

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

**SCRUTINY AND AUDIT COMMITTEE – 7 MARCH 2024**

**POLICY AND RESOURCES – 12 MARCH 2024**

**ANGUS COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2022/23**

**REPORT BY ALISON SMITH, DIRECTOR OF VIBRANT COMMUNITIES AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH**

**1. ABSTRACT**

This report presents the Angus Community Planning Partnership Annual Performance Report 2022/23 and the work delivered by the Angus Community Planning Partnership (ACPP) for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 including the Our Bright Futures Report and 2023-25 action plan and the Community Learning and Development Plan 2022/23 and updated action plan.

**2. ALIGNMENT TO THE COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICIES**

The Angus Community Plan Annual Performance Report is aligned with the Angus Community Plan 2022 – 2030 and Angus Council Plan 2023-2028.

**3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Scrutiny and Audit Committee:

- (i) Scrutinise and note the Community Plan Annual Performance Report for 2022 – 2023; (appendix 1);
- (ii) Note the Our Bright Futures Report and Action Plan (appendices 2,3 and 4); and
- (iii) Note the Community Learning and Development Plan (appendix 5).

It is recommended that the Policy & Resources Committee:

- (i) Note the Community Planning Annual Performance Report for 2022/23
- (ii) Note the Our Bright Futures Report and Action Plan (appendices 2,3 and 4)
- (iii) Note the Community Learning and Development Plan (appendix 5)
- (iv) Approve the use of £175,000, which was part of a one-off top up of £275,000 LACER funds agreed by Angus Council as part of the in the 2023/24 Revenue and Capital Budgets, for delivery of the Our Bright Futures Action Plan 2023-25.
- (v) Delegate Authority to the Deputy Chief Executive (Chair of the Our Bright Futures group) to determine and approve the distribution and use of the funds for projects which will deliver the outcomes of the Our Bright Futures Action Plan 2023-25.

**4. BACKGROUND**

Community Planning is a statutory responsibility of each Local Authority. It enables public bodies to work together with local communities to design and deliver better services that make a real difference in people's lives. There are 32 Community Planning Partnerships across Scotland, one for each council area. Each Partnership focuses on where partners' collective efforts and resources can add the most value to their local communities, particularly in reducing inequality.

- 4.1** Community Planning drives public service reform by bringing together local public services with the communities they serve and provides a focus for partnership working that targets specific local circumstances. Partners work together to improve local services and to ensure that they meet the needs of local people, especially those who need the services most.
- 4.2** This Performance Report covers the period from 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023 and highlights the wealth of activity delivered to achieve the Community Planning vision. This report has been delayed due to staff changes in the Vibrant Communities Service. However, plans are in place to ensure the 2023/24 report will be back in line with the usual cycle and reported to committee in October 2024. This report outlines the continued partnership work and includes the Our Bright Futures report for 2022/23, the 2023-25 Action Plan, the Community Learning and Development Outcome Report for 2022/23, and the updated action plan. All reports have involved placing our communities at the heart of everything we do.
- 4.3** Scottish Government published the Best Start, Bright Futures Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2022-26 which sets out targets to be met by 2030 aligning with timescales for Scotland to Keep The Promise. These targets are noted below:
- Less than 10% of children are in relative poverty
  - Less than 5% of children are in absolute poverty
  - Less than 5% of children are in combined low income and material deprivation
  - Less than 5% of children are in persistent poverty
- 4.4** The challenge remains for our children and their families struggling in the context of inequalities like poverty with low-income, poor-quality housing, lack of social and economic opportunity and the impact of mental health, substance use and domestic abuse affecting communities. In addition, the current Cost of Living Crisis and challenges around increasing fuel prices have put significant pressure on our families. The 2023-25 action plan outlines actions to help support our communities through this period of uncertainty.
- 4.5** On 21 February 2022 the Scottish Government announced a new £80 million Local Authority Covid Economic Recovery (LACER) Fund targeting support for businesses and communities as part of the next phase of the pandemic. Angus received a funding allocation of £1,666,869. On 2 March 2023 Angus Councillors pledged a further £275,000 from the 2023-24 Angus Council Budget to deliver further projects aligned with LACER principles.
- 4.6** At the meeting of Angus Council on 14 December 2023, Members approved £100,000 for Storm Babet flood recovery response to support those in Angus that require additional support and who are ineligible for other types of support. ([Report 354/23](#)) It was agreed that a further report would be presented to Members in March 2024 with proposals for spend of the remaining £175,000.
- 4.7** It is now proposed that the remaining £175,000 be used to deliver the Our Bright Futures Action Plan 2023-25. This report seeks delegated authority for the Deputy Chief Executive (Chair of the ACPP Our Bright Futures group) to agree distribution of the funds for projects which will deliver the outcomes of the Action Plan.
- 4.8** If approved a robust governance process will be introduced to monitor, report on and evaluate funding allocations in line with existing process for grant funding and governance as approved by members.
- 4.9** The [Community Learning and Development \(Scotland\) Regulations](#) set out the requirement placed on local authorities and their partners to develop CLD Plans for their area. This is fully detailed in the [2021-2024 published CLD Plan](#) under the section 'Why do we need a CLD plan.'

