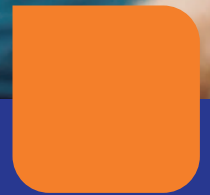
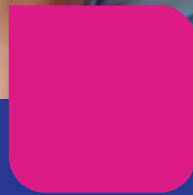
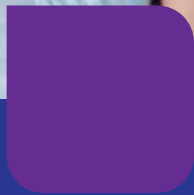




# ANGUS COMMUNITY PLAN

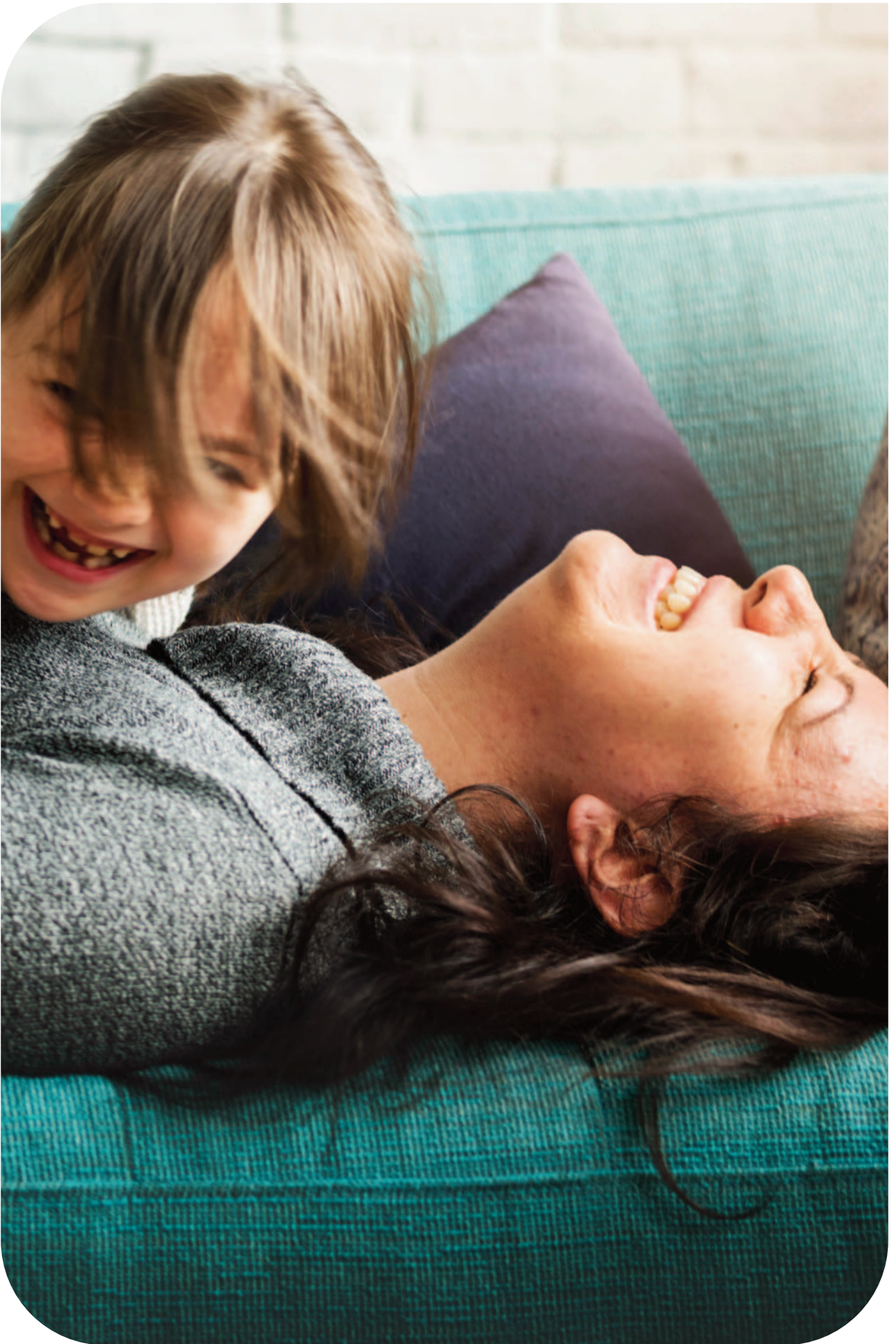


**Annual Performance  
Report  
2019/2020**



**ANGUS  
COMMUNITY  
PLANNING  
PARTNERSHIP**





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# Foreword

Our Community Plan covers the period 2017-2030 and focuses on our 3 priorities: -

- Reducing Child Poverty
- Improving Mental Health & Wellbeing
- Improving Accessibility & Connectivity

This performance report covers the period 30th June 2019 to 30th June 2020 and highlights the wealth of activity delivered to achieve the Community Planning vision. This report also outlines the work undertaken in response to the recent COVID-19 pandemic.



The Angus Community Planning Partnership Board and the Executive group are determined to make significant progress in the coming year and commit to incorporating the learning which has come from the pandemic, taking this forward into our future work. We all agree that we need to increase the pace of change, align our resources to tackle our priority issues and see real progress towards our targets. We expect to see lasting effects on society from COVID-19 which will change the way we deliver our priorities in the long term however partners all agree that there is also a real opportunity to take some positive steps from our recent experiences.

The communities within Angus have played a crucial part during the pandemic to help and support each other. This gives a solid foundation for the Angus Community Planning Partnership to continue to support these relationships and help them flourish.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Gibson'.

