against harm. Barclays Bank and East Ayrshire Advocacy as well as the Adult Protection Committee have commenced this journey. Help protect people from harm – join our online pledge

Granicus Bulletins - 2 x Granicus Bulletins were circulated to staff, one relating to Financial Harm and one for general awareness raising of Adult Support and Protection.

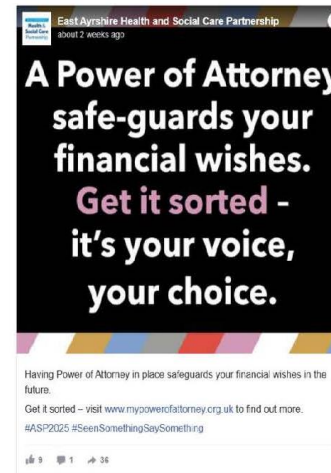
Vicarious Trauma - 2 x Vicarious Trauma staff sessions were held on 6 & 10 February 2025.

News releases - Issued to press and hosted on East Ayrshire Council website (therefore featured on homepage). Adult Support and Protection Day 2025

Information Stalls were set up in East Ayrshire Community Hospital, North West Kilmarnock Area Centre, Rothesay House and The Johnnie Walker Bond for people to access information on Adult Support and Protection.

Social media - Regular posts were issued on social media throughout the week focussing on various aspects of the campaign:

- ASP week intro video with ASP lead / viaduct lighting
- Financial harm
- Right to live free of harm
- Harm is everyone's business



- Power of Attorney
 - Video message of support available from EAAS
 - ASP pledge page
 - Video message of support from Police Scotland
- Example post reached a total of 11,928 people and achieved 61 interactions with 254 following the link:

EAC screensaver with ASP message ran throughout the campaign on all EAC laptops and computers.

Kilmarnock viaduct was lit purple to launch the campaign

EAHSCP newsletter - ASP day featured as an article in the HSCP's monthly newsletter 'Tea Break', sent to HSCP staff and partners. This is also forwarded to NHS AA staff in their weekly staff bulletin.

EAC Chief Executive's Update - Campaign was included as an article in the weekly East Ayrshire Council Chief Executive update.

Financial Harm Spotlight Sessions

- 2 x Financial Harm Spotlight Sessions were delivered to multi-agency practitioners on 18 & 21 February 2025 hosted by Barclays Bank and Department of Work and Pensions.
- 2 x Community Groups were visited on 19 & 21 February 2025 where good conversations were had around Financial Harm awareness raising in the community.

Continuing the awareness for Financial Harm:

- National ASPIRE Session was held on 27 February 2025 around the Highland Learning Review on the McCulloch Brothers
- A Learning Event focusing on the Remember my Name (Margaret Fleming) Significant Case Review was held on 4 March 2025.
- A paper was presented to the Adult Protection Committee on options to support the people we work with to access the internet safely. One of these options was the Barclays Digital Wings programme. Following our engagement with Barclays for the above spotlight sessions, the Barclays Digital Wings session was again presented to the Adult Protection Committee on 27 February 2025 where it was endorsed to progress working alongside Barclays to provide workers with information on fraud and scams and cyber security. They will then be able to support the people they work with to support their understanding and offer suggestions for safeguarding themselves from financial harm.
- Barclays Bank have been linked in with Police Scotland by us as a result of our activity in raising awareness of Financial Harm and having Barclays Bank deliver training in respect of scams and fraud to our Practitioners. They are now joining up together to develop and deliver a presentation to communities around scams and frauds.

Violence Against Women Partnership: The East Ayrshire Violence Against Women Partnership (EAVAWP) Strategic Plan 2021-24 expired in December 2023 and work has been ongoing throughout 2024 to finalise the new strategic plan, which is due for sign off in the

early months of 2025. The new strategic plan has been the focus for stakeholder groups and consultation with practitioners and women with lived experience of violence. Meanwhile, any outstanding actions from the EAVAWP Strategic Plan 2021-24 continued to be monitored throughout 2024 and these actions have all been finalised and/or incorporated into the new strategic plan.