**4.10** CLD operates within the wider community planning framework, and key plans and legislative frameworks provide a context. It also arises from localised responses to community needs from individuals and groups without representation or involvement in the formal CPP structures. The delivery of CLD supports the delivery of these wider plans and frameworks. The Year 2 actions and Year 3 action plan, approved by the Community Planning Partnership in January and can be found in Appendix 5 of the Community Plan Annual Performance Report 2022/23 in Appendix 1.

## **5. CURRENT POSITION**

**5.1** The Angus Community Planning Partnership has done a lot of work over the past 18 months to align local strategies and plans with the Community Plan for partners and services. The recent plans and strategies which have been aligned include:

- Our Bright Futures Report 2022/23
- Angus Health and Social Care Partnership Strategic Commissioning Plan
- Angus Employability Strategy
- Angus Health & Social Care Partnership Living Life Well Implementation Plan
- Angus Sport and Physical Activity Framework
- Community Learning & Development Plan

**5.2** A significant amount of work has been undertaken by the partners. Key highlights include:-

- Approximately 7,800 appointments were booked with the Voluntary Action Angus, Social Prescribing Service with 84% of service users being offered an appointment within seven days of request. The most common issues users present with are general wellbeing, financial worries, mental health, housing problems, and social isolation.
- Employer Recruitment Incentive Grants were delivered for 77 individuals who were experiencing significant barriers to securing sustainable employment and who would have continued to struggle to find work had these opportunities not been secured with the funding. Opportunities were designed to meet individual needs and circumstances and were as flexible as possible.
- A project to develop access to high-speed broadband throughout Angus was completed in March 2023. This collaborative regional project unlocked funding available at a UK level from the DCMS Local Full Fibre Network (LFFN) Programme.
- Angus Cycle Hub CIC (Community Integrated Care) worked with Angus Council to extend delivery of the current Bike Recycling programme and incentive scheme. The programme encourages people to cycle more and gather intelligence on how people use the recycled bikes that ACH redistributes in the Angus Region via a membership model and utilising Strava to gather data.
- During the reporting period, children's services had three unannounced inspections evaluating how well children were supported, with a focus on children and young people's rights and wellbeing. Two of our children's residential provisions achieved the highest grade possible (Grade 6: Excellent) following inspection. Carseburn Road was inspected in May 2022 and Strathmore Centre in January 2023.
- A targeted approach to supporting Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker Children has been taken, with close partnerships between social work, education, health, housing, and third-sector partners. The Horizon Team in Angus has received 10 young people who are supported in a range of care settings, including supported lodgings, and supported tenancies.

## **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

## **7. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct environmental implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

## **8. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT, HUMAN RIGHTS AND FAIRER SCOTLAND DUTY**

An Equality Impact Assessment is not required as this is an annual report summarising work over the year.

## **9. CONSULTATION**

- 9.1** Throughout September, October and November 2023 the Community Planning Partnership were consulted on the report, co-produced case studies and helped to shape the updates.
- 9.2** A workshop with the Our Bright Futures Group took place in September 2022 to review the 2022/23 actions and to look ahead at the 2023/25 actions.
- 9.3** Ongoing engagement of the CLD plan has been extensive over the last year by the Vibrant Communities staff, through a range of operational networks and Community Planning forums to help us understand Community Learning and Development needs and priorities. Much work was done to understand CLD needs last year as part of the Vibrant Communities Service Review. This has been beneficial to help us understand ongoing issues within communities and to better understand where resources are best placed through all partners delivering on CLD activity.
- 9.4** The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive, Director of Legal, Governance and Change and the Director of Finance have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

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List of Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Angus Community Planning Partnership Annual Performance Report 2022 – 2023

Appendix 2 – Our Bright Futures Action Plan Update 2022 - 2023

Appendix 3 –Our Bright Futures Child Poverty Case Study Report

Appendix 4 - Our Bright Futures Child Poverty Action Plan 2023-25

Appendix 5 – Community Learning & Development Plan



ANGUS  
COMMUNITY  
PLANNING  
PARTNERSHIP

Angus Community Plan  
Annual Performance Report  
& Our Bright Futures Report

**2022/23**



Contents	Page
1. Introduction	9
2. Our Communities	10
3. Caring for Our People	11
3.1 Angus Integrated Childrens' Services Partnership	
3.1.2 Our Bright Futures Report	13
3.1.3 Whole Family Wellbeing Approach	18
3.1.4 Early and Effective Help - Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC)	19
3.1.5 Leading the Promise Lead Officer Group	20
3.1.6 Supporting Care Experienced Children & Young People in Angus	21
3.1.7 Mental Health & Wellbeing	24
3.2 Community Learning and Development Plan	26
3.3 The Angus Community Justice Partnership	27
3.4 Angus Health Social Care Partnership Strategic Planning Group	28
3.5 The Angus Sport and Physical Activity Framework	31
3.6 Case Studies Caring for People	31
4. Caring for Our Economy	33
4.1 Tay Cities Regional Deal	35
4.2 Angus Local Employability Partnership	37
4.3 Community Wealth Building	37
4.4 Case Study caring for Our Economy	37
5. Caring for Our Place	38
5.1 Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan	39
5.2 Angus Community Resilience Forum	40
5.3 Angus Transport Network	41
5.4 Caring for Our Place – Case Study	43
6 Our Partnership	44

# 1. Introduction

During 2021/22 the Partnership reviewed the Angus Community Plan 2017 - 2030 and a new Angus Community Plan 2022-2030 was finalised.

