



Community Planning
in East Ayrshire
SAFER COMMUNITIES

**East Ayrshire Council
and
East Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership Board
Joint Performance Event: 14 September 2023**

EAST AYRSHIRE COMMUNITY PLAN 2015-2030

SAFER COMMUNITIES DELIVERY PLAN 2021-24: PARTNERSHIP ACTIONS

PROGRESS UPDATE FOR YEAR ENDING 2022/23

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 2022/23**
- Scottish Fire and Rescue Service East Ayrshire Annual Report 2022/23**
- Report of the Chief Social Worker 2022/23**
- Children and Young People’s Services Plan Annual Report 2022/23**
- Alcohol and Drugs Partnership Annual Report 2022/23**
- Violence Against Women Partnership Annual Report 2022**
- South West Scotland MAPPA Annual Report 2021/22**
- Community Justice Ayrshire Partnership Annual Report 2022/23**

Action	Partnership Activity	Partners
<p>S1 Deliver an effective policing response and work in partnership to reduce violence and prevent further offending</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver the priorities identified within the Local Police Plan 2021-23. • Enhanced prevention and early intervention activity, mobilising the full partnership presence within our communities. 	<p>Police Scotland, All partners</p>

Prevention and Early Intervention: An extensive range of prevention and early intervention activity has been undertaken by partners during 2022/23, including the following examples:

Local Police Plan Priorities

The Local Police Plan 2021-23 performance is reported on quarterly basis at the East Ayrshire Police and Fire and Rescue Committee. The Local Policing Plan for 2023-2026 was presented and agreed at the Police and Fire and Rescue Committee on 7 March 2023.

The Annual Performance Report 2022/23 was presented to the East Ayrshire Police and Fire and Rescue Committee on the 15 June 2023, showing that overall reported crime fell by 4.6% in 2022/23. A detailed analysis of crimes reported against the 12 categories of crime is available in the [2022/23 annual report](#).

Ayrshire Community Wellbeing Unit (CWU)

The Community Wellbeing Unit has now been established for 1 year and continues to embed in East Ayrshire and follow a public health approach with collaborative work at its core to reduce demand by utilising connections and relationships with third sector and partner agencies, groups and communities.

Through collaborative work on engagement, prevention, intervention, rehabilitation and diversion the CWU seeks to complement and improve services by creating pathways out of violence, crime and ASB for affected community members whose lives and whose families/communities have been adversely impacted by previous & ongoing offending behaviour. The CWU engage with repeat victims providing reassurance, guidance and support in an effort to remove them from the cycle which can increase vulnerability.

The Wellbeing Unit seeks to impact on and target outcomes and priorities such as building confidence and Partnerships whilst working with 'communities' with a specific focus on chaotic alcohol/drug dependence. By actively engaging with a solution focused outlook it is anticipated that community spirit and cohesion will improve which in turn will inspire others to become more involved, transforming people from workless, hopeless and problematic community members into inspired, trained and work ready community assets.

- The Wellbeing Unit has engaged with a significant number of vulnerable community members in East Ayrshire who have accessed partnership support via the local Ayrshire Recovery Network and through joint visits carried out alongside NHS and Recovery Enterprise. Ongoing signposting, pre-intervention and wellbeing support is being delivered to divert these individuals towards healthier lifestyles;
- Supported a local couple fleeing honour based violence and threatened by family members. Local partners identified and implemented appropriate safety measures. Access to local food bank was established for the couple and links with NHS were made to support the female victim enabling her to complete her education path in Scotland;
- Collaboration with Recovery Enterprise Scotland and HMP Kilmarnock is underway where work is ongoing to deliver a programme from point of induction. The purpose being, to make a positive impact on the prisoner at a 'reachable/teachable' moment in order to try to break the cycle of future offending. Phase 6 Cashback for Communities Funding has been applied to support the delivery of this project and a decision on that application has been delayed until early 2023;
- The CWU continue collaborating with statutory and 3rd sector partners within East Ayrshire with a view to setting up a collaborative pilot 'Task Force' which will co-locate and address repeat community wellbeing issues and emerging trends. The pilot is in the early stages of development and is considered another useful piece of innovation which will further reduce demand through authentic joint action to improve outcomes for individuals in the community;
- A weekly partners meeting now takes place where persons found to be placing a disproportionate demand on police are discussed with statutory partners and solutions identified. One success was a male who had come to police attention on over one hundred occasions.

Working with partners, the CWU sought and gained support in having a more in depth consultation by arrangement with psychiatry where he was found to have serious and untreated mental health disorder. Treatment was obtained following referral prior to discharge and supported living provision provided which greatly reduced demand on all agencies involved;

- Work is ongoing to build stronger relationships and trust with residents and staff in care settings, with a focus on promotion of the 'Not At Home' policy with a view to better assessment, provision of appropriate support and reduction of demand on a number of organisations; and
- The CWU were recently successful in securing the final funding for an upcoming community project aimed at providing multi-agency support in the hardest to reach and most deprived communities. There have been twenty locations identified across East Ayrshire which will receive a full day's support from police, NHS, Housing, SFRS, DWP, Ayrshire College and third sector agencies to tackle poverty, educational needs, employment, recovery from addiction, suicide prevention and third party reporting. The project will launch in August/September 2023.

Community Re-integration Board (CRB) – Joint initiative with HMP Kilmarnock Prison and Partners:

- Following the Community Reintegration Workshop in December 2022, a Pan-Ayrshire 'Community Reintegration Working Group' has been established through the Community Justice Ayrshire Partnership (CJAP) to review the model in place, which is currently focussed on HMP Kilmarnock, however the aim is to broaden that, ensuring a robust and equitable service for all;
- The CJAP Team are working on a Community Justice Directory, merging two existing directories into one. This information will be made available to partners and published on the CJAP website and provide information on a range of services across Community Justice, including for people who are leaving custody;
- HMP Kilmarnock now have a Life Skills course, developed by the Psychology Programmes Team and they are also looking to offer the SVQ in Citizenship;
- HMP Kilmarnock are looking to introduce DWP Work Coaches into the Visitor Centre to ensure men can complete their claim prior to leaving the prison estate on the day of liberation;
- East Ayrshire Council are working with Scottish Government Design Team on development of GIRFE framework. There are five themes, one of these is people in prison;
- Discussion took place around how we actively involve people with lived experience in developing community reintegration work. Arrangements are being made to link with PING (South Ayrshire), MAD (North Ayrshire) (both Justice Social Work User Involvement Groups) and the Lived Experience Panel (East Ayrshire) for an initial meeting with the groups to present information on the work the group are looking to do;
- Through the Bail and Release from Custody (Scotland) Bill (which is currently going through parliament) Scottish Government are proposing to introduce a SPS Post-Custodial Partnership Plan. Local partners would be required to work together to plan and coordinate supports for an individual in advance of liberation and sets out minimum standards for this; and
- A mapping exercise is underway to look at what supports are available, when these are made available to individuals in custody, how this engagement takes place (i.e., in person, telephone, e-mail) and which areas across Ayrshire they are available in.

Looking Out For You (CVO)

- The Council for Voluntary Organisations (CVO) East Ayrshire’s Open Doors project continues to work with Police Scotland colleagues to deliver the’ Looking Out for You’ project. The project started in April 2021 and continues to successfully work with people in the community who are vulnerable, with poor personal wellbeing, and are of high tariff in relation to offending. An updated profile has recently been produced showing reduced offending by those involved in the project; and
- Moving forward, as part of an ongoing effort to improve engagement with service users across East Ayrshire, it has been agreed that the CVO will work in partnership with Police Scotland colleagues to support individuals and their families who have been subject to police action by way of the Execution of Misuse of a Drugs 1971 Search Warrant. One of the most vulnerable groups within East Ayrshire is local drug users. This is a hard to reach group for the police and effective partnerships are essential in order to reduce their risk of harm. The objective of this initiative is to reduce the tragic impact of drugs on individuals, families and communities across East Ayrshire.

Open Doors (CVO)

- Emerging from the recent pandemic Open Doors has reverted to its original purpose as a Community Wellbeing Hub in the heart of the community providing a safe place where people can access a wide range of activities and supports aimed at providing health and social benefits, improving life chances and signposting to opportunities within the community;
- Open Doors delivers some of the priorities identified by the community and offers much-needed community-led activities. This joined-up approach to service delivery within a one-stop facility ensures maximum use of existing resources and improved accessibility to service provision;
- The Open Doors team and volunteers have organised and facilitated several groups and services that help to tackle food insecurity, social isolation, lack of opportunity and inclusion;
- The priority this year was to offer services focusing on children and families to help create lasting memories, a safe space and healthy meals; and
- Services previously provided at Open Doors relocated to the CVN and raft Workshop at Lawson Street.