**Scott Gibson**

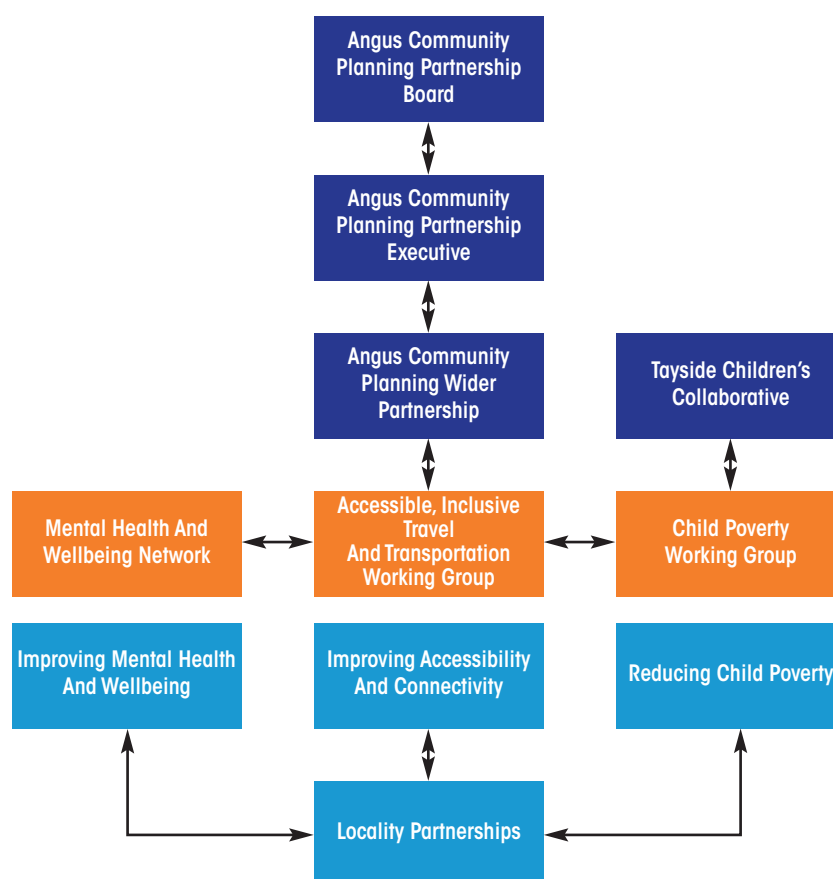
Chair Community Planning Partnership  
Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

# Our partnership

The Angus Community Planning Partnership operated under a three-tier model during this performance reporting period – Community Planning Board, Community Planning Executive and wider Community Planning Partnership. Based on the learning from the COVID-19 pandemic we are working hard to review our partnership and ensure it is fit for purpose in the medium to long term.

Throughout 2019/20 we have worked hard to deliver the combined action plan for all three priorities and agree indicators to better show the impact of the partnership's work, however from February to June 2020 this has been disrupted.

Efficiency continues to be an important factor in the Partnership work, and we need to ensure that our efforts and resources, wherever possible, are directed at the issues the citizens of Angus tell us are the most important to them. In order to do this, we ensured that any opportunities to consult with relevant individuals and communities were actively pursued by all partner organisations. This report outlines those efforts and what actions have already taken place as a result or are planned to take place in the future.



Working with partners across the Tay Cities Region and targeting those most in need of support has continued to shape the Community Planning work in Angus providing a dynamic and flexible approach – this resulted in a lot of innovative work throughout the pandemic. This will be reflected in the next performance report.



# Legislative context

Fairer Scotland Duty is now firmly established into the policy planning within the Partnership by Community Planning representatives working closely with the Improvement Service and participating in webinars and national events. This has led to an integrated impact assessment being developed in Angus.

## **Community Empowerment Act**

The “Strategic Scrutiny Group,” which brings together the main public sector scrutiny bodies in Scotland have pulled together a report on the Community Empowerment Act. The report identified 5 Key Principles for Community Empowerment:

- Principle 1 – Community control
- Principle 2 – Public sector leadership
- Principle 3 – Effective relationships
- Principle 4 – Improving outcomes
- Principle 5 – Accountability

These principles very much align to the work underway in Angus through the Community Planning Partnership and within our communities. This performance report outlines some of the work that has been done to empower our communities and build local capacity.

## **Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017**

Our priority to reduce child poverty has aligned to the statutory requirement to develop an Angus joint Child Poverty Local Action Plan. This plan was underpinned by evidence and significant consultation was undertaken to ensure that the best possible outcomes were developed. The plan was approved by Angus Council and the Community Planning Board in May 2019 and has shaped activity over the past year. The plan can be viewed at

[https://www.angus.gov.uk/community\\_empowerment/planning\\_for\\_the\\_future/planning\\_for\\_the\\_future\\_of\\_angus/delivery\\_on\\_key\\_1](https://www.angus.gov.uk/community_empowerment/planning_for_the_future/planning_for_the_future_of_angus/delivery_on_key_1)

## **Risk register**

Our Partnership reviewed the risk register in February 2020 in order to mitigate against some potential challenges. Due to COVID-19 this is now reviewed monthly and tabled at every meeting with updates from representatives of the Local Resilience Partnership. The register can be viewed here: -

[https://www.angus.gov.uk/community\\_empowerment/planning\\_for\\_the\\_future/planning\\_for\\_the\\_future\\_of\\_angus/the\\_angus\\_community](https://www.angus.gov.uk/community_empowerment/planning_for_the_future/planning_for_the_future_of_angus/the_angus_community)

## **COSLA blueprint for Scottish local government**

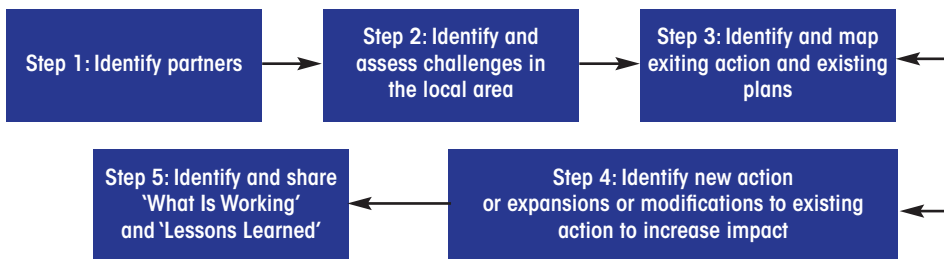
For 2020/2021 the blueprint will allow local government to build around an ambitious vision for Scotland's future - one based on the empowerment of people and communities. The document has been framed around six themes;

- Strengthening local democracy
- Funding services and communities
- Wellbeing – including health and social care
- Education and children and young people
- Economy and the environment
- Supporting vulnerable communities



# Delivering on the priorities

The Partnership have continued to develop the Scottish Government five step guidance model. This has provided consistency and ensures we are working to a process of continuous improvement: -



This process gives the Community Planning Partnership a consistent and evidence-based approach. For each of our priorities there is a working group driving forward the actions (shown in the summary diagram) and reporting into the Community Planning Partnership.

Alongside the work to deliver our priorities there is also a short life strategic group working to develop the governance and future delivery model of the Partnership.