The plan was developed jointly by community planning partners, based on issues identified by communities themselves. The plan sets the direction for community planning based on three priority areas.

- Caring for our Economy
- Caring for our People
- Caring for our Place

The new Community Plan comes at a time when communities are facing many challenges including the lasting effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and with spiralling costs which present real and significant issues for individuals, households, and businesses.

Our community planning partners are also facing an increased demand for services, with the associated increase in costs, while reducing resources as part of public sector reform. However, The Partnership believes that our vision remains the same: Angus is a great place to live, work and visit, and is more important to us now than ever.

This year, our performance report includes Our Bright Futures Report and Action Plan and the Community Learning & Development Plan, taking us a step closer to achieving a single plan.

This performance report covers the period from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023. It demonstrates the strength of partnership working in Angus and how this is making a difference to people across our communities. Importantly, it also highlights areas where we need to improve. The Partnership is determined to make significant progress in the coming year. Our partners agree that we need to increase the pace of change and align our activities and resources more to tackle our priority issues and achieve our targets.

Hayley Mearns  
Chair  
Angus Community Planning Partnership

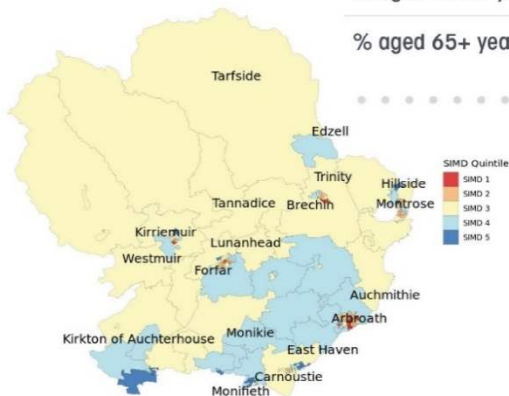
## 2. Our Communities

### Our communities

#### Angus



	Census 2022 estimate	Census 2011 estimate	Difference
All	114,400	116,000	-1,600
Male	55,300	56,200	-900
Female	59,100	59,800	-700
% aged 0-14 years	14.9%	16.3%	
% aged 15-64 years	60.0%	63.9%	
% aged 65+ years	25.1%	19.9%	



#### SIMD area

**12%**  
population living in  
least deprived

**7.7%**  
population living in  
most deprived

**57,700** households

#### Average life expectancy



**78.5 years**  
national average 76.8 years



**82.3 years**  
national average 81 years



Death rate for ages 15-44  
**122 deaths per 100,000**  
age-sex standardised population

This is higher than Scotland (117 deaths per 100,000)<sup>4</sup>

**22.8%**

of the locality's population with at least one long-term physical health condition  
This is higher than Scotland (21.7%)

## 3. Caring for our People

The number of children living in poverty has increased from 4,600 in 2020/21 to 5,067 in 2021/22 an increase of 467 children. Similar increases are replicated across



neighbouring authorities as the impact of the cost-of-living crisis continues to affect many families.

Measurements of growth (height, weight & BMI) were collected from 845 primary 1 children across Angus in 22/23 and gives reason for cautious optimism. Data suggests that when compared to the baseline pre-pandemic data, levels of healthy weight have increased by 3.4 % in children in Scottish Index for Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 1 the most deprived, and by 2.5% in children in SIMD 2. However, a 2.4% increase in risk of obesity between children in the least versus the most deprived data zones (compared to baseline) indicates a persistent and widening of the socioeconomic disparity in healthy weight-marked inequality.

Data for 22/23 shows an increase in the number of adults and young people engaging in community learning and activities from 3,639 to 4,240. Further measures are included in the Community Learning & Development Plan in Appendix 5.

The number of people able to look after their own health has decreased slightly from the baseline in 20/21 93% to 92.4% for 22/23. Data for 21/22 was not recorded due to the pandemic.

The priorities are delivered by partnership subgroups, Integrated Childrens Services, Angus Health and Social Care Partnership Strategic Planning Group, Community Learning & Development, Sport and Physical Activity Framework and the Community Justice Partnership.