Action	Partnership Activity	Partners
<p>S2 Engage with the community and partners to identify address and prevent anti-social behaviour (ASB)</p>	<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. 	<p>Police Scotland, EAC Housing & Communities, EAC Regulatory Services, EAC Education, SFRS, Locality Partnerships, Community Councils, Young Peoples Cabinet</p>

Daily Multi-agency Tasking Meetings

Daily Multi-agency tasking meetings take place, chaired by East Ayrshire Council's Community Safety Manager. Multi-agency responses are developed to deal with local issues with the implementation of action plans and resources deployed to locations of concern. In 2022/23 the following areas experiencing anti-social behaviour were targeted: Kilmarnock Bus Station, Kilmarnock; Queen's Drive, Kilmarnock Glencairn Retail Park, Kilmarnock, Stewarton, Crosshouse and Cumnock Town Centre. A wide range of partners are involved in this work, including Police Scotland, SFRS, EAC Vibrant Communities, Youth Action Teams, EAC Community Safety, EAC Risk Management, EAC Greener Communities, EAC Licensing, Education, EA Health & Social Care Partnership, Ayrshire Roads Alliance and third sector partners such as The Zone in Dalmellington.

Vibrant Communities Youth Action Teams

The Youth Action Team (YAT) continues to be present in our identified 'hot spot' communities every Friday and Saturday evening with the key areas being identified through consultation with Police Scotland colleagues, Elected Members, Housing / Anti-Social Behaviour Team and the Risk Management Centre.

To bolster the work that is being carried out by the Youth Action Team, two members of the Vibrant Communities bank register were successfully appointed to become dedicated YAT staff with the remit to coordinate the response to the requests that we were receiving as well as liaising with the Police Scotland and wider colleagues with any issues that may arise through their weekly reporting. We recognise that ASB will continue to be present within our communities and whilst it has reduced dramatically, there are some areas that have become a focal point for young people gathering in larger groups.

Vibrant Communities (VC) and Police Scotland recognise the importance and impact that the summer holiday period may have in some of our communities in terms of youth disorder reporting. The launch of the Summer 2023 programme in Cumnock, which was attended by Fire & Rescue colleagues and Elected Members demonstrates that commitment that we all have and share to ensuring that our young people have access to various opportunities throughout the holiday period and understanding and recognising the importance of the actions and behaviours and how this can be perceived.

A recent meeting with our community partners has led to agreement that additional funding would be sought to support further presence in some of the communities being affected by ASB to undertake detached streetwork, this would strengthen and complement the already existing YAT staff who are present at the weekends and widen opportunities for further engagement.

Following on from last year's very successful YAT Roadshows, all secondary schools participated again this year however our consultation and feedback from the schools identified that the S3 age group that was targeted last year, whilst was relevant to them, it was recognised that YAT needed to target the younger age groups. With this in mind, the workshops were pitched and delivered at an age appropriate level to the S1 pupils (new S2 cohort) of our secondary school estate. Dedicated workshops were delivered by colleagues and partners with themes being: Alcohol & Drugs, Fire & Water Safety, Stigma, ASB and a dedicated YAT workshops. These have been a great success

and increased engagement with the young people participating in the roadshows and we hope to continue with them again in the future with a potential target area being the Primary 7 population who will be transitioning into secondary schools.

Campus Officers in Schools

The relationship between VC and the Campus Cops continue to be a positive and beneficial relationship. It allows both partners to work together on joint projects such as the YAT Roadshows, share key and sensitive information in relation community behaviours and concerns that are being raised. In doing so, it allows for concerns raised by residents or Elected Members to be discussed confidentially and actioned thereafter by Police Scotland colleagues in the school setting.

Kilmarnock Bus Station

Following concerns raised by members of the Children and Young People's Cabinet at a Joint Community Planning Partnership meeting, young people highlighted their concerns around young people's safety at Kilmarnock Bus Station and the negative stigma associated and labelling of young people. Since raising their initial concerns a follow up meeting with the young people, ARA, Stagecoach and VC was held to discuss a campaign that would seek to change this stigma by promoting the many fantastic things that young people are doing and contributing in our communities.

Young people are leading a campaign to increase awareness and uptake of the NEC Entitlement card by promoting the benefits that the free travel card brings to young people. There is a belief that there has been negative publicity generated by some members of our communities who believe that the free travel card has led to an increase in youth disorder, to counter this publicity our young people decided to highlight the positive impacts and opportunities that the card brings.

Due to recent incidents regarding knife / weapon carrying and as part of the curriculum, Campus Officers have been presenting 'no knives better lives' inputs targeted to the 1st to 4th year pupils. Campus Officers have also delivered bespoke ASB related inputs within secondary schools to counteract instances of this type of behaviour.

Trail Bikes and Quad Bikes

The trail bikes, funded by EAC and donated in July 2022 and have been operated by specially trained officers in and around East Ayrshire. A notable positive impact has already been made including tracing high risk missing people 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 and ASB in areas where the local community have highlighted concerns.

Within East Ayrshire we now have 10 officers who are trained on Quad bikes. These assets can be deployed within a town and rural environment and similar to above have been used in various policing incidents. EAC ASB 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.

Multi Agency meetings in response to Youth ASB in Kilmarnock

In late September 2022 following Stagecoach withdrawal of services in attendance at Kilmarnock Bus Station a multi-agency meeting was implemented to improve safety and to tackle issues experienced at this location. This involved partners from Police Scotland, EAC, Stagecoach, Ayrshire Roads Alliance (ARA), Vibrant Communities and Burns Mall. Measures implemented included sustained deployment of police officers in a bespoke action plan, including specialists (e.g. Mounted Branch), implementation of security guards at the location, re-deployable CCTV cameras and appropriate use of fences etc. regarding safety of ongoing works at the location. Stagecoach subsequently re-instated services as a result of the partnership approach and pro-active reporting is encouraged to tackle matters at an early stage.

The group was initially anticipated to be short-life, however it became clear that a sustained focus was required to tackle ASB in East Ayrshire and as a result membership of the group has become flexible to incorporate those areas / partners / businesses being affected by ASB. Meetings continue to be held on a fortnightly basis with relevant information sharing, provision of advice and current issues being developed, these include new town centre radio link and inputs from Scottish Business Crime prevention Unit.

Local Elected members and partners including EAC, Police Scotland, EA Health and Social Care Partnership (EAHSCP) and Education Service held a bespoke ASB focussed seminar from which a number of work streams are in progress with a priority being placed on prevention and intervention – particularly with upper primary school aged children, in advance of problematic behaviour emerging.

Joint Police and Social Work Liaison Meeting

In an effort to improve information sharing and outcomes for children and young people, Senior Social Work staff and East Ayrshire Area Commander, CI Wilson have instigated a new meeting which has already proven beneficial. Matters discussed and progressed thus far include child criminal and sexual exploitation and anti-social behaviour, both root causes and environmental influences on children.

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS)

SFRS work with partners to support and mitigate all aspects of Anti-Social behaviour, specifically incidents where Fire is involved. In particular, SFRS share deliberate fire setting Data and specific hotspots on where these incidents occur. SFRS Local Authority Liaison Officer's (LALO's) liaise with Police Scotland LALOs to work in partnership when delivering education /school talks. SFRS also lead on Acts of Violence towards Emergency service workers and frontline key workers. SFRS have worked in partnership with Police Scotland and EAC Youth Action Team to deliver a series of Safety Workshops to all Secondary Schools covering subjects like Anti-Social behaviour, Deliberate Fire Setting and Water Safety.

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. We have an additional 8 rapid deployable cameras monitoring rivers, 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.

Housing Anti-social Behaviour Team

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.

Action	Partnership Activity	Partners
<p>S3 Provide an effective, supportive and victim-centred approach to rape with enhanced local support services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the ongoing development and operation of the Willows, a Sexual Offences Referral Centre in Ayrshire 	<p>Police Scotland, NHS A&A, Rape Crisis, SFRS.</p>

The Willows, Sexual Offences Referral Centre

The Willows, Sexual Assault Response Coordination Centre opened in June 2021. The Willows is a dedicated sexual assault and rape response service (SARC) that offers healthcare choices including a forensic medical examination and support in the days after an assault. The sensitive, compassionate approach reduces risk of re-traumatisation and ensures survivors are supported through the criminal justice process. It was initially open 7 days a week 10am-6pm, as part of Phase 1. Phase 2 saw extension of the opening hours increased to 9am-9pm, 7 days a week.

The Willows offers Police Referrals, Self-Referrals and forensic examinations, carried out by a peripatetic team from Archway, Glasgow as part of the West of Scotland Hub and Spoke Regional Model. The facility continues to provide a vital, effective and efficient response. Since inception, The Willows has dealt with 55 cases via Police and self-referrals.

Action	Partnership Activity	Partners
<p>S4 Support people who have committed offences to move away from offending behaviour</p>	<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 Support the ongoing development and implementation of the Community Justice Ayrshire Outcomes Improvement Plan. 	<p>Community Justice Ayrshire Partnership, which includes EAC Justice Service, CPS; Police Scotland, Vibrant Communities, Third Sector Partners, SFRS</p>

Diversion from Prosecution

Through the Community Justice Ayrshire Partnership (CJAP) a Pan-Ayrshire ‘Diversion, Intervention and Alternatives to Custody’ Group has been established and will include partners from across Police Scotland, Justice Social Work, Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service, Alcohol and Drug Partnership and the third sector. The purpose of the group will be to ‘Enhance intervention at the earliest opportunity by ensuring greater consistency, confidence in and awareness of services which support the use of direct measure and diversion from prosecution’. In addition, this group will be tasked with progressing the recommendations contained within the Joint Review of Diversion from Prosecution carried out by HM Inspectorate of Prosecution in Scotland, HM Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland, HM Inspectorate of Prisons for Scotland and the Care Inspectorate.