The Community Planning continuous improvement plan was developed through a self-assessment workshop. The responses were put into themes which included Communication, Resource, Configuration of partnership, Delivery, Culture, Performance and links to localities. This will link to the new governance structure being explored and can viewed at [https://www.angus.gov.uk/community\\_empowerment/planning\\_for\\_the\\_future/planning\\_for\\_the\\_future\\_of\\_angus/the\\_angus\\_community\\_planning\\_partnership](https://www.angus.gov.uk/community_empowerment/planning_for_the_future/planning_for_the_future_of_angus/the_angus_community_planning_partnership)





## Our performance

As well as the work undertaken to deliver actions under our three priorities there have been a number of key Partnership successes:-

The Community Planning Hub was opened on 28th January 2020. This new shared space within Voluntary Action Angus (VAA) headquarters aims to give partners across Angus an opportunity to increase engagement and partnership working. Initial tests of this approach were carried out in October as part of the Child Poverty work with great effect therefore this change to the way partners work together is exciting and presents many opportunities.



The Angus CPP Period Poverty campaign has grown and become 'Free Period Angus' with the aim of eradicating period poverty in Angus by 2021. We produced a video showing one of our locations <https://youtu.be/lx7MK93zOjs>

Angus CPP membership of Water Safety Scotland has led to additional activity around suicide prevention on our waterways. A local group was awarded funding through the locality participatory budgeting process was able to incorporate safety warning and emergency services advice as part of the new promotional sign, booklets and online content for Arbroath cliffs. Water Safety Scotland aims to reduce accidental drowning deaths in Scotland by 50 per cent by 2026, being coastal and with a number of waterways in Angus this is a key area for preventative action.

The Angus CPP Transforming Services work has brought key partners and service providers together with great results regarding the delivery of grants and contracts. The group developed a charter which can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rU7vb8iXuF8&feature=youtu.be>

Scottish Fire & Rescue in partnership with ENABLE developed a great partnership approach to supporting young people in Angus through providing support and life skills training. This included personal appearance, first aid and mock interviews all designed to prepare participants for employment.

In this reporting period the Angus Community Planning Partnership has provided input for 32 local and national consultations including Regional Mental Health & Wellbeing strategy, EU Government Bill, Public Health Scotland, COVID resilience and Climate Change Duty.



# Reducing child poverty

Throughout 2019/20 the Angus CPP and the Angus Child Poverty working group have continued to take part, lead and report on the work underway at both local and regional level to achieve our aim.

However due to the pandemic planned initiatives have been suspended; for many months face-to-face work ceased or was restricted to digital contact; vulnerable children and families have been less visible and unable to access the support they need; and families are having to manage increased financial hardship, many for the first time.

The pandemic is not over. Much evidence of its impact on child poverty is only starting to come to light and its legacy is likely to be felt for many years to come. In the short-to-medium-term we predict an increase in child poverty in Angus as household finances are put under increased strain and unemployment increases.

ACPP is however determined “not to let a good crisis go to waste”.

Coronavirus and how partners have worked together, initially to respond, and now to recover, reimagine and renew, is acting as a catalyst to enable a step-change in our collective efforts to reduce child poverty. We are starting from a strong place and during 2019 many innovative and successful pieces of work were initiated. Examples include:

- Since its launch in May 2019, our online benefits calculator has confirmed current awards or identified unclaimed benefits of almost £7.5 million
- Great progress has been made in delivering the ACPP pledge to eliminate Period Poverty by 2021
- Our Hard Edges event gave a unique insight into the multiple barriers facing local people in poverty
- Angus Connect is a collective of third sector, public and community representatives working together to enhance efforts in delivering our priorities
- The My Views App has been co-developed with care experienced young people
- New referral pathways from midwives to advice services resulted in over £130k in financial gains in the first 6 months of the pilot for Angus citizens
- The Holiday Food and Fun collaboration received investment from Angus Council enabling this successful pilot to be mainstreamed

We are undeniably moving into uncharted waters as a result of COVID-19, but the partnership is stronger as a result of the pandemic and our commitment to tackling child poverty is equally stronger than ever.

We are also actively joining up major initiatives and investments to maximise the contribution they can make to reducing child poverty in Angus e.g. No One Left Behind, our Local Housing Strategy and the Tay Cities Deal.



We are undeniably moving into uncharted waters as a result of Coronavirus, but the partnership is stronger as a result of the pandemic and our commitment to tackling child poverty is equally stronger than ever. A joint impact report was developed highlighting the wide range of work delivered throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and highlights some of the first hand experiences within communities - <https://www.angus.gov.uk/sites/angus-cms/files/2020-09/217.pdf>

The regional cross cutting themes identified are still being delivered following the national event held in 2019; transport (rurality and cost), food poverty (growing, cooking and foodbanks) and welfare rights advice provision. [https://www.angus.gov.uk/community\\_empowerment/planning\\_for\\_the\\_future/planning\\_for\\_the\\_future\\_of\\_angus/tay\\_region\\_child](https://www.angus.gov.uk/community_empowerment/planning_for_the_future/planning_for_the_future_of_angus/tay_region_child)



## COVID-19: Impact of partnership working

The VAA and HAART are working with our Third Sector partners to deliver critical services and support for residents and businesses.

### Welfare and hardship support March - June 2020

Angus Carers Centre  
Brechin Pantry, Social  
Supermarket, Montrose  
Community Trust, Home  
Start Angus, Simmer  
Doon Soup and  
Deaflinks

supplied  
**32,520**  
food parcels, meals and  
vouchers

to  
**3,410**  
people



Citizens Advice Bureau  
gave advice on  
employment etc  
**1,013**  
times



Angus Carers Centre  
provided to households  
**£7,443**  
for food, utilities  
and digital



VAA/HAART  
organised  
**1,250**  
shopping deliveries  
through Soldo



VAA/HAART  
organised  
**2,315**  
prescription deliveries



Montrose  
Community Trust  
organised  
**24**  
medical appointments



## Case study: Priority - Reducing child poverty

### Touchpoint programme

Since its inception in February 2019, Reducing Child Poverty at Dundee & Angus College: Find Your Future has had significant success in generating positive outcomes for the young people we have supported. Through both project streams (12-week academies and community engagement), we have worked directly with young people; supporting and empowering them back into learning and progression.

Touchpoint was a true partnership approach to supporting young people. Throughout the life of the project many partners were involved including Angus Community Learning & Development, Angus Homestart, Angus Carers Centre, Skills Development Scotland, Job Centre Plus, Rathbone, Helm, 16+ Employability Programme (Angus Council provision), Tayside Council on Alcohol, Hillcrest Futures, Rocksolid Dundee and Arbroath Academy.

Through both strands, all young people were given opportunities to develop new, enhanced skills which in turn increased their overall wellbeing, confidence, interpersonal skills and self-efficacy; as well as their chances of gaining sustained employment.