### **Priorities**

- Provide the best start in life for children.
- Reduce inequalities in all our communities.
- Create more opportunities for people to live well and achieve their personal goals.
- Improve physical, mental health and wellbeing



Measure	Baseline 20/21	2021/22	2022/23	Target 2024/25
Percentage of children living in poverty (after housing costs)	20.6%	24.2%	NA <sup>1</sup>	19% <sup>2</sup>
Number of children living in poverty	4,600	5,067	NA <sup>1</sup>	3,700 <sup>2</sup>
Children with a healthy weight at primary 1 age group living in SIMD 1	67.2% <sup>3</sup>	59.2%	70.6 <sup>4</sup>	Increase
Children with a healthy weight at primary 1 age group living in SIMD 2	72.5%	66.5%	75 <sup>4</sup>	Increase
Inequality in risk of obesity between children in least v's most deprived areas, at Primary 1 age group	6% v's 16.4%	2.5% v's 27%	2.5% v's 15.3% <sup>4</sup>	Reduce
Achievement of Curriculum for Excellence levels for literacy and numeracy (P1/4/7)	Literacy - 72.2% Numeracy - 78.4%	Literacy - 75.0% Numeracy - 82.0%	NA <sup>5</sup>	Targets are set and reviewed on an annual basis and can be found in the <b>Angus Education Plan</b>
Proportion of school leavers attaining 1 or more passes at SQA National A-C - Level 5	87%	82.8%	NA <sup>6</sup>	
Proportion of school leavers attaining 1 or more passes at SQA National A-C - Level 6	63.6%	52.5%	NA <sup>6</sup>	
Proportion of 16-19 year olds participating in education, employment or training	92.4%	93.2%	93.1%	
Number of adults and young people engaged in Community Learning & Development (CLD) activity	NA	3,639	4,240	Increase
Percentage of people able to look after their own health	93%	NA <sup>7</sup>	92.4%	95%
Rate of deaths under 75 (per 100,000)	370.5	418.6	390.2	390

<sup>1</sup> Next update due June 2024

<sup>2</sup> Targets set in line with Scottish Government (to be reviewed as nationally these are not achievable)

<sup>3</sup> Baseline pre-pandemic, 2018/19

<sup>4</sup> Data available December 2023

<sup>5</sup> Data available February 2024

<sup>6</sup> Data available February 2024

<sup>7</sup> Data not recorded for 2021/22

### **3.1 Integrated Childrens Services Partnership (AICSP)**

Angus Integrated Childrens Services Partnership (AICSP) is the local partnership responsible for delivering on the Tayside Regional Improvement Collaborative.

The [Tayside Plan for Infants, Children, Young People and Families 2023- 2026](#) was produced by the three Community Planning areas of Angus, Dundee, and Perth & Kinross. It reflects multi-agency cross-border collaboration in the planning, management, commissioning, delivery, evaluation, and improvement of services to children, young people, and families. The priorities and actions outlined in the plan complement activities at a local level through the Angus Integrated Childrens Services Partnership.

Angus Integrated Childrens Services Partnership work is delivered across five workstreams:

- Our Bright Futures
- Whole Family Wellbeing
- Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Early and Effective Help - Getting It Right for Every Child (GIRFEC)
- Leading the Promise Lead Officer Group.

This section of the report provides an update on each of the workstreams.

#### **3.1.2 Our Bright Futures Report**

##### **Introduction**

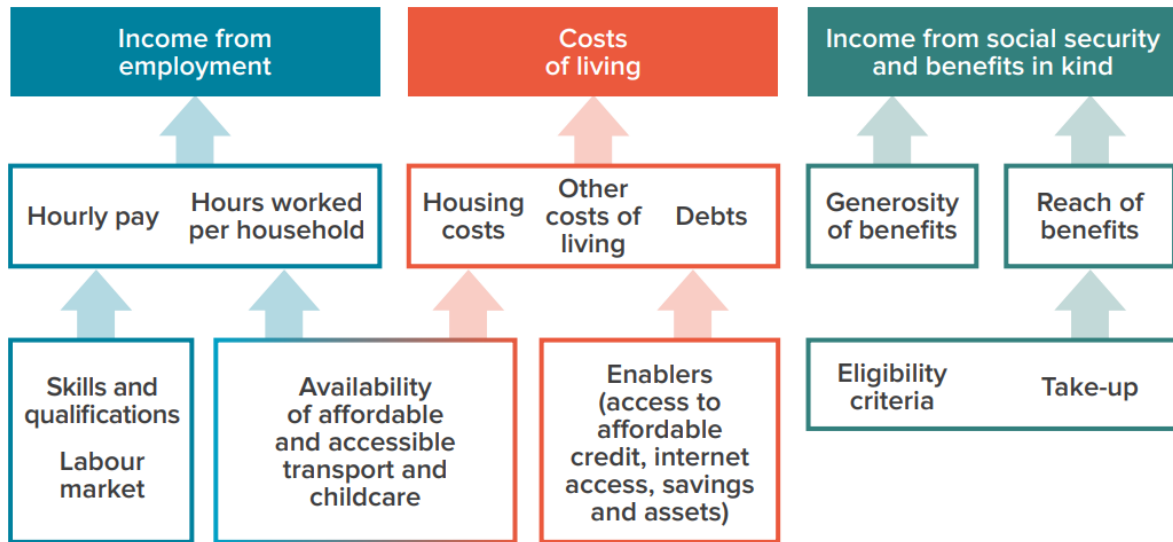
Our Bright Futures Action Plan details delivery on the commitment to reduce child poverty within Angus. Regrettably, child poverty and financial hardship are affecting greater numbers of families following the impacts of the pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis, with associated rising food and energy costs.