CVO PROJECTS

Open Doors

CVO East Ayrshire, Open Doors project is a family wellbeing hub in Kilmarnock town centre which provides a safe place where people can access a wide range of activities and supports aimed at providing health and social benefits, improving life chances and signposting to opportunities within the community. Open Doors not only furthers the priorities identified by the community but offers much-needed community-led activities. This joined-up approach to service delivery within a one-stop facility ensures maximum use of existing resources and improved accessibility to service provision.

The GRAFT and Community Voice Network (CVN) Projects have a long history of pioneering the involvement of people with direct experience of the criminal justice system. This year the projects have designed a number of ways to listen to the views of experts by experience and involve them in the design and delivery of services. These approaches amplify people’s voices to make sure the criminal justice system benefits from their insights.

GRAFT AND CVN Community Work

Ultimately we aim to ensure everyone is given the opportunity to progress at their own pace, reach their personal goals and has access to employment opportunities, no matter what their background or support needs are. The engagement has identified a strong belief that the identified outputs will create the capacity required to meet the demand and achieve the desired outcomes.

Unpaid Work

The main purpose of unpaid work is to provide reparation – with service users working on projects that benefit the community. There is also the potential for rehabilitative benefits, as unpaid work can provide an opportunity to develop life and vocational skills which are supportive of desistance.

Since our first new placements started in April 2022, the number of unpaid work placements has increased from 1 placement in April 2022 to a total of 23. (see details below)

- 23 placements enrolled over this period.
- 10 placements completed their hours
- 10 current placements on the current cohort of placements which are on track to complete.
- 3 placements were taken off unpaid work by the supervisor prior to completion

The Unpaid Work Project has gone from strength to strength over this period; we have learned from what our clients have identified as additional barriers they face in sustaining a positive tenancy and in response we have developed a range of additional services which address some of these needs.

Gym and Fitness

The CVN and GRAFT teams supported by Unpaid Work Placements have built a gym area within their unit which is being introduced to encourage people with a lived experience of the justice system to turn their backs on a life of crime.

Regular participation in exercise has been shown to decrease overall levels of tension, elevate and stabilize mood, improve sleep, and improve self-esteem.

Two of our supervisors are boxing coaches and have offered their time to support people to develop essential life skills to thrive both **in** and outside of the gym. Classes are delivered in controlled environment to channel participant's energies, whilst also providing respite from any difficulties at home. In addition a free hot meal is available at every session.

Offering boxing training with a difference, the programme helps young people develop six core values: purpose, adaptability, imagination, discipline, emotional control, and teamwork, before providing practical advice and progression routes to help its graduates enter employment or further education.

Woodwork Unit

The woodwork unit has remained a constant source of support for our service users, many of whom are vulnerable and furthest from the labour market with complex support needs.

The project has been able to recycle some donated furniture to vulnerable families and people who would otherwise not have any. Through our wood workshop placements, people have been able to increase their confidence and self-esteem, improve their social skills, resilience, and ultimately work towards further opportunities.

Our range of woodwork goods produced includes:

- Memorial Benches;
- Planters for charity gardens;
- Men's shed rain shelters;
- A life size Santa Sleigh;
- Christmas decorations;
- Clocks;
- Furniture;
- A wishing well for the foodbank;
- Christmas gifts for children that would not have received a gift; and
- Bird houses

Our Unpaid Work Teams have worked closely with **The Night Before Christmas Campaign (NB4CC)** to make sure no child in East Ayrshire was left without presents at Christmas. Our placements helped in a number of areas including collecting delivering, sorting, wrapping and managing donated toys.

Scottish Governments Bail and Release Bill Consultation

The Parliamentary Justice Committee were due to scrutinise the Scottish Governments Bail and Release Bill and wanted to speak to people with a lived experience of Bail. The Committee met with GRAFT and CVN after requesting to hear informally from frontline staff and service users for a sense of how support for people recently liberated works on the ground. Issues discussed included, what are the practical challenges with getting prisoners into housing, access to GPs, benefits and other support services.

The GRAFT project heard how The Scottish Government hopes to change the way that imprisonment is used. The Scottish Governments Bail and Release Bill includes a raft of reforms which aim to refocus the use of custody for remand and put greater emphasis on the rehabilitation and reintegration of those leaving prison. MSP's wanted to shadow a member of the GRAFT Team as they felt it would be valuable for Committee Members to give them a real feel for what happens on the ground.

The Parliamentary Justice Committee invited EACVO to attend the Scottish Governments Bail and Release Bill debate and will continue to support this to make sure the voice of the lived experienced is heard and supported.

Support for the East Ayrshire Foodbank

East Ayrshire Food Bank provides emergency food and compassionate, practical support to people in crisis, without our volunteers and unpaid work teams, we simply would not be able to support the thousands of people in crisis. The number of people needing food banks has increased in recent years and we anticipate this trend to continue. Our placements are always willing to help in several areas including sorting and managing donated food, packing and variety of roles in a very busy warehouse.

Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan

Following publication of the national strategic documents, the Community Justice Ayrshire Partnership (CJAP) are now able to begin development of a new Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan (CJOIP) for Ayrshire. This plan will outline the actions we will take to achieve or maintain the national outcomes and detail any additional actions we feel will be relevant to improving community justice outcomes across Ayrshire. Input from partners during this process will be welcomed and we intend to bring a draft version to the Safer Communities Group for discussion between January and March 2024.

Community Justice Ayrshire Partnership (CJAP)

National Update

The [National Strategy for Community Justice](#) and the [Community Justice Performance Framework](#) have now been published by the Scottish Government. These documents provide the national direction for each Community Justice Partnership to work towards and detail the outcomes and indicators that our progress will be assessed against. The publication of these documents has faced considerable delays and we are pleased to see they have now been published and will allow the Community Justice Ayrshire Partnership (CJAP) to progress with local strategic planning.

Local Update

A new structure for the CJAP has now been established and includes the following groups:

- North Ayrshire Delivery Group;
- South Ayrshire Delivery Group;
- East Ayrshire Delivery Group;
- Community Reintegration Group; and
- Diversion, Intervention and Alternatives to Custody Group.

Work will take place over 2023 to embed these groups and develop action plans for partners to work towards.

Action	Partnership Activity	Partners
<p>S5 Provide assurance in regard to public protection and the reduction of serious harm for certain categories of offender.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAPPA arrangements pertaining to; <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 	<p>HSCP, Police, EAC Justice Service, Children & Families, Education, Housing, NHS, SPS, Third sector partners</p>
<p>MAPPA (SW Scotland Annual Report 2021/22)</p> <p>The 2021/22 South West Scotland MAPPA Annual Report was published in November 2022. The total number of Registered Sex Offenders in South West Scotland increased by 10.7% in 2021/22, this is believed to be due to easing of Covid 19 restrictions in justice service operations, with justice service operations returning to pre-covid levels which has seen a significant increase in cases coming to court.</p> <p>In November 2021 and March 2022 the Lucy Faithful Foundation provided training on internet based offending to a Multi-Agency Audience. The training was very well received and will be repeated.</p> <p>Three Sisters Consultancy</p> <p>Over February and March 2022, MAPPA partners were given the opportunity to participate in a series of online training events delivered by the Three Sisters Consultancy. The Three Sisters Consultancy are a family based organisation that supports Health, Social Care and Education staff to think differently about how they engage with people who suffer from Autism. The uptake of this training across all MAPPA partner agencies was excellent and the feedback received makes it clear there was and remains a need for such inputs. We hope to develop an ongoing relationship with the Three Sisters to enhance the capacity of all agencies to adapt their practice to engage more effectively with those on the autistic spectrum.</p> <p>Reward Foundation</p> <p>In March 2022, Dr Darryl Mead and Mary Sharpe from the Reward Foundation delivered a presentation to a Multi-Agency audience in both Dumfries and Kilmarnock on the effects which the viewing of online pornography can have on people, particularly young people. This training was well received and highly valued.</p> <p>MAPPA Chairs Training</p> <p>As highlighted in the previous Annual Report, there is a need for MAPPA level 2 and level 3 Chairs to have an understanding of current risk assessment processes and risk practice. While those MAPPA Chairs who deal with such work on a daily basis are highly competent, other MAPPA Chairs, particularly at level 3, who are all Senior Officers and largely removed from the operational practice. As a result, the SOG</p>		

has requested that Professor Hazel Kemshall, emeritus professor of Criminal Justice at de Monfort University who is generally held to be the architect of MAPPA, be approached to deliver training to our level 2 and 3 Chairs, and planning for this is underway.

Action	Partnership Activity	Partners
<p>S6 Promote increased awareness of partnership work to improve community safety</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a communication and engagement strategy that meets the needs of local communities • PAWS Partnership Approach to Water Safety (PAWS) group established across Ayrshire • Partnership Approach to Road Safety (PARS) group established across Ayrshire 	<p>Safer Communities Delivery Plan Working Group, EAC</p> <p>SFRS, EAC, NAC, SAC, Coastguard, Police Scotland, RNLI, SAS, Loch Doon Ranger</p>

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.