When working with young people who have disengaged from school/are in the Not in Education or Employment Training Group, there is definite space for more informal ways of working. Our Touchpoint programme has:

- Encouraged socialisation and networking
- Boosted health and wellbeing
- Promoted personal development – confidence and self-efficacy
- Encouraged positive risk taking

To start with, the young people were affiliated with the college, but on their terms and on their timescales. Only after relationships and confidence were built, were we able to introduce the idea of full-time study/progression.

- 49 young people completed a Find Your Future 12-week academy, with 100% moving on to positive educational or employment destinations including part time/full time study, Princes Trust, Healthcare Academy or employment.
- Over 150 young people engaged in outreach activity, with 100 of them engaging initially in touchpoint activities and progressing to part time/full time study.

We have had real success with our outreach activity and our informal 'touchpoint' programme. Our Community Engagement Officers, working around the Dundee and Angus communities, have managed to engage young people in their local youth groups/ community groups, schools and through the care of other providers.

Young people have engaged in numerous, informal activities including campus tours, social education sessions, meet & greets with lecturers and other students, outward bound and wellbeing opportunities etc. Offering ongoing, 'soft touches' has been so impactful with young people who had not considered college as an option. The majority of young people who engaged in Touchpoints have successfully transitioned into part time or full time learning with us.

## Case study: Priority - Reducing child poverty

### Participatory budgeting: Choice for Angus

Participatory budgeting is a process of democratic decision-making, in which local people decide how to allocate part of the Council's budget. In Angus this was badged as 'Choice for Angus'. In total 144 groups across Angus were involved in developing projects/proposals for a share of £200,000.



144 proposals were received totalling £684,198.23 with suitable projects then being put forward for online voting and token voting at venues across Angus. As a result of the voting process, 71 projects received full funding and 4 projects received part funding. Throughout the localities the following projects were funded relating to 'Reducing Child Poverty': -

#### Arbroath

- Skilz Academy free sport and physical activity sessions
- A wheelchair swing at the West Links
- Purchase of a mobi access to provide stable access to the West Links
- Map, flyer and promotional video for Arbroath cliff walks
- Extension of free evening provision for primary pupils

#### Brechin

- Establish a breakfast club at Maisondieu Primary School
- Go Fitba a football-based programme for primary school kids
- Boxing registration fee and purchase of resources for Brechin Boxing Club

#### Carnoustie, Monifieth and Sidlaw

- Cinema Club for Muirhead & Birkhill Millennium Hall
- Signage for Safe Route to Birkhill Primary School

#### Montrose

- Establishment of MoHub a facility to include community café and gaming lounge
- Outdoor education opportunities to upskill pupils with Montrose Community Trust



## Forfar

- Social Supermarket support to premises rental
- Refrigerated display cabinet for Kidz Eat Free
- Free access to first experience of cricket 8 week programme
- Rental of premises for Strathmore Rugby Club Community Trust for Autism rugby programme
- Equipment for people with disabilities to play cricket
- Equipment for Friday afternoon Teen Café at the Campus
- Paving to provide wheelchair access to Angus Creative Minds garden space
- Equipment and breakfast items for uniform pop up shop
- Funding support to Social Supermarket website
- One to one therapy sessions from a mental health nurse
- Easter sports club and lunches for primary children

## Kirriemuir

- New kitchen in youth project
- Unplugged project. Guided visits with rangers and planting educational programme
- Equipment, materials and accommodation to run 12 skills share crafternoons
- One to one therapy sessions from a mental health nurse
- Subsidised All Stars introductory cricket programme for those on low incomes

## Newtyle

- Newtyle Community Spring Fair
- Nurture garden, Playgroup
- Physical/social activity equipment
- Welfare committee group activities

## Inverarity

- School trip to Newton Farm
- Buddy Bench for school

## Glamis

- community Cinema
- Friendship club
- Materials to build ramps for inclusion for the Scout Hall

More detail on the participatory budgeting process is shown on the Locality Updates section.

# Improving mental health and wellbeing

Leading on this work is the Angus Mental Health and Wellbeing Network. The Network has encompassed the previous stand-alone Suicide Prevention Service. The Network has continued to grow throughout 2019/2020, and comprises of statutory and third sector providers, service users and carer representatives from the whole mental health spectrum, including children, adult and older people. Its vision for Angus is to support:

- All agencies working together to promote prevention and early intervention opportunities and activities
- Service improvements
- Effective links with other strategic planning groups including the Angus Health and Social Care Partnership, Stakeholder Participation Group and the Tayside Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy Board

The aim of the Network is to achieve the best outcome possible for the citizens of Angus in relation to all aspects of mental health and wellbeing, including suicide prevention. An example of the Network's success to date has been co-ordinating financial support to third sector organisations to increase their capacity as a consequence of COVID-19. The work of the Network is influenced by the National Mental Health Strategy 2017–2027, the National Suicide Prevention Action Plan August 2018 and the Angus HSCP Strategic Commissioning Plan. Key developments over the reporting period include:

**Co-occurring Mental Health and Substance Use (Co-morbidity)** - Angus has established an improvement project to address the needs of people with co-occurring mental health and substance use problems who experience challenges to accessing specialist services

**Enhanced Community Support for Community Mental Health Services** - Following an engagement exercise with the North East Cluster Group it was agreed to review the community mental health team model, with all GPs supporting piloting a new primary/secondary model.

**Advanced Nurse Practitioners and Senior Social Work Practitioners** - Community Mental Health Services have introduced two new roles to meet the changing needs of people who use their service. Within the last 12 months they have appointed two Advanced Nurse Practitioners (ANPs) and two Social Work Senior Practitioners.

**Peer Support** - There is now a mental health and wellbeing peer worker in every GP Practice in Angus alongside the social prescribing network managed through Voluntary Action Angus.

**Listen Learn Change** - Listen Learn Change is the Action Plan for mental health services in Tayside in response to 'Trust and Respect' Independent Inquiry Report (February 2020).

Prior to COVID-19, Angus Mental Health Services were progressing a number of strategic developments reflecting changes to public expectations, economic pressures and the need to modernise our workforce strategies. A number of external service inspections of Angus and Tayside’s services as well as COVID-19 have reinforced the need that all agencies and communities work together to develop a ‘Whole Population Approach’ to managing our collective response to delivering different approaches for improving mental health and wellbeing outcomes in the future.