The agreed strategic priorities for the Violence against Women and Girls Strategic plan 2024-27 are:

- We will undertake a strategic needs assessment to gain a better understanding of the prevalence and impact of VAWG in our communities, what support is available and where there are key gaps/ areas of unmet need
- We will create meaningful and trauma-informed opportunities for victims/ survivors of VAWG to play a key role in shaping and monitoring the work of EAVAWP
- We will progress activities to create cultural change around VAWG within key community settings
- We will deliver sustainable, informed and safe specialist and universal service responses for victim/survivors that are holistic and meet victim/ survivors' individual needs.

The Violence Against Women Partnership took a Position Statement on the Increasing demands on Specialist Services to the Chief Officers Group in 2024 detailing the pressures on specialist VAW support services caused by increasing demand on services leading to waiting lists, short term and insecure funding arrangements resulting on some supports not being continued, pressures on staff recruitment and retention in a low paying but specialist sector and impact on staff through vicarious trauma. It was highlighted that the risks held by specialist services were increasing in a service landscape where mainstream services were also under extreme pressures, ultimately having a detrimental impact on women and girls seeking support.

The Violence against Women Partnership also developed its offer of training for Council employees and those of Partners. There are now three Equally Safe in Practice modules available on LearnPro to East Ayrshire Council, East Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership, Ayrshire Roads Alliance and the Leisure Trust. The target is to get 75% of all staff trained in three years, through a service improvement plan approach. The face to face training has also been extended to include inputs on Technology facilitated gender based violence, Understanding online misogyny, Honour based violence, Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Female Genital Mutilation

Trauma Informed Contact & Care (TICC) is a joint Police and Education early intervention, safeguarding and wellbeing initiative. The aim of the initiative is to support children and young people exposed to domestic abuse by ensuring that ECC's and schools are notified by Police Scotland, before the start of the next school day, when an incident has occurred in the previous 24 hours. TICC implementation began at the end of 2021 with rollout being completed in January 2024. This means that all children and young people in an education establishment in Ayrshire are benefitting from a wide range of supports based on their needs. There is a better understanding of domestic abuse and support is offered following established GIRFEC processes. The final rollout will be for children and young people who are not in a school or ECC.

In 2024 the Child and Young Person Police Wellbeing Concern Process was reintroduced whereby wellbeing concerns identified by the police are sent directly to the named person services in health and education. This allows for earlier intervention by universal services. The GIRFEC Child's Pathway is followed and, if appropriate, other agencies including third sector and social work are invited to a Team with the Family meeting to discuss appropriate supports and ensure a robust plan to improve wellbeing outcomes.

East Ayrshire Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC): The Ayrshire MARAC commenced operationally in August 2022 and has continued, throughout 2024-25, to make a significant contribution to improving the safety of victims of domestic abuse at risk of significant harm or death across Ayrshire.

There are three local MARAC meetings – one in each of the local authority areas in Ayrshire, centrally and consistently supported by the MARAC Coordination Team. In East Ayrshire, all of the Agency Representatives (Education, Police, Housing, Women's Aid, ASSIST, Children & Young Peoples' services, Adult services, Justice services, Health services, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service) continue to support the local meetings and several new Agency Representatives have been trained and supported to join the MARAC in 2024-25. MARAC meetings take place monthly in East Ayrshire. In 2024-25, 12 meetings took place with 155 cases referred – 152 females and 3 males. Full MARAC data and analysis for East Ayrshire (and the whole of Ayrshire) will be available in the Ayrshire MARAC Annual Performance Report 2024-25.

The Ayrshire wide MARAC Governance Group provides strategic direction from MARAC Leads. This Group meets quarterly and reports into the EAVAWP.

Additionally, a local Agency Representatives Group has continued to meet after every East Ayrshire MARAC to provide support to representatives and allow a two-way feedback process to the MARAC Coordination Team. This local Group meets quarterly but can also convene as required to support the Agency Representatives. The programme of local MARAC training has now become an integrated part of the EAVAWP annual training calendar.