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS)

SFRS are involved in a number of key partnerships to ensure community safety, several of these are in the early stage. These include Messy Munchers; a new Community Garden at Kilmarnock Fire Station; and a Safe space/Hub at Kilwinning, Cumnock and Ayr Fire Stations which will be Pan Ayrshire assets.

The new **community garden at Kilmarnock Fire Station** has transformed a disused area into a community garden space which includes a welcoming shed to encourage social interaction, a sensory garden, poly tunnels for food growing and areas which can be used for play and education purposes by children’s nurseries. These safe community spaces will be open to all with time being booked in advance. Beehives have also been introduced, to help naturalise the area. The project, which has secured National Lottery funding aims to combat loneliness and promote mental health awareness by bring people together in a safe space, while also be providing education on climate literacy, fresh produce, contributing to local food larders and promoting sustainability projects. The station will be working in partnership with NHS health professionals, voluntary organisations and engaging with local young people. SFRS have also created a new partnership with the Rapid Relief Team where all front line appliances now carry emergency food boxes and packs to distribute to the public should the need arise. Comfort packs are also available which contain toothpaste, lip balm, wipes, period products and nappies.

Action	Partnership Activity	Partners
<p>S7 Work collaboratively to promote , support and facilitate community resilience</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued development and support of Community Led Action Plans 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 	<p>EAC Housing & Communities; EAC Education; SFRS; Police Scotland; CAP Steering Groups; Community Councils; Third Sector Partners</p>
<p>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 three years. There are currently 29 Plans developed.</p> <p>Neighbourhood Coaching To support Community Led Action Plan development, the Housing and Communities service has embedded a neighbourhood coaching approach. Community resilience training continues to be rolled out and Housing Support continues to be delivered to EAC tenants, this includes: help to settle in their new home and maintain their tenancy; supporting tenants to become part of the community; and engagement in community supports and activities. The team also work closely with all local groups and offer housing clinics at community activities and venues, this includes building resilience for community groups by supporting with funding bids. Staff have regular presence in community groups to build a strong relationship with groups to ensure seamless transition for individuals we bring to the groups.</p> <p>Caring, Kind Connected Referrals Caring Kind Connected (CKC) Referrals operate with Vibrant Communities empowering local communities to support local residents in need who have been identified via the CKC referral system. There has been a significant reduction in the number of referrals that the Council receive, the reduction is thought to be as a result of work undertaken by VC which has led to reduction in dependency on Council services. Our local community organisations have been instrumental in the continued support being provided to some of our most vulnerable individuals and families.</p> <p>Community Larders Vibrant Communities continue to support Community Larders (14) across East Ayrshire providing a dignified food option. In addition, Vibrant Communities in partnership with the Community Larders and Community Resilience Groups continue to respond and support food requests coming through the Caring, Kind, Connected Model due to financial hardship. East Ayrshire Foodbank supported community larders with provision of food where they had surplus stock. East Ayrshire Foodbank takes a holistic approach to service delivery with every</p>		

referral offered additional support if required. Referral pathways have been enhanced both across external partners and internal supports available through CVO services. Community Larder membership has continued to grow on a monthly basis, current member numbers are 1,200, with average weekly visits of around 510. Additional support is provided through a network of larder volunteers and includes, visits by financial inclusion, benefit support and lemon aid to provide advice and support along with food safety training, community support and guidance.

Foodbanks (CVO)

This year has been even more challenging for Ayrshire East Foodbank than before and we cannot thank the social work and GRAFT unpaid work supervisors and placements enough for their support.

Due to the cost of living crisis East Ayrshire Foodbank has seen a reduction in donations and foodbank stockpile. Our main foodbank storage warehouse located on Hastings Square, Darvel, was significantly impacted by the freezing temperatures in December 2022. The warehouse was severely damaged by flooding on the 13 December 2022 due to a burst pipe in the premises directly above the warehouse. As a result of this, East Ayrshire Foodbank lost a significant amount of food items that perished whilst under water. Members of CVO East Ayrshire's Graft and CVN Project were able to retrieve a small quantity of food stock on higher storage units which have now been securely stored within our premises at Belford Mill, Kilmarnock, where our warehouse has temporarily relocated.

In addition to purchasing non-perishable food WG13, our Social Enterprise restaurant, has been purchasing fresh food and batch cooking to provide hot and cold nutritious meals to supplement food parcels.

Community Living Rooms (CVO)

CVO teams have supported the refurbishment of 6 designated Community Living Rooms operating across various purpose-built community hubs in East Ayrshire. Locations include Open Doors Kilmarnock, Little Shop Kilmarnock, Belford Mills Kilmarnock, D.O.T Newmilns Community Hub, Our Wee Place Shortlees, and the Cumnock Community Hub. The Community Living Room project looks to respond to the cost-of-living crisis and provide a warm, friendly and inviting space for the local inhabitants of East Ayrshire who are struggling to pay essential household bills, to put food on the table, and whose mental health and wellbeing has been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and now with the cost-of-living crisis.

Each of the Living Rooms provides a warm, friendly, and hospitable space, offering free tea, coffee, sandwiches, and soup (cooked and prepared by our catering staff within our WG13 social enterprise), along with a host of games and activities. The aim of the Living Room programme is to improve mood and hope, to provide a social outlet and garner community spirit during the current crisis.

The Community Living Rooms are delivered by our vastly experienced Project Leads and staff of various social enterprises, encompassing areas such as volunteer co-ordination, foodbank provision, social isolation befriending services, employability support, crisis support and community outreach. Our experienced staff provide an environment that is hospitable, fun, energetic and welcoming, whilst also equipped

to provide a therapeutic non-judgemental approach and to sign-post beneficiaries who require further support and intervention from our internal enterprises or from our external partnerships.

Feedback from the service users has shown that there was a need to develop a living room area in the GRAFT unit where people can access peer to peer support in a safe but non-judgemental environment.

Scottish Attainment Challenge

Via the Scottish Attainment Challenge (SAC), the Home Link Team and SAC Managers have worked with Columbia 1400, education staff and parents to develop a sustainable Parental Empowerment Programme. Via a website the parents are supported to create a bespoke programme to develop their self-esteem, confidence and employability skills. On completion of the programme the parents will be supported to continue their employability journey and roll out the programme to other parents in their community.

Home Link Team (HLT)

The Home Link Team continue to provide a range of supports for children and families in East Ayrshire. The team have made good progress across all 6 Education Groups over the last 12 months, providing tailored support where it is needed most to 248 children, young people and their families on a weekly basis. This support has included

- 4,998 coaching conversation telephone calls,
- 8,250 text messages,
- 1,620 home visits, garden visits and walk and talks,
- 188 Team Around the Child meetings and
- 442 requests from parents/carers for further general wellbeing support.

Partnership working and communication continues to be strong between Home Link and Education, with 2,767 calls and other communications with colleagues, further bridging the gap between school and home. Positive relationships are key to this work. This has allowed the Home Link team to forward on 372 requests from parents/carers to other services and supports in the local community. The Home Link Team also coordinated and delivered a number of events throughout the year, including numerous Family Learning programme i-lunch sessions, which were well attended.

Parental Health and Wellbeing (HWB) Information Site

The site has continued to be developed and over the year a section on financial inclusion information was added. Since the site was established, it has had over 30,000 hits.

Safer Schools Scotland App

During 2022/23 the Safer Schools Scotland App, developed by iNEQE Safeguarding Group and funded by Zurich Municipal, has been introduced for parents and carers of children and young people attending all East Ayrshire establishments.

The app, which has been designed by safeguarding experts to educate, empower and protect school communities; provides news, a calendar for events, essential updates and information for parents and carers, but also contains vital safeguarding information. The online safety centre will ensure that parents and carers know how to safely support their child or young person's online activity including learning how to block, report and set safety and privacy settings on popular online platforms like Tik Tok and Snapchat. All establishments also get access to online safety shareables and resources through award-winning online Teach and Home Learning Hubs.

HEART Wellbeing Model for Children

East Ayrshire Council and Health and Social Care Partnership have continued to develop the HEART (Help Everyone at the Right Time) Wellbeing model for children and families with an emphasis on Multidisciplinary working in localities based around school clusters. Implementation of the HEART wellbeing model began from 4 April 2022. The focus of the HEART Model is the provision of early help and support for families that is relationship based, non-stigmatising and meets the requirements of the Promise. A Programme Manager has been recruited who is working alongside East Ayrshire with Scottish Government support to test new models of service delivery. In the 2023/24 families and practitioners will be able to access EAHSCP Living Well web site to find help and support that could meet the needs of our families.

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS)

SFRS are integrated within EAC Out of Hospital cardiac arrest strategy. They are working 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.

Police Scotland

Locality Officers in Cumnock have been actively involved with Yip World and the Social Prescribing Service (both based in Cumnock) and recently hosted a number of local young people at Cumnock Police Office to promote "Employability and Skills". Attendees were provided with an input with regards to role of police officers, special constables and youth volunteers. The Community Wellbeing Unit are due to rollout in Autumn 2023 the funded mobile hairdresser / barber / beautician service across East Ayrshire where residents, including younger members of the workforce, can attend and have their grooming needs tended to at no charge in advance of job interviews with a view to improving confidence and assisting with their preparation for interviews.