[https://www.angus.gov.uk/community\\_empowerment/planning\\_for\\_the\\_future/planning\\_for\\_the\\_future\\_of\\_angus/delivery\\_on\\_key\\_2](https://www.angus.gov.uk/community_empowerment/planning_for_the_future/planning_for_the_future_of_angus/delivery_on_key_2)

We want all our children, citizens and communities to be Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Respected & Responsible and Included partners the opportunity to explore their role in delivering on the priority -

[https://www.angus.gov.uk/community\\_empowerment/planning\\_for\\_the\\_future/planning\\_for\\_the\\_future\\_of\\_angus/delivery\\_on\\_key\\_2](https://www.angus.gov.uk/community_empowerment/planning_for_the_future/planning_for_the_future_of_angus/delivery_on_key_2)

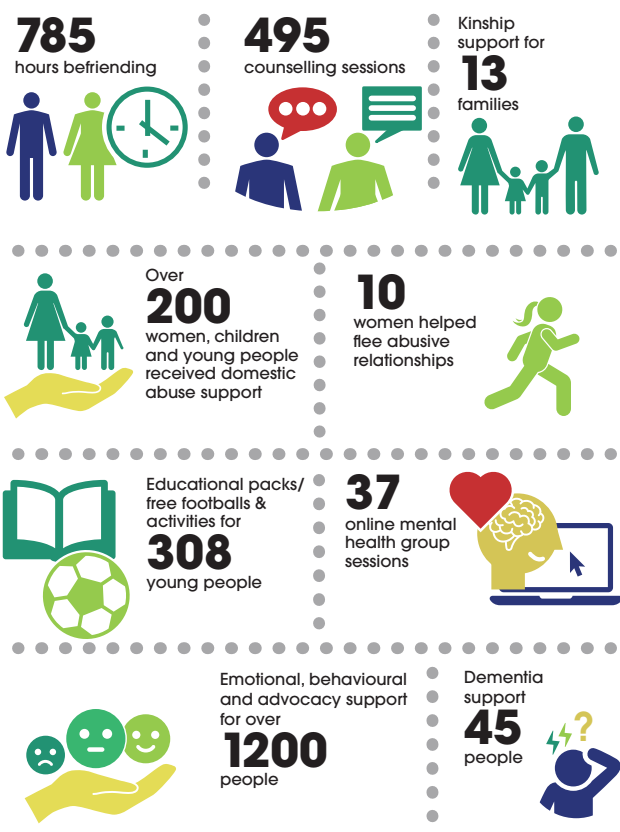
## COVID-19: Impact of partnership working

The VAA and HAART are working with our Third Sector partners to deliver critical services and support for residents and businesses.

### Mental health and wellbeing

March - June 2020









## Case study: Priority - Improving mental health and wellbeing:

### Free Period Angus

Throughout this reporting period the Community Planning Partners have worked towards delivering the vision – to eradicate period poverty in Angus by the end of 2021. An action plan was co-produced which was delivered throughout the year.



To follow up the group came back together to work on increased activity that would help to deliver the vision and reach more people.

To do this it was decided to create a localised brand and targeted campaign called Free Period Angus across social media with help from Jigsaw Media. Free Period Angus has been a great asset in supporting people throughout the COVID-19 pandemic - <https://www.facebook.com/FreePeriodAngus/>

A key message the group and local communities have been championing is 'Period dignity' which has led to groups, businesses and local people talking openly about menstrual wellbeing and period poverty. Through Facebook, Instagram and local events the dialogue has continued to grow and those who might have been reluctant to talk about their health are now engaged and participating in support groups – this includes a menopause café, red tent events and an endometriosis regional group. All of these groups are helping people to manage their own conditions and has improved their quality of life:

"Before attending the workshops, I didn't feel it was appropriate to talk about periods and the menopause. The group has not only made me feel welcome, but I have found new ways of managing my long-term health condition".

The educational element to the project has been extremely useful in engaging people of all ages. This along with targeted surveys has increased the range of services and information provided. From the initial offering of free products throughout Angus there are now a variety of products available in essential locations or delivered direct to the door. Throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic Free Period Angus distributed 106 menstrual cups and 4,200 packets of pads and tampons. It has also provided a space for people to post messages, meet people with similar conditions and learn more about the services available throughout Angus.

Throughout 2019/20, 37,942 pads and 27,676 tampons have been distributed. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic 780 people have signed up to have 3 months of products delivered direct to their door. Our health visitors also distribute our products on their round to patients and vulnerable groups – a key area of success has been linking in with support groups for example Breast Buddies to reach key minority groups and ensure that everyone has access to products.

Alongside the distribution of products, a Period and Menopause Policy was developed and launched in Angus on 18th October 2019. This policy is aimed at ensuring that employees are given support throughout periods and menopause. This was one of the very first of its kind in Scotland.

As part of the initial Free Period Angus engagement a survey was carried out which had over 928 responses. This allowed us to gauge the extent of period

poverty in Angus and how to support those most in need. Key learning from the development of Free Period Angus includes an understanding that communities and people need to be at the heart of this activity and the planning of services. Co-production and co-design have ensured that the provision has made the impact needed to work towards eradicating period poverty and supporting those most in need.

## **Case study: Priority - Reducing child poverty**

### **Bill's story**

Bill is 63. He has recently been made redundant from his job as a lathe operator - which he'd held for thirty years. Bill has severe health problems, mainly breathlessness and uses a walking aid. He has been assessed through a Personal Identification Payment as able to work at a desk job. Bill has dyslexia, has limited reading skills and is unable to write much more than his name and address.

Bill's agreement with Job Centre Plus is that he searches and applies for five jobs each week. At the Learning Shop, Bill receives help to access his Universal Credit journal, read letters from employers and JCP staff notes and apply for jobs. Although staff at the learning shop were initially alarmed by Bill's poor health and difficulty in getting to job interviews etc they are impressed by his positive attitude. In his own words he doesn't see himself as 'finished yet'.

Things were going well until Bill received a letter from his housing association telling him that he was £130 in arrears with his rent. When staff read the paperwork to him, they discovered that one year previously his rent had increased by £10 each month. At that time Bill was unable to use his Universal Credit journal and did not know that he had to inform UC of the increase through this. Bill was now in debt and had no money to pay his arrears.

Bill was supported by a partnership of Learning shop, JCP and the local housing association to understand how the situation with his housing arrears had come about and to negotiate longer term payment of arrears with his housing association.