A number of developmental and improvement activities have taken place in 2024-25, all overseen by the MARAC Governance Group. As a result of the reflective learning and development session in June 2023, an action plan has been in place to support identified improvements. Actions completed in 2024-25 have included:

- Improving the interface between MARAC and Adult Support & Protection:
- Improving the alignment of MARAC and Safe & Together:
- Expanding MARAC learning opportunities to a wider group of agencies across Ayrshire.

Work continues on several other improvement actions, including:

- Exploring how to gather information to understand the impact of the MARAC process for individuals;

- Exploring and improving the MARAC information flow with primary care, including MARAC markers for primary care;
- Exploring and developing local perpetrator mapping & intervention tools in respect of MARAC risks;
- Exploring responses to and developing local confidence in relation to specific risks & safety involving perpetrators and repeat referrals;
- Developing a proportionate programme of regular self-evaluation and quality assurance work to support improvements in MARAC practice and governance.

Education Mentors In Violence Programme (MVP): Six secondary schools delivered the Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) mentoring programme. A number of secondary school staff and Campus Police Officers participated in MVP staff training in order to raise awareness of gender-based violence and launch a refreshed MVP provision in their schools in 2025/26. Six secondary schools have registered with Equally Safe at School (ESAS) and three have started to engage with the staff training and surveys. Four primary schools engaged in Education Scotland's GBV staff training programme and as a result will deliver the Everyone's Included and / or Gender 10 programme in their school next year.

Education Internet Awareness: Our Education Digital Leads network has been reinstated and refreshed this session with representation from colleagues in Early Years, Primary, Secondary and Specialist sectors. This collaborative network enables practitioners to share good practice across the authority. Bi-annual in-person meetings are hosted by Education IT colleagues to share important updates and professional learning opportunities with Digital Leads who then cascade this information to their staff.

Cyber Resilience and Internet Safety (CR-IS) features in our East Ayrshire Digital Literacy Progression frameworks from Early Level through to Third. All updates in relation to CR-IS are shared with Digital Leads timeously.

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service: SFRS continue to treat all high risk referrals with urgency. Any referral that has identified as a Threat of Fire will be contacted to offer advice and if required, specialised fire-retardant equipment will be supplied and fitted, if available. SFRS are now fully imbedded in the MARAC partnership.

SFRS EA LALO continues to be proactive in attending EA VAW Partnership meetings, as well as assisting with the co-ordination groups for 'Safer Spaces', 'Reclaim the Night' and '16-Days of Action.'

SFRS have been working in partnership with EAC and the local Junior Football Clubs to deliver vital CPR / Defibrillator Training to coaches and young players. SFRS have also included deliberate fire setting input during these sessions to highlight the current issues in the area to try and reduce this kind of activity.

SFRS have also been working with various partners to deliver Risk Recognition Training through our FSSE to staff members. This provides them with the ability to identify risk within homes, and subsequently allows them to submit referrals to SFRS. Home Fire Safety Visits are then conducted to ensure people are safe within their homes. SFRS are also working in partnership with ROSPA who will assist with the provision of safety devices for cupboards etc.

SFRS are working with partners to ensure front line crews who may experience financial harm from food or fuel poverty are fully aware of the assistance available. SFRS are currently working closely with Financial Inclusion, Citizen's Advice and Trading Standards. We also signpost members of the public to various community groups for assistance and utilise our partnership with EA 'Rapid Relief' Team where necessary.

Safe & Together Implementation Plan – 2024-2025 The key principles of the Safe & Together Model supported by the Delivering Equally Safe agenda, focuses on gender bias, survivor strengths, protective factors and the impact of the person perpetrating patterns of behaviour on the family functioning. This approach challenges stigma, language and supports a trauma informed approach to supporting children and families impacted by domestic abuse. The approach supports keeping families and children together with the non-abusing parent, when safe to do so. The aim is to ensure positive outcomes for children in respect of their safety and wellbeing through keeping them safe and together with the non-abusing parent, using restorative, relationship based practice and considering impact of strength based intervention, risk balanced assessments and planning.

The Scottish Government has extended funding for the pan-Ayrshire Safe & Together Lead Officer for a further year (March 2026) through their Delivering Equally Safe fund, resulting in the post duration being extended. The Lead Officer role has continued since September 2022, and is tasked with supporting implementation of the model across the three Ayrshire HSCPs and further through developing practice, process and cultural change in respect of domestic abuse.