Mental Health First Aid

The partnership work with East Ayrshire Council and Police Scotland around suicide prevention and first aid for mental health continues to gather momentum with over 50 police officers across Ayrshire now having completed or enrolled on the courses. Both courses are

accredited and delivered by Public Health Scotland at the EAC Headquarters at London Road, Kilmarnock.

Action	Partnership Activity	Partners
<p>S8 Work proactively to encourage positive road safety behaviour</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement EA Police Plan and SFRS Local Plan activity to address road safety issues • Explore further partnership opportunities to raise awareness of road safety issues • Partnership Approach to Road Safety) group established across Ayrshire 	<p>Police Scotland; SFRS; ARA; CJA; Ayrshire Council Education; Ayrshire College.</p>

Road Safety Policing

Festive Road Safety Campaign

A number of targeted action plans to tackle speeding in various locations across East Ayrshire have been implemented which resulted in a significant amount of increased detections – this year has seen 260 versus 160 in the same time period last year. Roads Policing Teams and Locality Policing Teams work closely to positively impact on driver behaviour and encourage safer driving.

In response to community concerns, a number of locations have feature on ‘targeted locations’ for additional visibility and speed checks. The locations are rotated throughout the course of the year to ensure we are focussed on new and emerging areas of concern in addition to those locations which persistently present as problematic in relation to driver behaviour.

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.

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. The initiative runs over a 7/8 day period usually within the month of May and it is aimed at P6 pupils across all East Ayrshire primary and special schools.

Ayrshire Roads Alliance (ARA)

During 2022/23 ARA Road Safety work included;

- The successfully launched the Netherthird Primary School Streets Initiative in Cumnock, February 2023. The trial will run for 18 months and promotes active travel for school children and their parents in the area;
- During 2022/23 approximately £950K was invested in engineering schemes to support walking and cycling and a further £85K on specific road safety interventions;
- Coordination and delivery of Bikeability Level 2 skills training in a number of schools in East Ayrshire (10 schools have engaged to date). This marks the first year of delivery since the transition from the iCycle programme, and numbers are anticipated to increase in future years;
- November 2022 marked the first meeting of the Combined Ayrshire Road Safety (CARS) group, with representation from a number of partners – the group has agreed to meet quarterly to share good practice and further develop partnership working;
- Development of a new Trailblazers pilot project is to be rolled out at a selection of schools. The Trailblazers project seeks to encourage “park and stride” activities for parents and pupils in an effort to reduce parking levels in the vicinity of school gates;
- A total of 10 performances of the Road Safety Magic Show at schools across the authority area have taken place between February and March 2023;
- ARA provided 23 schools in EAC with Walk To School Week classroom packs, to help reduce the number of cars in the vicinity of schools; and
- “Fit to Ride” motorcyclist event took place with ARA’s Road Safety team working in partnership with RoSPA, IAM and Police Scotland. Another event has been planned for August 2023.

Action	Partnership Activity	Partners
<p>S9 Undertake targeted work with local partners and communities to improve women’s perceptions of public safety</p>	<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. 	<p>Safer Communities Delivery Plan Working Group, EAVAW Partnership</p>

Reporting of Sexual Crimes

As a result of a number of high profile sexual crime convictions a number of large scale enquiries into non recent sexual crimes has resulted in an increase in the reporting of this crime in East Ayrshire. 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 an increased confidence in reporting such matters. This work is vitally important and ongoing.

‘That Guy’ Police Scotland widely publicised the ‘That Guy’ campaign which has been very positively received by partners and the public in general, and will continue to develop ways to alter or change male behaviours, targeting offenders rather than victim behaviour. The second phase of this campaign launched on 17 October 2022. Aimed at men in Scotland aged 18 – 35 it highlights how men can help to stop sexual offending before it starts by recognising inappropriate behaviour and challenging male sexual entitlement in a safe way, ultimately reducing sexual violence and the risk of offending. An objective of the campaign was to drive traffic to a campaign website where the target audience could engage with the primary video and further articles and videos.

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.

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.

16 Days of Action to eradicate Violence Against Women

The 16 Days of Action Conference took place on 6 December 2022 at Take A Bow, Kilmarnock with the focus on ‘*What Next for Protecting Women and Girls in East Ayrshire?*’ The conference programme consisted of a variety of workshops, Police input on the highly successful ‘Don’t be that guy campaign’ and also input from survivors and support staff from the STAR centre who shared their stories and ensured survivors’ accounts were front and centre of the day. Evaluation was overwhelmingly positive for this event, and this, alongside learning from the day, will help shape the conference in 2023.

The Conference took place within a programme of events marking 16 days of Action. These events included a Wellbeing event for Survivors of Gender Based Violence, hosted by East Ayrshire Women’s Aid; the White Ribbon Pledge at Crosshouse Hospital; a Reclaim

the Night walk supported by the Star Centre and Safe Guided Walks co-ordinated by Housing Services. The Safe and Together approach was further promoted with one day Overview training offered and the full programme was supported through a daily schedule of 'tweets'.

Reclaim the Night 2022

A highly successful Reclaim the Night March was held on International Women's Day on the 8th March 2022 with a large turnout of people being led by the Star drumming group. A further date will be confirmed for the Reclaim the Night march in 2023 to coincide with the 16 Days of Action which will take place between 25th November and 10th December 2023.

Women's Safety Survey

The Women's Safety Survey has been supported by Housing Services, on behalf of the East Ayrshire Violence Against Women Partnership. The survey has been completed and collated and results will be shared in conjunction with the findings of the Women's Safety Survey guided neighbourhood walks. The first of these took place in Kilmarnock South during 16 Days of Action, December 2022, with a further one in Galston on the 16 of February 2023, the third will be completed on 27 of February 2023 in Auchinleck. The results of the Women's Safety Survey have been collated, consideration will be given on how to incorporate this action into the EAVAWP Strategic plan 2024-27.

Police Scotland Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy

The new Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy was approved within Police Scotland in March 2023. Based on broad and unprecedented engagement with the general public, women and girls, survivors of violence, key partners, academics and experts, the strategy builds on our commitment to improve and future proof our response. The strategy shows Police Scotland's commitment to act and to improve how we tackle sexual violence and domestic abuse that disproportionately affects women and girls. We will work closely with our partners to improve the opportunities and support available for women. We will continue to engage, work with our partners, improve our response and drive the change needed to end violence against women and girls.

Vibrant Communities

Younger females continue to be present at a number of our community based diversionary activities. For example, the Premier Night Leagues that operate on a Friday evening see a number of young females attending but not to participate in the activity but to be with their friends. Our staff continue to engage with them to gain a better insight into their needs and activities that may be of interest to them and facilitate where possible by providing activity or signposting to local organisations.

East Ayrshire Women's Aid

Between April and December 2022, 375 women, children & young people were referred to East Ayrshire Women's Aid. 22 women and 17 children moved into our refuge. 20 training sessions were delivered on behalf of the East Ayrshire Violence Against Women Partnership to 229 participants and Routine Enquiry training was delivered to 139 NHS colleagues.

During the 16 Days of Action Against Violence Against Women, we held a pamper day to celebrate women’s strength and resilience. 24 women who have experienced domestic abuse participated in therapy sessions such as yoga, Reiki, a sound bath and reflexology. The event, entitled ‘Power of You’ was held at Centrestage and included an afternoon tea and goody bags for everyone who attended. The event was funded by Police Scotland.

“I’ve loved today, I’ve loved the workshops, treatments and meeting the other women. It made me feel special”

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

SFRS will continue to seek additional funding for personal alarms to increase safety.

Action	Partnership Activity	Partners
<p>S10 Further embed place-based multi-agency working in the heart of our communities and strengthen partnership capacity for frontline response</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish multi-agency community clinics improve visibility and proximity of partners to communities. • Enhanced information sharing across partner agencies. • Maximise partnership involvement in joint public facing community initiatives • 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>All, Police Scotland, SFRS, Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS), EAC Housing & Communities, Education; CVO; All</p>

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. Variances in attendance at clinics is noted 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.

Doon Valley Community Campus

Our investment in a planned community campus in Dalmellington reflects our partnership commitment to a place based approach. The inclusive design approach being applied to this project will deliver state of the art shared facilities that support education, health and wellbeing, sports excellence, the arts, culture and events, community integration and lifelong learning. The Council, NHS Ayrshire & Arran and EA Health & Social Care Partnership are working closely with the community and a wide range of partners to maximise the impact of this investment, including the development of environmentally sustainable joint procurement opportunities with the local supply chain.

Further design development and community engagement took place during 2022/23, along with the detailed site investigations required to allow development to commence, with completion anticipated in 2025.

Implementation of the HEART Wellbeing Model

East Ayrshire Council and Health and Social Care Partnership have continued to develop the HEART (Help Everyone at the Right Time) Wellbeing model for children and families with an emphasis on Multidisciplinary working in localities based around school clusters. Implementation of the HEART wellbeing model began from 4 April 2022. The focus of the HEART Model is the provision of early help and support for families that is relationship based, non-stigmatising and meets the requirements of the Promise. A Programme Manager has been recruited who is working alongside East Ayrshire with Scottish Government support to test new models of service delivery. In the 2023/24 families and practitioners will be able to access EAHSCP Living Well web site to find help and support that could meet the needs of our families.