Bill is now able to independently access, understand and use the part of his Universal Credit journal that relates to finance and this has enabled him to have control of his own finances. Bill has learned to do this using his mobile phone. (Bill occasionally needs support with some reading and writing tasks and drops into the Learning Shop as needed).

### **Learning points**

Increasingly, the public are being asked to communicate with agencies online (this is often crucial, financial information). This is especially difficult for people who have poor reading, writing difficulties and who, often do not have, and are unfamiliar with digital devices.

In Bill's case, as with many others, he was unable, not unwilling, to communicate information online and this caused his rent arrears.



## **Case study:** Priority - Improving mental health and wellbeing:

### **Crowdfund Angus**

Since its launch in 2015 Crowdfund Angus as part of Angus Council has helped build stronger communities in Angus. Angus Council Funding Officers are trained crowdfunding coaches and through a combination of providing expert advice, running successful events and providing grant funding through the Angus Council Community Grant Scheme have supported projects to reduce child poverty, improve mental health and increase accessibility and connectivity.

### **Angus Creative Minds**

A group of like-minded creatives first met in November 2018 when they decided they wanted to participate in the Scottish Mental Health Arts Festival and to hold an exhibition in North East Scotland. The group of artists successfully held an exhibition called "A Celebration of Creativity". Recognising how much creativity can improve mental health and wellbeing the group formally formed Angus Creative Minds in March 2019 with the vision to create a centre to benefit health and wellbeing in Angus.

After many challenges, hard work and determination the group were successfully awarded funding that allowed their dreams to become reality. They secured premises in Forfar and opened their doors in October 2019 adapting the premises to welcome all members of the community.

In March 2020 using Crowdfund Angus they raised £2,417 to help cover core costs of rent, heating and electricity. This type of grant funding is challenging for organisations to secure but fundamental to ensure sustainability.



## **Voluntary Action Angus, Give Local - Give Angus campaign.**

When the COVID-19 pandemic reached Angus and started to have an impact the local community, Voluntary Action Angus (VAA) working with partner agencies immediately responded to the crisis by setting up a local volunteering network to support the most vulnerable in our communities. The network has provided a lifeline to many; volunteers have provided a shopping service based on need, collected and delivered prescriptions, arranged telephone befriending calls to help reduce loneliness and isolation as well as helped with travel to important appointments that could not be missed.

As the pandemic grip held it was clear that additional funding was required to help those most in need, it had been identified that many families did not have enough money to pay for weekly shopping. VAA launched the "Give Local - Give Angus" Crowdfunder campaign, all the money raised going directly to those most in need. The response to the campaign quickly exceeded the initial target of £15,000 allowing the target to be stretched to £30,000. Within 48 days an amazing £29,049 with 188 supporters was raised - the power of the Crowd.

Between June 2019 and June 2020 nine projects have been supported by the Crowdfund Angus portal raising £43,779 for Angus organisations, businesses and individuals and since the launch in 2015, 82 campaigns have appeared on the Crowdfund Angus portal raising a total of £268,392.



# Improving accessibility and connectivity

The priority of accessibility and connectivity underpins the other two priorities in terms of delivering activity around Angus.

The rural nature of Angus presents challenges both in terms of digital and physical access which if improved will help to reduce inequalities across the whole area. This work is led by the Accessible, Inclusive Travel and Transportation Working Group.

Digital broadband has seen some developments over the reporting period with the following projects underway:

- 1 Virgin Media fibre to be installed for 9,500 houses in Arbroath
- 2 Local full fibre installation through Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) Local Full Fibre Network – Arbroath/Forfar/Montrose/Brechin
- 3 Rural Broadband developments – £0.5M from Tay Cities Deal – Phase 1 - Arbroath/Montrose/Brechin.
- 4 Rural Broadband developments – £0.5M from Tay Cities Deal – Phase 1 - Mercury Programme area - Arbroath/Montrose/Brechin



# 155

devices (**90 iPads** and **65 Chromebooks**) were distributed through the Connecting Scotland programme



Regional transport issues are being explored alongside the poverty reduction work, and how solutions should incorporate the means to reduce and tackle inequalities while being aligned with aspirations, including for example, an active travel strategy. Delays had resulted for the impact of COVID-19; however, every part of the Strategy is aligned with Partnership policies. Key work underway to support this priority include:

Active and sustainable travel is a priority at national level with significant funding available on an annual basis through various programmes including:

- Places for Everyone (local authority and community funding streams)
- Smarter Choices Smarter Places (local authority and community funding streams)
- Cycling Walking Safer Street
- Safe Routes to Schools
- Community Links



## COVID-19: Impact of partnership working

The VAA and HAART are working with our Third Sector partners to deliver critical services and support for residents and businesses.

### Accessibility and other support March - June 2020

VAA sourced funding and funding support for third sector of

**£700,225**



Angus Carers Centre gave

**131**  
emergency payments to  
**59**  
carers



Angus Women's Aid delivered

**111**  
tablets to children and young people



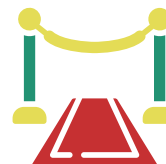
Angus SEN gave support to

**86**  
organisations



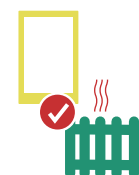
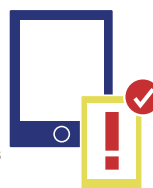
and events supported by

**13**  
organisations



Deaflinks provided

**13**  
devices and emergency mobile top ups



Homestart Angus provided

**7**  
mobile and fuel top ups



Also more recently national funding was made available to Local Authorities as part of the Covid response under Spaces for People to assist with allocating space for social distancing and active travel (cycling and walking) in local areas as a result of more people travelling by these means.

Angus Council has progressed a variety of projects through these workstreams over the years and has started to link up opportunities and work more closely with community groups. Governance of the active travel strategy by the CPP provides an opportunity to influence and use these as priority projects as a catalyst to lever in further funding and opportunities to add value. For example the ongoing Arbroath Places for Everyone will see road space re-allocated to active travel space but other key aspects are the amount of open space that it could potentially free up (highlight the role that access to these spaces can add to wellbeing) and its role in helping to encourage people to make behaviour changes that can improve their overall health.

[https://www.angus.gov.uk/community\\_empowerment/planning\\_for\\_the\\_future/planning\\_for\\_the\\_future\\_of\\_angus/delivery\\_on\\_key\\_3](https://www.angus.gov.uk/community_empowerment/planning_for_the_future/planning_for_the_future_of_angus/delivery_on_key_3)



## Case study: Priority - Improving accessibility and connectivity

### Angus on the Go

Angus Council was successfully awarded £306,500 from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and Transport Scotland Low Carbon Travel & Transport Challenge Fund (LCTT) to develop an Electric Charging Hub based at Orchardbank, Forfar. Match funding of £144,000 has been provided by Angus Council to meet the £450,500 total project costs.