The scale of the challenge in Angus, and the activities needed to address these, require effective coordination and governance across the Partnership. Supports and interventions must continue to evolve to meet immediate and individual needs. At the same time, the longer-term economic development activity and the development of community wealth-building will help improve future outcomes for communities.

People experience poverty through no fault of their own, and it is recognised that poverty is more likely for single-parent families, larger families, young families, families where there is a disability and some ethnic minority families. Therefore, interventions continue to be targeted at these priority groups.

##### **Drivers of poverty**

The focus on actions to tackle the drivers of poverty reduction and improve the lives and outcomes of families continues. By increasing household incomes and reducing household costs, families' standard of living will improve and deliver progress against the ambitious targets.











It is also recognised that there is a need to strengthen the holistic support to families to move out of poverty. There is also a need to mitigate the impact of poverty on children today to improve their lifelong outcomes and prevent them from becoming the parents of children in poverty in their turn.

### 2022/23 Annual Report

The following is the Angus Our Annual Bright Futures Annual Report for 2022/23. Appendix 2 details our progress against our Action Plan for the year and, where relevant, provides information on the outputs and outcomes achieved.

The annual report is augmented by several case studies from across our partnership. These are provided in Appendix 3.

## 2022/23 results

		2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
	No. of welfare rights enquiries	2,235	3,572	4,520
	No. of benefit appeals	77	100	85
	Financial Gains	£3,851,344	£4,526,799	£5,408,384
	Online benefit calculator uses	2,064	2,191	2,472
	Best start grant applications	4,840	6,420	8,215
	Best start food applications	2,375	3,550	4,500
	Best Start Pregnancy & Baby Payment	1,565	2,205	2,940
	Scottish Child Payments	NR	£1,214,830	£5,090,685
	Connecting Scotland devices distributed	346	162	147
	Young People starting CAMHS treatment	1,300	NA	NA
	Sustainable Period Products Delivered	1,860	3,972	2,874
	Residents benefiting from HEE Programme	3,896	5,396	6,380
	New build affordable homes delivered	141	150	47

## Drivers of Poverty Infographic



	Baseline 2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
<b>Income from Employment</b>					
Underemployment of (16+) population	9.20%	9.60%	10.7%	10.4%	NA <sup>8</sup>
Employment rate	76%	75.7%	72.3%	74.3%	74.6%
% Employees (18+) earning less than the Living Wage	28.4%	29.1%	25.2%	22.3%	19.3% <sup>8</sup>
Median paid hours per week	36.2	36.2	36.8	37.4	36.8 <sup>8</sup>
Gross median hourly pay (£)	12.77	12.69	12.73	15.55	15.52 <sup>8</sup>
Proportion of population with no qualifications (16-64)	10.6%	7.3%	5.6%	4.2%	6%
<b>Costs of Living</b>					
2 bedroom properties - average (mean) monthly rents (£)	£575	£582	£550	£588	£595 <sup>9</sup>
Workless households with children	12.6%	10.6%	11.1%	3.2% This estimate is potentially unreliable due to sample sizes	Awaiting data
New social housing applicants	2,156	1,770	1,369	1,479	2,575
Households in fuel poverty	15%	20%	20%	40%	40% <sup>10</sup>
Uptake of 1,140 hours	Not recorded	Not recorded	86.7%	86.6%	85.4%
<b>Income from Social Security Benefits &amp; Benefits in Kind</b>					
Percentage uptake of universal free school meals	80.1%	73.7%	72.8%	60.5%	68%
Households with children on Universal Credit	1,317	2,133	3,028	3,233	3,518
No of Homeless presentations	707	661	484	502	645

<sup>8</sup> Most recent data is 21/22.

<sup>9</sup> £595 figure means annual rent of £7,140 which is circa 25% of the average Angus income (circa £29k). This is deemed 'affordable' by many institutes however this also means that any household earning under the £29k is living in unaffordable housing or spending too high a percentage of their income on direct housing costs - meaning underspend (or debt?) elsewhere.

<sup>10</sup> Estimate - Research/analysis pieces suggest rates are in fact 40% nationally - in line with what we expect, taking account of fuel prices and local household income levels.