Open Doors

Emerging from the recent pandemic Open Doors reverted to its original purpose as a Community Wellbeing Hub in the heart providing a safe place where people can access a wide range of activities and supports aimed at providing health and social benefits, improving life chances and signposting to opportunities within the community.

Open Doors delivers some of the priorities identified by the community and offers much-needed community-led activities. This joined-up approach to service delivery within a one-stop facility would ensure maximum use of existing resources and improved accessibility to service provision.

The Open Doors team and volunteers have organised and facilitated several groups and services that help to tackle food insecurity, social isolation, lack of opportunity and inclusion.

The priority this year was to offer services focusing on children and families to help create lasting memories, a safe space and healthy meals.

Clean, Greener and Vibrant Communities

Vibrant Communities have started to build a place based approach to the services they deliver in 6 localities across East Ayrshire. As this approach develops and grows the aim is to improve how they engage with communities and improve the delivery of services together. As this continues they will link closely with all supports and organisations in these localities to improve communication and collaboration.

Greener communities will also continue to support colleagues within community safety by operating the CCTV vehicle to ensure deployment of this vehicle can be maximised in response to requests in key areas.

The recently appoint Community Waste Officers will also strengthen the place based model of working by representing the service within a wider context, making the connection between community and Council services. Cleaner Communities operatives will also be able to report immediately any welfare and safety concerns of residents that they may become aware of when undertaking the routes.

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. Each school has identified a HEART lead contact person responsible for creating links and information sharing in their school.

Action	Partnership Activity	Partners
S11 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, 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 	EAC Housing & Communities ; EAC Justice Service; HMP Kilmarnock; Private Landlords; Blue Triangle; HSCP; NHS A&A; CJA; SFRS, third sector, Ayr Housing Aid.

Housing Supports

Housing Support work closely with the Homeless Nurse, Radar, Police Scotland, EA Advocacy Service, GP's Community Connectors and Community groups to enable people to sustain tenancies.

Resettlement

The Council is committed to supporting those displaced by war and conflict and has well established arrangements in place to support those settling within our communities. East Ayrshire has made a commitment to help and respond to needs of families, unaccompanied children and young people who seek refuge or require a home in Scotland.

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.

On arrival families are appointed a Key Worker who assists parents and carers with:

- Registration in nurseries and schools, school clothing grant and free school meals applications;
- Benefits claims;

- Budgeting support and guidance; and
- Child care arrangements where required to afford adults the opportunity to attend community language classes to assist with integration within our 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 Children
Ukrainian Resettlement	75	70
Other Resettlement	8	21
Total	83	91

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 2022/23.

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

SFRS will continue to provide support and Fire safety awareness training to all Housing officers and staff. All residents will continue to be offered a Home Fire Safety Visit.

Action	Partnership Activity	Partners
S12 Minimise the impact of drugs use and the excessive consumption of alcohol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the East Ayrshire Alcohol and Drugs Partnership Strategic Improvement Plan 2020-24. • Launch of new joint service, Rapid Access to Drugs and Alcohol Recovery (RADAR) • Support those in contact with the criminal 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 	ADP , EAC Education, Community Justice Ayrshire, Police Scotland, HMP Kilmarnock, SFRS, EAC Justice Service, Ayrshire Partnership Services

Rapid Access to Drugs and Alcohol Recovery (RADAR)

The new joint service, Rapid Access to Drugs and Alcohol Recovery (RADAR), was launched during 2021/22 and maintained in 2022/23

East Ayrshire Alcohol and Drugs Plan Activity

- During 2022/23, 200 – 300 community members took part in the first local international overdose walk, walking from North west Area centre to Howard Park;
- 150 people attended the Alcohol and Drugs Partnership annual conference with around 30% of attenders having a lived/living experience;
- 30 ‘first responders’ within Johnnie walker Bond were trained in the use of naloxone;
- £120,000 was allocated to community groups across East Ayrshire to address drug related deaths and promote community recovery activity;
- A stigma officer was appointed to support community engagement to reduce stigma and thereby increase help seeking;
- 15% increase in numbers of people in treatment; and
- 431 naloxone kits distributed.

Police Scotland – Naloxone:

All police officers across Ayrshire up to and including the rank of Inspector are now fully trained and carrying intra-nasal Naloxone. Naloxone is an emergency, first aid response to opioid/opiate-related drug overdose situations. It reverses the respiratory suppression caused by opioids, stimulating a person’s breathing: it can buy someone enough time to allow ambulance clinicians to arrive and provide professional medical care. The carriage and administration of Naloxone by an officer is an extension to their extensive first aid skills. Officer’s use of Naloxone is captured and evaluated Scotland-wide to capture learning.

Education Substance Misuse Education Programmes

In line with Curriculum for Excellence schools continue to deliver age appropriate substance misuse education programmes at all levels from the Early Childhood Centres to S6. Information is also available for parents via the [Parent HWB Information Site](#).

Action	Partnership Activity	Partners
<p>S13 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 	<p>All</p>

Adult Protection

East Ayrshire Adult Protection Committee “ Looking Forward “strategic leadership event was held during 2022 that recognized the impact of membership changes and virtual meetings on our work. The key message from the event was that we cannot avoid membership changes

however we can influence how we conduct our business through relationship building and supporting understanding of roles. Examples of activity to develop this approach are preparing new members by refreshing our induction pack and the development and dissemination of a quarterly newsletter for communicating the work of the APC across frontline services. The revised Adult Support & Protection Improvement Plan 1 January 2023 – 31 December 2024 was viewed as a strength demonstrating the multi-agency, commitment to this plan which is currently being implemented and making good progress.

A snapshot of Adult Support and Protection 2020-22 report is available at this [link](#), these highlights taken for the APC Chairs Biennial report on progress made inform both national and local priorities which have been included in the aforementioned improvement plan.

Of note between 2020-22 was:

- That adult protection referrals were down 49% with cases of adult concern were up 49% during this period and work is ongoing nationally and locally to understand what our data is telling us;
- That a Joint Inspection of Adult Support & Protection told the Adult Protection Committee that they had strong partnership working, that support to communities during the pandemic was excellent and it helped them understand how they could improve and that they had made good progress;
- That the APC established a Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) to better protect those at high risk of domestic violence and serious harm. This has a lead for adult support and protection to ensure any adult at risk of serious harm and domestic violence have the same direct route to access support;
- Changed how we delivered our training during the pandemic to make sure our multi-agency workforce and communities continued to recognise, report and respond to people at risk of harm;
- That the Adult Protection Committee held multi-agency case reviews which allowed them to share good practice and learning with the HSCP and that this was used to put in place improvements to how they support and protect people in the future; and
- That 74% of Social Workers trained as Council Officers so as they can respond to harm.

Further to this report the Adult Support and Protection Annual Progress Report 2022-2023 has been produced and the report will be available following endorsement by the APC later this year. Of note progress between 2022-2023 was:

- We found no new or emerging trends that warrant any change of focus or direction to our improvement activity with Self Neglect continuing to be the third highest category of harm reported;
- Adult at risk reporting is increasing as anticipated to pre Covid levels and we are starting to see evidence of increased Large Scale Investigation activity , Learning Reviews and people with repeat presentations which we continue to monitor;
- We extended National ASP Day events from 20-24th February 2023 with a focus on promoting awareness of how to recognise, respond and seek help in relation to self-neglect. 5 community workshops delivered on self-neglect were designed to reduce stigma and encourage conversation. In recognition that integrating protection activity increases engagement, this was delivered across East Ayrshire as part of the local conversation events. The feedback generated was the most the APC has achieved from such community events and was used to inform the APC Engagement and Communication Subgroup action Plan for 2023-2024;

- The NHS targeted activity resulted in an increased attendance of staff at Adult Protection Case conferences ensuring that the right people were available for understanding risks and contributing to safety plans;
- Through additional resources for our Advocacy Services we changed our method of gathering the lived experience of adults at risk of harm and their families. This will ensure the voices of people experiencing harm are central and directly inform future service change;
- We delivered 9 bespoke Financial Harm training sessions to front line Police Officers which focused on the wider types of harm that are harder to identify and this has increased understanding of joint roles and therefore enhanced joint working between Social Work and Police partners when working together to protect individuals at risk of financial harm; and
- Improving responses for people with non-fatal overdoses referred under protective services through a pathway in place for direct service access. This includes new investment that has enhanced liaison services to include drug and alcohol presentations.

Ongoing partnership work with Public Protection colleagues with cross cutting themes and work streams. Examples include The Protection and Learning Team have revised the introduced an e-system to make training calendars and registration for training more accessible for partners, Joint Child Protection and Adult Protection Guidance on Learning Reviews that will align practice and support a consistent approach to sharing learning across partners and work has commenced on a public protection approach to Quality Assurance. This is building on our work that is underway with the Violence Against Women Partnership to understand better our response for women who are experiencing domestic violence and who have been identified as meeting the adult at risk of harm threshold. Further Joint work has included exploring ways for agencies to come together where people who are at serious risk of harm but do not meet criteria for adult support and protection can be considered and where possible offered further support so they do not fall through service gaps.