Angus on the Go is a strategic approach to low carbon developments linking in with the Active Travel Strategy and improving accessibility and connectivity to EV charging hubs on the A90 between Aberdeen and Dundee. The project aims to encourage active and sustainable travel amongst local people, businesses and visitors while raising awareness of and access to low carbon technologies, supporting behaviour change, improved air quality, personal health and economic regeneration.

This will be achieved through the development of an EV charging hub at Orchardbank in Forfar. The hub will have four rapid chargers which allow 80% charging within 30 minutes, three fast chargers charging within a two to three hour period and two slow chargers that will fully charge within seven hours.

As the number of Electric Vehicles increases the Low Carbon Hub at Orchardbank is the ideal location to provide access to reliable low carbon refuelling services for the local community, business and leisure commuters.

The facility sits on the A90 corridor, the main north south route through Scotland and supports the regional development of EV charging stations.

Based on the outskirts of Forfar the facility will support residents who have made the change from diesel/petrol vehicles to EV technologies but do not have charging points near to their home as well as local businesses adapting fleets to EV models.

The main challenge to the project has been increased costs from time of application approval resulting in additional procurement exercises causing delays.

Also, due to COVID-19 and government restrictions on construction the build has suffered further delays by several months but has now commenced.

Outreach and educational events will be held for members of the public, businesses, visitors and potential investors to highlight the benefits of EV. These events will focus on low carbon awareness/active travel/benefits of electric vehicles.

## **The Cross**

It was proposed by the Third Sector and other partners that a hub type facility would be a much welcomed asset to the community of Angus. This then began the journey of VAA purchasing The Cross in Forfar, the thinking behind The Cross was to provide a facility where Third Sector and statutory services can come together and be based within the same building.

The main benefits of agencies and services being under the one roof was to improve the experience of community members E.g. if someone was experiencing challenges with their mental health and wellbeing and had an appointment with one of the organisations within the building, it is then much easier to refer the individual on to VAA for example if they were also interested in volunteering. This reduced waiting times and provided the best possible service to the community.

The Cross was officially opened on 8th November 2019 and was at full capacity almost immediately VAA now co-locate with 15 other organisations who have a permanent base within the premises and many others who prefer to hot desk. The organisations and services based within the building range from the Glen Isla Project to Penumbra, there's a very large mix of organisations which is a great opportunity for all involved.

As part of this development it was decided in 2019 that the Angus Community Planning Partnership would have a presence within The Cross. On 28th January the hub was launched and, in the period, up to lockdown has several partners accessing it and working together within the space on joint projects. It is hoped this will re-open in 2021 in line with Scottish Government guidelines.

VAA continues to explore ways in which The Cross, can deliver innovative and much needed collaborative service delivery, available to people at weekends and evenings. This work spans both HSCI and CPP involving dialogues with Third Sector, Angus Council, HSCI, Police and Fire and Rescue Service.

When lockdown began Voluntary Action Angus led on a radical re-design of service delivery in Angus. A new initiative was started called Angus Connect which brought all organisations together in order to build the capacity of the third sector and actively promote the services on offer. This allowed the partnership to reach people most in need of support and ensure no one went without vital services/food/medicines. The partnership approach to COVID-19 was based within the Cross and that initial work to being partners into this space provided a solid base for the essential services to be delivered.

# Locality updates

Under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 we were required to develop locality plans for places where people experience inequalities. In Angus we decided on four locality plans to cover the whole county so that everyone has the opportunity to get involved in shaping their own community.

The updates from our four Locality Implementation Partnerships (LIP) who lead on delivery of each area's Locality Plan and Action Plan for this reporting period are below:-

There are four Locality Partnerships (LP) who lead on delivery of each area's Locality Plan and Action Plan. For the 2019/20 financial year each of the LPs were allocated £50k to take forward a process of participatory budgeting (PB) for their area. This provided the main focus of activity for the reporting period.

PB is a process that gives local people real power to influence how part of a public budget is spent. It's about encouraging and assisting local people to identify, discuss and prioritise issues in their communities and make decisions about how to improve the things that matter most in those communities.

PB activity in Angus to this point had largely been focussed on a small grants model in limited areas. A key objective in extending the process out to the LPs was to support PB awareness and development in advance of the requirement for 1% of Angus Council's mainstream budget to be subject of direct public decision-making. Whilst guidance was issued to each of the partnerships setting some parameters there was flexibility for each of the LPs to develop and design a process to suit their approach.

This was the first time that many of the partners and members of the community had been involved in and heard about PB. One of the early lessons learned from the work was the amount of time and resource required to assist in this understanding and challenge of a shift from thinking about PB in a small grants context to its role in engaging and involving members of the community in prioritising the use of public sector resource.

## **Definition of Mainstream PB**

“ *Proactively involving and engaging local people in making decisions for how public money is spent in their community. This means engaging people in the design of policy and strategy that eliminates existing participation gaps. It is a process of deliberative dialogue that allocates resources in a way that delivers shared and individual outcomes because of direct community participation in the decision making process. There is a clear demonstration of individual and community need in final service delivery that creates meaningful outcomes.* ”



One advantage of the flexibility in the processes taken forward by each of the LPs was the different learning points from each. In developing ideas for the use of PB funding some LPs elected to hold events across their locality to engage with communities around the locality plan priorities and ideas they may have to address these, others focussed on learning events around the priorities themselves and bring together groups to encourage collaboration on proposals. A more widespread call for ideas was also utilised in some partnership areas to provide the opportunity for any group to submit proposals either online or through specific application forms.

Each partnership elected to split the funding allocation differently within their area:

Arbroath Locality: There was no split of the funding allocation and no limit to the level of funding that could be applied for.

Brechin/Montrose Locality: Funding was equally split with £25k available for project in Brechin and £25k for projects in Montrose. Applications for larger projects could be submitted up to £21,700.

Carnoustie/Monfieith/Sidlaw Locality: There was no split of the funding allocation and no limit to the level of funding that could be applied for. Projects were submitted to and developed by the partnership.

Forfar/Kirriemuir Locality: The funding was split equally across the community council areas resulting in just over £6,250 for each area and applications invited between £300 and £1,000.