## What we know about priority groups in Angus



**17,400** (36.7%)  
households had at least 1 child  
aged <16 years



**2,300** (13.2%)  
of these households were  
occupied by lone parents



**15.8%**  
of all births the mother was  
aged under 25 years

Source - 2011 Scottish Census

## 51,616 households in Angus Of these...



**67.1%**  
were family households

**5.3%**  
of family households had 3 or more  
dependent children (n=1,842)



**49.4%**  
of family households, the youngest child  
was **aged between 0-4 years** (n=910)



**45.1%**  
of family households, the youngest child  
was **aged between 5-11 years** (n=831)



**5.5%**  
of family households, the youngest child  
was **aged between 12-18 years** (n=101)



**564**  
(3.8% of  
all learners)  
minority ethnic  
pupils enrolled  
at primary and  
secondary schools



**234**  
(1.6% of  
all learners)  
have been  
assessed and/or  
declared as having  
a disability

**Current Position – What is this telling us?**

The data for 2021/22 shows 24.2% of Angus' children live in relative poverty, after housing costs. This is an increase of 3.6% from 20.6% in 2020/21, although it should be noted that this lower figure was influenced by various Covid support measures that were in place at the time, such as the furlough scheme.

Overall, many of the indicators detailed above show that levels of financial hardship across Angus are increasing. Over the period this report covers, the Consumer Price Index Inflation remained high at 10.1% in March 2023. While inflation is now falling, this does not mean falling prices. Prices increased by 8.7% between April 2022 and April 2023.

In April 2023, inflation-linked benefits were increased by 10.1%, while the National Minimum wage (21-22) increased by 10.9%. Average regular pay growth was 7.0% for the private sector in November 2022 to January 2023, and 4.8% for the public sector.

These patterns of inflation and below-inflation pay deals negatively impact child poverty, and an increase in levels of in-work child poverty in low and middle-income working families is anticipated.

Unemployment rose towards the end of this reporting period, with claimant count (all claimants not seasonally adjusted) at 2,150 (3.1%) in April 2023, up from a low of 1,870 (2.7%) in September 2022, an increase of 280 (15%). The future course of inflation, interest rates and economic activity will impact local employment.

Around 11,800 households (22%) are identified as being in fuel poverty, with 5,400 in extreme fuel poverty (10%). Fuel poverty continues to impact those most vulnerable: low to modest-income households, the elderly, households with children, and other households such as single adults.

Data suggests that there are an estimated 3,500-4,000 households and 5,000-6,000 children impacted by child poverty in Angus. Work is required to identify these vulnerable people, gain an understanding what proportion are engaged with services and what outcomes are being achieved for them.

Across partners, there is already do a lot of work in developing this understanding. However, over 2023-25 and beyond, it is anticipated that several data-related projects will deliver improvements in information governance, data sharing, case management, proactive and preventative support, and reporting.

### **2023-25 Our Bright Futures Plan**

Building upon current work and taking account of the understanding of current issues and demands, Our Bright Futures Child Poverty Action Plan for 2023-25 is provided in Appendix 4.

### **3.1.3 Whole Family Wellbeing Approach**

The Whole Family Wellbeing (WFW) agenda is a Scottish Government initiative. The WFW fund is money for building local capacity to support transformational whole system change and scale up and drive the delivery of holistic whole family support services.



The WFW aims to shift investment towards early intervention and preventative activities, ensuring that families can access support before they reach crisis point.

In accordance with The Promise, the Scottish Government recognises that whole system change is required, in line with the 10 Principles for Holistic Family Support incorporating the following core components of how holistic, whole family support is delivered:

1. **Children and Families at the centre of design** - A children's rights-based approach to improved Family Wellbeing, with services designed with children, young people and their families' needs at the centre, supporting all families to flourish and thrive.
2. **Availability and access** - All families know how to and can access multi-sectoral, holistic, whole family support.
3. **Leadership, workforce, and culture** - Cross-sectoral commitment to collaboration and innovation which empowers and supports the workforce to provide family-centred holistic support.
4. **Whole System approach** - A collaborative, multi-agency and multi-disciplinary approach to the funding, commissioning, and delivery of family support.

A WFW Steering Group (reporting to Integrated Children's Services Partnership) was established in March 2023 to progress the program.

### **3.1.4 Early and Effective Help - Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC)**

Following the publication of the national refresh of GIRFEC guidance on 30 September 2022, the Angus GIRFEC group is reviewing the current e-learning module, which is hoped will become mandatory for all staff. From August 2024, this universal online module will be available on Always Learning and TURAS for staff out with Education.

An initial draft of the mandatory GIRFEC e-learning module was completed in December 2023 for review by the multi-agency GIRFEC group in January 2024. This module has been developed in alignment with training developed by NHS. It is part of a set of career-long professional learning (CLPL) modules relevant to GIRFEC practice, some of which will be optional to professionals depending on their role. CLPL development mirrors plans in place across local authorities in Scotland and is being developed in collaboration with other local authorities across Tayside.

An update to the changes in the GIRFEC refreshed guidance was provided to the Integrated Children's Service Partnership in October and to Angus Third Sector Children's Forum in December 2022. Whilst refreshed guidance on the Child's Plan is awaited from the Scottish Government, discussions have taken place with colleagues in Dundee and Perth & Kinross, to consider a Tayside Child's Plan. An initial draft of the revised Child's Plan Guidance reflects the Child's Plan Practice Statement shared by the Scottish Government.