Pan Ayrshire Implementation of the revised National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021

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, with an agreement to a Pan Ayrshire set of Child Protection Procedures. As part of the process a wealth of self-evaluation activity had been undertaken by East Ayrshire Multi Agency Implementation Group to establish readiness and inform areas of work to be progressed, in line with the ask of the 2021 Guidance. The Child Protection Committee has supported the facilitation of a Pan Ayrshire implementation workshop, as well as the Procedures Writing Group. The Ayrshire CP Practitioner Procedures are currently out for consultation at this time. Aligned to the implementation of the revised National CP Guidance, child protection improvement work is also underway across multi agency partners, which is supported by the CPC, this encompasses work already mentioned in other areas of this action report in collaboration with multi agency partners.

Whole Family Approach (To Getting Our Priorities Right)

The Scottish Government, in December 2021 published Families Affected by Drug and Alcohol Use in Scotland, A Framework for Holistic Whole Family Approaches and Family Inclusive Practice. This document marked out the promise of the Scottish Government to take a different approach to supporting children and their families affected by problem parental drug and / or alcohol use.

The Scottish Government commitment to investing £500 million in a Whole Family Wellbeing Fund over the course of this Parliament, giving families access to the help they need, where and when they need it. The governments long-term ambition is that from 2030, at least 5% of all community-based health and social care spend will be invested in preventative whole family support measures.

Within East Ayrshire early access to funds have supported the implementation of the Helping Everyone At the Right Time model of community based work. With the progress of this work, East Ayrshire's Getting Our Priorities Right – Good Practice Guidance for Working with Children and Families affected by Substance Use underwent scrutiny and review via the Children and Young People Strategic Partnership during late 2022.

Recognising the landscape of working with children and their families affected by problem drug and / or alcohol use was shifting to be family inclusive, under the HEART model, the practitioner's guidance was refreshed to reflect the ambition of the Whole Family Approach and Family Inclusive Framework.

A first draft of the East Ayrshire Whole Family Approach (to GOPR) Guidance was submitted to CYPSP and CPC members for consultation between March and April, the guidance was then issued to practitioners for further comment and overview. The final version of the agreed guidance was provided to the CYPSP in May and to the CPC on 06 June 2023 with both forums endorsing the practitioner's guidance.

The Learning and development activities around GOPR have not been delivered since the last refresh in 2016/17 and also need to be refreshed. Colleagues in Learning and Development have indicated their willingness to support the implementation which will be delivered via the HEART locality hubs to multi agency practitioners.

High Risk Vulnerable Young Person Group (HRVYPG)

The HRVYPG was established in May 2022 as a CPC subgroup. The group is 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 group are currently developing a multi-agency training pathway with Barnardos, for all professionals with the aim of raising practitioner awareness of child exploitation and the links with trafficking. This work is a key priority for the CPC for 2023/24. Work is ongoing to review current practice guidance and information with a view to updates these to reflect current research and practice.

Participation and Engagement CPC Subgroup

The CPC are currently seeking to re-establish the Participation and Engagement Subgroup in order to strengthen links with the East Ayrshire communities and share key safeguarding and child protection messages within and around East Ayrshire. Further update will be provided in due course.

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

SFRS are processing free from harm reduction officers within Scotland, with the hope of one being based with Ayrshire.

<p>S14: Facilitate effective action against offenders of domestic abuse, and improve the response and support provided for victims of domestic abuse and their families</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proactively support implementation of the East Ayrshire Violence Against Women Partnership Strategic Plan 2021-24 • 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 equipment in the home to mitigate any risk of fire raising for people experiencing domestic abuse 	<p>EVAWAP, 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</p>
<p>Violence Against Women Partnership The East Ayrshire Violence Against Women Partnership (EVAWAP) Strategic Plan 2021-24 is continuing to be implemented. The EVAWAP Strategic Plan monitoring report for 2022 was presented to the EVAWAP in February 2022. This demonstrates good levels of progress towards the outcomes in the Strategic Plan, with the majority of them having been achieved (61%) or partially achieved (28%). The Strategic Plan is due for renewal for 2024-27, the EVAWAP will undertake strategic self-assessment activity throughout 2023 supported by the National Violence Against Women Improvement Network which will inform the EVAWAP strategic plan 2024-27.</p> <p>Trauma Informed Contact & Care (TICC) On the 21st of September 2021 Trauma Informed Contact & Care (TICC) Initiative (previously referred to as Operation Encompass) was re-launched across Ayrshire Division. This is a unique Police and Education early intervention safeguarding and wellbeing partnership, which supports children and young people exposed to domestic abuse. Trauma Informed Contact and Care means that schools receive a notification from the police (Concern hub) before the start of the next school day when a child or young person has been exposed to a domestic abuse incident. This information then allows the school to ensure appropriate care is offered to help support the child’s wellbeing and at the same time recognise if any part of the academic curriculum that is due to be delivered in lessons could act as a trigger to the trauma the child or young person has been exposed to. Information on a domestic abuse incident sent to the school prior to the start of the school day allows for a compassionate, nurturing and supportive approach towards the child’s wellbeing.</p> <p>TICC is progressing well in East Ayrshire and agreement has been reached for it to continue in its current form with consideration being given to extending it to early years’ provision. Up to June 2022, 45 TICC forms were received from the police hub into schools which allowed them to support 62 children identified as potentially being affected by a domestic abuse incident. School staff follow the GIRFEC Child’s Pathway and Team around the Child and Request for Assistance processes to ensure the child receives an appropriate and proportionate response.</p>		

Introduction of Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)

The Ayrshire MARAC is now fully operational and a governance process is now in place involving the EAVAWP and all key stakeholders. Regular reporting processes into the EAVAWP are being developed. The learning & development aspect of MARAC will be integrated into the East Ayrshire Protecting People L&D Framework in 2023 so that the multi-agency workforce learning needs are addressed. Since being established, MARAC has discussed 46 cases with East Ayrshire with the majority of the referrals being from police or IDAAs (domestic abuse advocacy services).

Education Mentors In Violence Programme

The East Ayrshire school improvement plans integrate the Mentors Against Violence Prevention programme. Secondary schools are encouraged to add MVP into their School Improvement Plans. Staff and peer mentor MVP 2022/2023 training dates have been issued to schools. This matter has been discussed with the Head of Education/Chief Education Officer in East Ayrshire who is satisfied that the MVP programme will be taken forward with schools when this is possible.

All secondary schools participate in the peer education Mentors In Violence Programme (MVP) and White Ribbon events. Staff are trained and work with the Campus Police Officers and third sector partners to up skill senior pupils. The senior pupils then deliver VAW scenarios to their peers. St Joseph's Academy was part of the Equally Safe At School Project and plans are in place to encourage other schools to come on board. Primary schools are encouraged to deliver the Gender 10 programme. (PS)

SFRS / Risk Management Centre

The Risk Management Centre has provided fire retardant products for people at risk of fire raising as a result of domestic abuse. 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. SFRS are now fully imbedded in the MARAC partnership. Work is underway for the creation of safe spaces in Cumnock, Kilwinning and Ayr Community Fire Stations.

Safe & Together Implementation Plan – Phase 2 2021-22

The Safe & Together Lead Officer has been in post from 1 Sept 2022 and is working on the Safe and Together Implementation plan along with key stakeholders.

Safe & Together Core and Overview Training continued across the agencies. Planning for a multiagency Safe & Together Management session is underway, and refresher training is being developed with the request of practitioners trained in 2021.

The Case File Review undertaken in November 2022 did not provide a robust enough sample to understand application of the model to practice, it identified some use of the Safe and Together language but also that there remains more work to be done. A further Case File Review will be undertaken later in 2023 and this Review will solely focus on domestic abuse practice. Discussions are underway with the Safe & Together Institute to explore the feasibility of trialling their recently developed Auditing Tool.

A Champions group has been established. The next quarter will focus on building Champions' skills and confidence to facilitate individual and group forums.

Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland (DSDAS)

The Domestic Abuse Investigation and Safeguarding Team in Ayrshire continue to offer the victims in all domestic cases reported to Police Scotland in Ayrshire a follow up contact from the department. This important function has given a notable increase in victim confidence and the ability to discuss their situations, often made clearer after a short passage of reflection following the initial incident. It also offers the increased opportunity for third sector signposting and referral to partner agencies. This approach has seen an additional take up of police assistance, which otherwise may have been lost.

This confidence can be demonstrated in use of DSDAS which continues to show exponential growth in applications. For the first quarter of 2023 applications increased by 44% on the same quarter in the previous year. In terms of 2022/23 (April-March) there were 95 applications from partners and persons entering new relationships. Domestic Abuse Crimes in East Ayrshire in the same period fell by 6.3 % when compared with the 5 year average.

Action	Partnership Activity	Partners
S15 Proactive Partnership Activity to prevent unintended harm at home.	<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 a community home safety check to include advice and support around personal safety as well as environmental safety (a 'danger detectives' approach for adults) 	EAC ; SFRS, HSCP; NHS A&A; Police Scotland; Third Sector Partners.