The process certainly generated significant interest amongst communities with 149 proposals put forward totalling just over £698k. These were evaluated by the Partnerships with 113 proposals proceeding to the public vote in February where residents received 3 votes to vote on their top 3 projects.

The voting process itself was undertaken in venues across the area and also online where the main bulk of votes were cast.

The process itself certainly raised awareness of the different groups and activities operating within local communities and provided funding for 75 projects.

PB certainly provided a focus for partnership activity across the year and increased awareness and understanding across members of the partnership helping to enhance engagement with communities. The different processes also provided some key learning around the process itself to feed into the evaluation. Early feedback suggests that there was less of an awareness of the funds being linked to locality priorities than we might have hoped for and that it resulted in more of a small grants model.

Unfortunately implementation of the projects who received funding has been delayed due to Covid 19 and therefore the impact of these on locality plan priorities has not been evaluated.

## Shaping the future - Angus connect

At the Community Planning Joint meeting on 1st July 2020 the representatives agreed that to best address the priorities, we needed to review how we work and more importantly how we work together. The determining factor in how we work should be ensuring the right service reaches the right citizen when and where they need it and helping people to help themselves.

We have recently experienced a test of change in our response to the COVID-19 pandemic. A significant amount of assessment of this response has already been undertaken. The workshop programme set out below built on this and developed the evaluation into what our potential every day could look like: -

**Evaluate** - Selected attendees from partner organisations who have been working on the front line provided feedback, this work complemented the Social Renewal Advisory Board Listening events. Key areas for discussion included:

- why we achieved success
- whether we could have done this within our “normal” working practices (if not, why not?)
- what the barriers were that we may encounter moving forward

**Evolve** - Based on the output from the Evaluate workshops the Evolve session allowed key partners to participate in a session to build a proposal that would form the new approach to Community Planning and Partnership working in Angus. Key areas of discussion included:-

- Considering the Partnership priorities from the citizen point of view
- Clarifying barriers in our current working practice that could stop us achieving that and identifying what could and could not be changed. This could include National working practice of organisations, Governance restrictions, Performance reporting, Organisation policies and Behaviours

The third workshop ‘**Establish**’ will develop on the Evolve sessions and is an open invite developing the learning from the previous sessions. This includes:-

- Introduction to recovery streams (LRP, Angus Connect, Demand Management)
- Overview of work undertaken in workshops to date
- Discussion/challenge of proposals and recommendations on front line working in break out groups with facilitated questions
- Discussion on the resultant structure of CPP and reporting arrangements/ performance measurement
- Feedback and agreement on recommendations to be taken to Board

<b>Evaluate</b>	<p><b>Workshops and assessments have led to the following decisions:</b></p> <p>Joint Board/Exec meetings (dates to be arranged)</p> <p>Decision making process through written procedure is required</p> <p>Short Life Working Group to be re-established (Strategic and Frontline)</p>
<b>Evolve</b>	<p><b>The Short Life Working Group will now look to:</b></p> <p>Articulate common goals/purpose for the Partnership and Communities of Angus</p> <p>Engage with people and communities to examine required pathways</p> <p>Imagine future pathways</p>
<b>Establish</b>	<p><b>This will allow us to:</b></p> <p>Build on the charter for Partnership activities</p> <p>Identify conditions and challenges to empowering frontline workers to operate</p> <p>Answer questions on communications, co-location and accessibility</p>

# Performance indicators

As well as the 2030 aspiration the partners co-produced a set of indicators that would show the impact of the work underway on the combined action plan. For the 2020/21 performance report all partners will input into the new online system as updates become available creating a live performance dashboard accessible to all. The measures approved included: -

Indicator	Baseline	2019/20
<b>Reducing child poverty</b>		
Workless households with children	12.6%	10.6%
Total early learning and childcare services per 10,000 children	54.7%	53.4%
New social housing applicants	2,156	1,770
P4-7 pupils are free school meal registered	13.4%	14.4%
% of all children living in families are in receipt of child tax credit	14.5%	14.1%
<b>Improving mental health &amp; wellbeing</b>		
Premature mortality rate for people aged under 75 per 100,000 population	350	375
Average length of stay in hospital for adult mental health patients	62	52
Number of people prescribed items for depression and anxiety in angus	336	335
Number of people that were prescribed items for diabetes in angus	48	49
<b>Improving accessibility &amp; connectivity</b>		
Take up of DSSB funding for improved broadband	30%	58%
Premises in Angus with access to speeds greater than 30Mbps	15,500	17,485
Number of electric charging points available	20	37
Number of changing places facilities & use	4	8



# 2030 aspirations – update

In the Community Plan there are scorecards with key aspirations for 2030. In February 2020 the Partnership commissioned a Citizens Survey which supported the evidence for the aspirations.

Below shows these aspirations with a status update for key activity to move the partnership closer to achieving them visit

[https://www.angus.gov.uk/community\\_empowerment/planning\\_for\\_the\\_future/planning\\_for\\_the\\_future\\_of\\_angus/the\\_angus\\_community](https://www.angus.gov.uk/community_empowerment/planning_for_the_future/planning_for_the_future_of_angus/the_angus_community)

<b>ECONOMY</b>		<b>Status</b>
	Gross weekly pay among residents	Static
	Gross weekly pay among those working in Angus	Improving
	Employment rate	Improving
	Least underemployment	Declining
	Least percentage of vacant retail units	Improving
	Premises able to access broadband speeds of at least 24Megabits per second	Improving
	16-19 year olds in learning, training or work	Declining
<b>PEOPLE</b>		
	Children living in poverty	Declining
	Least number of people of working age with no or low qualification	Improving
	Least women smoking during pregnancy	Declining
	Children with a healthy weight at Primary 1 age group	Declining
	Percentage of secondary pupils from deprived areas achieving 5+ SCQF awards at level 5 or higher	Declining
	Percentage of secondary pupils achieving 5+ SCQF awards at level 5 or higher	Static
	Numbers of adults involved in volunteering	Improving
	Adults identifying themselves as internet users	Improving
	Number of people able to look after their own health	Improving
	Least rate of death under 75 (per 100,000)	Improving
<b>PLACE</b>		
	Adults stating their neighbourhood is a good place to live	Static
	Least recorded crimes and offences (per 10,000)	Improving
	Least rate of primary fires (per 100,000)	Improving
	Recycling rate	Improving
	Fuel poverty (local authority)	Improving
	Dwellings below tolerable standard	Improving
	Percentage dwellings that fail the Scottish Housing Quality Standard (includes fuel poverty)	Static
	Active travel to school by primary and secondary pupils	Improving

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