Training delivery has continued with consideration of pan-Ayrshire training options to provide additional training opportunities across agencies in East Ayrshire. East Ayrshire has dedicated trainers accredited to provide the awareness raising training and the in-depth safety planning training. This approach will be supported by the implementation of Signs of Safety and Healing – a framework for assessment, planning and intervention with children and families in need of care and protection.

The Safe & Together approach as been contained within and presented by the Lead Officer in the Newly Qualified Social Worker Child Protection Training, the Newly Qualified Social Worker Practice Programme, and the pan-Ayrshire Student Social Worker Group. The model's alignment with GIRFEC, Trauma Informed Practice and the Promise are threaded throughout the inputs. The Lead Officer is available for consultation, reflective supervision, quality assurance and audit review. The East Ayrshire Implementation plan, continues to be progressed and refreshed priorities for 24-25 to 25-26.

A Multi-agency Case File Audit was completed in November 2024, which identified positive culture shift from the previous audit and indicates the model is beginning to embed within practice. The report was presented to the East Ayrshire Child Protection Committees and Violence Against Women Partnership.

Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland (DSDAS):

The use of the Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse continues to increase, which shows an increase in public and partner knowledge of the scheme and the benefits it can have to support decision making in those who may be at risk. The 24/25 period saw continued increase and in East Ayrshire there were 179 applications, this is a 64% increase on the previous year which had 109 applications.

Mental Health – The DBI pilot rollout in East Ayrshire:

Training in Distress Brief Intervention will be delivered to officers in East Ayrshire, supported by Penumbra and Policing Together with a view to reducing demand on frontline policing through effective intervention and support for individuals who may be suffering from isolation or poor mental health. This follow-up support will be provided by Penumbra who will provide one to one sessions and contact with those referred, guaranteeing to contact the person within 24hrs of referral. This will be evaluated after the initial three-month period and rolled out to the wider division in due course, this process has proven effective in other divisions, with the number of repeat callers being reduced.

Early Years: Infant and family safety is assessed at all home visits by the Early Years nursing team with an opportunity for a home safety check during the visit. Routine enquiries are carried out with all women who are cared for by early year's teams.

Financial Harm Awareness: The banking protocol and continued engagement with local financial institutions has averted a number of vulnerable individuals in our communities from falling victim to fraud. Police Scotland, normally via our Town Centre officers, continue to deliver inputs in this type of crime to enhance awareness and work closely to protect those who may otherwise become a victim.

Social media awareness continues in respect of this type of offence. Fraud overall has seen a considerable rise over the past few years in East Ayrshire and this pattern is replicated elsewhere in the country. Police Scotland have recently appointed an officer to the role of Preventions and Interventions and a considerable focus going forward will be in relation to this area. A number of joint operations have been carried out with Trading Standards and other partners in addition to visiting groups who are hard to reach via social media to highlight the dangers and provide safeguarding advice.

Preventions and Interventions Officer also continue to focus on Bogus Workmen with daily scrutiny around this type of crime due to high harm impact. A number of notable arrests, including repeat bogus offenders, have been made during 2023/24 with custodial sentence being applied due to severity.

Vibrant Communities: All adults in supported accommodation units for EAC tenants receive a 5 – 7 week visit to check alarms, individual wellbeing, update contact details, and raise awareness of local concerns such as fraud and abuse.

Education Internet Awareness Update: Our Education Digital Leads network has been reinstated and refreshed this session with representation from colleagues in Early Years, Primary, Secondary and Specialist sectors. This collaborative network enables practitioners to share good practice across the authority. Bi-annual in-person meetings are hosted by Education IT colleagues to share important updates and professional learning opportunities with Digital Leads who then cascade this information to their staff.

Cyber Resilience and Internet Safety (CR-IS) features in our East Ayrshire Digital Literacy Progression frameworks from Early Level through to Third. All updates in relation to CR-IS are shared with Digital Leads timeously.