Risk Management Centre (RMC)

RMC Operations	2022/23
Number of RMC operated community alarms	5,497
Number of RMC calls received	216,724
Number of times Mobile CCTV Vans utilised	312
Number of Tech Enabled Care systems operated	2,409
Number of Domestic Abuse Calls Responded To	806

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.

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS):

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 to staff members to provide them with an awareness of risks within people's homes and to identify issues. It also provides them with the ability to submit referrals to SFRS to carry out Home Fire Safety Visits 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 also assisting with the implementation of the falls strategy within East Ayrshire.

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

Respectme

As part of the second year of the respectme community project, pupils, parents and staff from several schools undertook the T4T training and then provided anti-bullying awareness inputs in their communities.

Action	Partnership Activity	Partners
S17 Raise awareness of cyber-crime and develop increased cyber resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support implementation of the Child Protection Committee Digital Resilience Action Plan • Circulate regular advice and warnings about current scams, utilising social media • Scope and identify vulnerable groups to promote safe use of digital media 	EAC Education; All

The Digital Resilience Action Plan

Progression of the Digital Resilience Action Plan, is monitored via the working group on a quarterly basis. Achievements include the development of regular internet safety posts via EA HSCP media platforms; the development and progression of EAC Cyber resilience and internet safety workshops; CEOP training, digital literacy running thread within the education curriculum; the launch of the Safer Schools app (2020) to empower and inform parents about their child's online activity; and a parental virtual session for raising awareness and to support them to support their Young Person.

EA Youth Chat initiative

Vibrant Communities staff continue to promote safe and appropriate behaviours for young people when online. This includes risk taking behaviours that can lead to media being shared, causing distress and angst to many young people who are affected by this. Staff make young people aware of the consequences of such behaviours.

Cyber Resilience:

In 2021/22 saw the first cohort of schools to complete the new EAC Cyber Resilience and Internet Safety Modules. 10 schools completed the series of modules with a focus on upskilling staff and ensuring parents and carers are informed and empowered.

Safer Schools Scotland App

During 2022/23 the Safer Schools Scotland App, developed by iNEQE Safeguarding Group and funded by Zurich Municipal, has been introduced for parents and carers of children and young people attending all East Ayrshire establishments.

The app, which has been designed by safeguarding experts to educate, empower and protect school communities; provides news, a calendar for events, essential updates and information for parents and carers, but also contains vital safeguarding information. The online safety centre will ensure that parents and carers know how to safely support their child or young person's online activity including learning

how to block, report and set safety and privacy settings on popular online platforms like Tik Tok and Snapchat. All establishments also get access to online safety shareables and resources through award-winning online Teach and Home Learning Hubs.

S18 Enhanced partnership activity to protect vulnerable people from fraud & financial harm

- 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.

Police Scotland; EAC Trading Standards and Housing and Communities and Education; H&SCP, NHS A&A, Ayrshire College, Adult Protection Committee, CAB and other third sector partners, Independent Care Sector; Youth and Elderly Forums

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 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. Joint visits are planned 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.

Police Officers across Ayrshire have recently had inputs from the 3 local authority areas in relation to Financial Harm. A number of partner inputs were delivered alongside a case study and appraisal in terms of Joint Working, expectations etc.

Bespoke Financial Harm training was delivered to Police Scotland across Ayrshire during February 2023. In the reporting period 26 men and 32 women were referred under the category of financial/material harm. This equated to a total of 11% of overall referrals.

Police Scotland’s Partnership and Community Safety Officer has continued to work with East Ayrshire Trading Standards during 2022/23 as part of a joint approach and social media strategy to highlight fraudulent crimes attributed to bogus workman who target vulnerable

members of the community. Going forward, this project is also looking to bring a 'Scam Van' to local communities to raise awareness of frauds and scam.

Connect Call (CVO)

CVO East Ayrshire's Connect Call aims to improve socialisation within the community by connecting people for a chat. We aim to signpost people to services and groups which would have a positive impact. Our fantastic team of volunteers provide a free, confidential service offering friendship and support to people in East Ayrshire who may live alone and experience isolation or are just in need of a friendly chat.

Connect Call has continued to respond to the issue of loneliness and isolation among our older population. The Connect Call Team have settled into Belford Mill and are benefiting from having their own dedicated space.

We have also successfully recruited a Connect Call Support Worker through the Long-Term Unemployed Wage Incentive who works alongside the Volunteer Partnership Manager and Lead Volunteer.

Volunteers have undertaken a range of training including Report Writing, First Aid and Monitoring and Evaluation.

Connect Call currently has 12 volunteers who undertake to do at least one three-hour shift on either a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. The volunteer team deliver 210 calls weekly, and clients range from 29 to 102 years of age.

Connect Call Case Feedback

"Thank you so much for your weekly call, especially as I don't see many folk. The others I see are carers or nurses which don't always have time to chat, so I am very appreciative of you girls phoning on Thursdays."

"To the lovely ladies of Connect Call who give something back for me on Tuesdays, a very special day for me. In my age and circumstance they don't come around often, so greater the appreciation. So thank you."

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

As part of their Internet awareness lessons schools cover fraud & financial harm risks. Through Scottish Government funded devices, all primary and secondary educated young people have access to a digital device they can use at home.

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.

Action	Partnership Activity	Partners
<p>S19 Improve understanding and responses to hoarding across partner agencies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roll out of Ayrshire Wide Hoarding Guidance and related multi-agency training; • SFRS Home Safety visits to support people with hoarding issues to live as safely as possible in their homes • Delivery of CVO 'Cleaning with a Conscience' Service. 	<p>HSCP; NHS A&A; EAC Housing & Communities, and Education; SFRS, CVO.</p>

Ayrshire Wide Hoarding Guidance

Ayrshire Wide Hoarding Guidance training took place from 1 April – 31 December 2022.

Learning from a previous Significant Case Review has been developed and multi-agency sessions have been disseminated, including a 7 minute briefing designed to support services to have conversations about how the learning may impact upon their own services and practice.

Future Planning

The EAAPC Improvement Sub Group will undertake a deep dive audit with relevant partners to better understand increased trend of self-neglect which will also give consideration as to whether hoarding is a factor. The findings of this will be reported through the EAAPC Improvement Plan and the Safer Communities Delivery Plan.

Cleaning with a Conscience

Cleaning with A Conscience has now rolled out across Ayrshire and has received referrals from a number of partner agencies and direct from families affected by hoarding behaviours. SFRS are now linking in with Cleaning With A Conscience to identify and engage with clients who would benefit from a Home Safety Visit. Unfortunately this service is on hold at the moment as we seek funding to move to a subsidised services as cost was proving to be barrier to those most in need. Further updates will be provided as this work progresses.

Action	Partnership Activity	Partners
<p>S20 Enhanced partnership activity to protect vulnerable people from the cost of living crisis across the 6 themes identified at the 22 September 2022 spotlight session i.e. Food, Energy, Money, Community, Wellbeing and Business</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partners will support the delivery and expansion of the work stream, cost of living crisis delivery plan as agreed by Council on the 27 October 2022: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Food, ○ Energy / Fuel ○ Money ○ Community ○ Wellbeing ○ Business 	<p>All</p>
<p>Cost of Living At Cabinet on 22 September 2022 following extensive consultation with elected members, community planning partners and community groups East Ayrshire agreed that partners should respond to and provide help / support to local communities with the cost of living crisis.</p> <p>At Cabinet partners identified and agreed six key themes, they are: Food, Money, Fuel/Energy, Community, Business and Wellbeing against which funding would be provided.</p> <p>Subsequently an extensive Communications Campaign was launched in East Ayrshire to help tackle the cost of living crisis.</p> <p>East Ayrshire Council subsequently approved a funding package of £3.125m to progress a range of partnership initiatives linked to the cost of living action plan that was agreed at Council on 27 October 2022.</p> <p>In recognition of the growing crisis, a Cost of Living Officers Group was established to coordinate our local response under the joint leadership of the Depute Chief Executive and the Head of Wellbeing and Recovery.</p> <p>A Cost of Living Strategic Oversight Group was also established to oversee the delivery of agreed actions, ensuring a rapid and targeted response.</p> <p>During 2022/23 £1.267m of the £3.125m has been spent on tackling the Cost of Living.</p> <p>A summary of the spend against the agreed themes for 2022/23 is set out below.</p>		

Theme	Funding Allocation (£)	Spend to Date (£)	Amount Remaining (£)
Money	£1,196,400	£954,410	£241,990
Energy / Fuel (including Community)	£760,000	£540,292	£219,708
Food	£184,500	£64,000	£120,500
Wellbeing	£60,000	£23,200	£36,800
Business	£600,000	£40,000	£560,000
To be allocated	£324,100	£0	£340,500
Total	£3,125,000	£1,626,902	£1,858,108

Actions of note in 2022/23 are:

- Of the 17 actions contained within the Cost of Living Action Plan - 3 actions were completed, 13 actions are on track, and 1 has been delayed;
- That 52% of the Cost of Living Budget has been spent in 2022/23; and
- That further detailed information on the progress of the Cost of Living Action Plan 2022/23 is available through the East Ayrshire Performs Report, the most recent Governance and Scrutiny Report, 14 June 2023 is available at the attached [link](#).