In Angus, an audit of single-agency child's plans was carried out during the 2022/23 school session to identify and share good practices, highlight development needs, and support staff in their role as Named Person. The audit's focus included responding to concerns about wellbeing; assessing need; developing and maintaining chronology; child's planning process; impact and outcomes for children; and children, young people, and family voice. 61 children in settings across Early Learning and Childcare, Early Years, Primary and Secondary were identified, 60 chronologies were audited as well as 50 individualised education plans (IEPs). Good practice and areas for improvement were fed back to individual schools and used to inform next steps in service improvement planning.

Well Good Workshops offered half-day Smoking prevention workshops for P7 pupils with pre- and post-learning activities. From October to December 2022, 1,494 P7 pupils from 34 primary schools participated in 54 workshops.

During the autumn school term (Sept/Oct 2022) approximately 1500 S1 pupils from all 8 secondary schools participated in 10 Safe Angus events. These events provide information and advice to S1 pupils in a creative, fun, and interactive way about the dangers of e-cigarettes/vaping.

### **3.1.5 Leading the Promise Lead Officer Group**

Angus revised our Corporate Parenting Board in 2018, renaming and refocusing it to a multi-agency group called Leading the Promise. The group meets quarterly, focusing on delivering 5 key promises made in the [Angus Promise Plan](#) with a particular focus on two key areas: voice and relationships.

At the beginning of 2023, the Angus promise team started a mapping project alongside Promise Scotland to assess local progress towards meeting the [Plan 21-24](#) Calls to Action. This includes multi-agency input from social work, housing, health, education, police and third sector to determine the focus to ensure that the Promise is kept to the children of Angus.

Work has also taken place to explore the importance of relationships between brothers and sisters, including the development of training materials, guidance on assessments, and improving spaces to spend family time together. The care-experienced Promise Ambassadors have been visiting schools and speaking to young people and staff, supporting a better understanding of the experiences of being cared for, and are currently designing a social education learning module for secondary schools to support understanding of care and children's rights.

Examples of some of the wider work the Promise Ambassadors have been supporting in Angus includes:

- delivering training and awareness sessions to social work and education staff
- development of an Angus Promise video to support raising awareness across the workforce
- delivering Promise input to joint Leadership Forums across Angus
- supporting young people in residential houses to participate in staff recruitment
- in partnership with young people establishing a popular children's group, The Hangout, for care-experienced young people aged five and above

Numbers of attendees at The Hangout has grown during 2022/23 with between 18 and 28 young people regularly attending each session; this is more than 10% of care experienced children over five in Angus. Young people can get involved with project work and provide their views.

Other projects being progressed by The Promise team include; developing a Promise Pack, which can be tailored to the individual needs of children and young people entering care, participation in Scottish Children Reporter Administration (SCRA) and local groups being set up to support the Better Hearings agenda.

The partnership remains committed to reducing the number of unnecessary placement changes experienced by children and young people. The data for 2022-23 shows that 15 children (just over 6%) looked-after children in Angus had three or more placements during the reporting year. This is a decrease of 2% on last year but remains above the Scottish average of 4%.

### **3.1.6 Supporting Care Experienced Children & Young People in Angus**

The Looked After Children (LAC) Attainment Fund continues to support different approaches in Angus which can have a direct impact on care-experienced children and young people. Services are targeted at breaking down the barriers for care-experienced young people, supporting engagement in education and local communities.

This includes enhanced provision from Aberlour (Sustain) to support families to remain together with relaxation of referral criteria to include early help and support. Extending the Aberlour support service, provides intensive flexible support to children living at home out with office hours.

It also supports free leisure access for care-experienced young people with a focus on those at home, and young care-experienced adults with help to purchase clothes and equipment where needed.

Angus Enhance Team was established in 2019 to meet the need for intensive support for children 0-18 and parents/carers who were in crisis. Enhance provides the third tier of staged intensive support with commissioned services through Aberlour, Sustain, providing stage 2, and Hillcrest Futures offering early support at stage 1. These services collectively offer a staged approach and work closely to ensure the families in greatest need of support are targeted appropriately. During the reporting period, 79 children and their parents/carers received support from the Enhanced team, with 61 cases being closed during the period. Many families referred experience multiple disadvantages, including poor mental health, poverty, addictions, domestic abuse, offending behaviour, and attachment difficulties.

Of the 61 cases closed, the outcomes were:

- 13 were either not able to remain safely where they were living or required specialist resources
- 33 remained with their parents/family
- 14 were supported with a transition
- 1 placement in residential care was sustained

During the reporting period, children's services had three unannounced inspections evaluating how well children were supported, with a focus on children and young people's rights and wellbeing. Two of our children's residential provisions achieved the highest grade possible (Grade 6: Excellent) following inspection. Carseburn Road was inspected in May 2022 and Strathmore Centre in January 2023.

Looked-after children continue to have individual planning meetings reviewed in accordance with the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 by Independent Reviewing

Officers who can offer case objectivity to the multi-agency child's planning meeting. Work has been ongoing to improve how the minutes of these meetings are recorded, ensuring they are meaningful and, importantly, accessible for children and their families. A pilot started in July 2022, sending My Plan accessible letters directly to primary-age children explaining what happened at their meeting and detailing who was there, who is available to help them and what support they will be given. As a result of positive feedback from young people and social workers on the My Plan letters, individualised letters are now being sent to secondary-age young people and those under school age; letters are also written for babies, who are kept on their records to support their understanding later.