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Scottish Fire and Rescue Service - SFRS are working with partners to ensure front line crews who may experience financial harm from food or fuel poverty are fully aware of the assistance available. SFRS are currently working closely with Financial Inclusion, Citizen's Advice and Trading Standards. We also signpost members of the public to various community groups for assistance and utilise our partnership with EA 'Rapid Relief' Team where necessary

Action	Partnership Activity	Partners
S16 Improve understanding of the prevalence and impact of Hate Crime in East Ayrshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the partnership activity identified within the <u>Ayrshire Shared Equalities Outcomes 2021-25</u> Support the development and implementation of the partnership activity identified within the Ayrshire Shared Equalities Outcomes 2025-29. 	Ayrshire Equality Partnership; All

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partners to expand awareness of hate crime • Partners to improve third party reporting of hate crime <p>Engagement and support for the transgender community experiencing hate crime will be further developed</p>	
<p>Police Scotland continue to monitor hate crime in East Ayrshire, reviewing incidents on a weekly basis to identify trends and repeat victims. East Ayrshire Preventions and Interventions Officer contacts repeat victims to offer a home security survey and also provides reassurance and practical advice.</p> <p>A hate crime input is available for community groups, however the uptake has been low with groups preferring inputs on issues such as frauds / scams.</p> <p>Police in East Ayrshire continue to engage in National Campaigns and share corporate social media posts on a regular basis.</p> <p>Due to a National Review the “Keep Safe” scheme run in partnership with I am me Scotland has ended; this was due too little to no evidence supporting the use of “Keep Safe” places and the resource intensive nature of the scheme.</p> <p>It should be noted third-party reporting centres are still operating as normal.</p> <p>Awareness Raising: All three Local Area Coordinators continue to be involved in the Keepsafe scheme, which is delivered in partnership with Police Scotland and I Am Me Scotland. The aim of the scheme is to create a network of safe places where people with a learning disability can go if they are lost or feel scared or vulnerable when out in the local community. Local businesses and community buildings can sign up to become a Keepsafe place. After completing some initial paperwork they are checked and approved by Police Scotland. Staff then receive Keepsafe Awareness Training and the facility displays a sticker in their window. Anyone who needs assistance can then enter this building and staff will be able to help. Keepsafe Cards are also available for people to carry which contain information about the holder’s health conditions, communication needs and emergency contact details. Keepsafe places across Scotland are mapped out on the free Keepsafe Scotland App. Due to a number of staffing changes within Police Scotland progress has been limited during the reporting period however recently PC Allan Mitchell, Preventions & Interventions Officer has taken over this remit and a plan is in place to re-visit all of the existing Keepsafe venues over the coming months to ensure that they still wish to participate and that all staff are fully trained. Following on from this, new venues will be approached to ask if they would be willing to participate.</p> <p>Barnardos Respect Me Programme: This programme is run throughout all our Youth groups across the Kilmarnock area and within our peer mentor programme. Reaching approx. 300 young people. The key elements of the program include; dignity and respect, privacy and confidentiality, choice and participation, safety, and protection, realising potential and equality and diversity.</p>		

Note: *Actions that are currently being reviewed and updated.

The Safer Communities Delivery Plan captures the actions being taken forward collectively by the broadest range of local partners. It is supported by a number of strategic plans, and their related annual reports contain further detail of the safer communities activity taken forward across our partnership over the last year, including:

[Local Police Plan Annual Report 2024/25](#)

[Scottish Fire and Rescue Service East Ayrshire Annual Report 2024/25](#)

[Report of the Chief Social Worker 2024/25](#)

[Children and Young People's Services Plan Annual Report 2023/24](#)

[Alcohol and Drugs Partnership Annual Report 2024/25](#)

[Violence Against Women Partnership Annual Report 2024](#)

[South West Scotland MAPPA Annual Report 2023/24](#)

[Community Justice Ayrshire Partnership Annual Report 2024/25](#)

Child Protection Committee Biennial Report 2023-25

Adult Protection Committee - Adult Support and Protection Annual Progress Report 2024-2025 and Chairs Biennial Report 2022-2024

[East Ayrshire H&SCP - Whole System Approach Annual Report 2024](#)