In line with the ongoing commitment to improve the experience of families involved in Angus' child protection processes, the rollout of PREpare, a social work-led, strengths-based model that improves child and parental engagement in the child protection planning and decision-making process has been extended. The voice of children, including very young children, is central to the PREpare approach, seeing risk and strength from the perspective of the child. A short film has been made providing information for families and professionals on PREpare.

In June 2022, more than 65 care-experienced young people in Angus came with their families, carers, friends, and workers to have fun, and participate in various activities at the Angus Promise Fun Day at Monikie Park. A packed schedule continued throughout the day, with a BBQ lunch provided. The event was arranged by the Promise team and supported by all the partners and local businesses who helped make the day successful.

In November 2022, the Virtual Promise Team attended the Scottish Social Services Award Ceremony in Glasgow. The team was shortlisted in the final three for the Excellence in Children's Services category amongst stiff competition.

Providing local placements for children has continued to be challenging during 2022-23. On 31 March 2023, the proportion of looked-after children being supported either at home or with family or friends was 38%, a reduction from 43% from last year. The decrease of children being supported at home or with relatives continues to put pressure on alternative placements with the service struggling to meet demand.

Due to a local and national shortage of fostering placements, more children and young people are being placed in residential care, or external placement, despite extensive recruitment efforts locally. It is essential to increase the number of quality placements locally if Angus children and young people are to successfully remain in their local communities, where it is safe and right for them to be. This will support children to maintain their relationships with people who are important to them.

During this reporting period, fourteen care-experienced young people have been supported into further education, with ten enrolled in Dundee & Angus college placements. Two young people secured a modern apprenticeship, and two more are attending university, one of whom is now in their second year.

During 2022, Horizon (previously referred to as the Throughcare Aftercare Team) ran a weekly mother and baby group with six care-experienced parents attending with their children, benefiting from tailored support. The group came to a natural end at the start of 2023 with parents and their children integrating confidently into

community groups and local nurseries. A further group will be stepped up as needed to support new and expectant mothers.

On 31 March 2023, the carers service was supporting 129 children and young people living with kinship carers, including those looked after, subject to residence orders and those living with extended family before social work involvement. Kinship support ensures the right support to kinship carers is provided, minimising the risk of children experiencing breakdown in placements and placement moves, alongside minimising the financial impact on the service of children moving into higher-cost placements.

There has been an increase in the number of permanence orders granted this year from eight in 2021-22 to eleven in this reporting period. Whilst low volume, the significance of these figures is that each child now has security in the legal mechanism for decision-making and the provision of care for the remainder of their childhood.

### **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)**

The Tayside summary report on Children's Rights in Tayside for the period April 2020 to March 2023 was written collaboratively with partners and is due to be published early in 2024. Examples of children's rights being progressed in Angus includes:

- In 2022, a team of senior Arbroath High School pupils joined together to welcome refugee children from Afghanistan and Ukraine. Training from the English as an Additional Language Team and using a range of translation methods, the senior pupils help the new pupils connect with their peers, understand the English language, and build on their knowledge and education. They have created an invaluable support network, taking the new pupils to classes, supporting them in lessons, and learning greetings in Pashto and Ukrainian. The support team and refugees have developed close bonds, and the S6 team also challenged any prejudice or misconceptions throughout the school.
- In Angus, a targeted approach to supporting Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker Children has been taken, with close partnerships between social work, education, health, housing, and third-sector partners. The Horizon Team in Angus has received 10 young people who are supported in a range of care settings, including supported lodgings, and supported tenancies.
- The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) sets out the human rights of every person under the age of 18. One step the Scottish Government is taking to ensure children enjoy their rights, as set out in the UNCRC, is to make sure children have the right to complain (in common with other residents) if they are unhappy with public services. In collaboration with Chief Executive services, Schools and Learning, and Children and Families service are testing the complaints platform with children and seeking their views on how to ensure a child-friendly complaint system.

### **3.1.7 Mental Health & Wellbeing**

Angus and all other local authorities have received an annual funding award from Scottish Government to support the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people. For 2022-23, Angus received circa £326K which was used to fund Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Supports including:

## **Togetherall**

This is a safe, anonymous online support. Trained professionals monitor Togetherall 24/7, keeping its members safe. The platform offers a choice of therapeutic services, including online self-help courses and resources. This means anyone struggling with mental health, distress or anxiety can get support at any time that suits them 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The criteria for support is to be between 16-24 years old, and resident in Angus.

## **Peer Mentoring (mental health and wellbeing peer support)**

This provides quick, easy access to mental health and wellbeing support in the local area for secondary school-age youth. The service is provided 1-1 and in groups and can offer creative access options depending on the young person's needs. The service is divided into north and south locality areas with two service providers, Hillcrest Futures and Penumbra.

## **CEDAR (children experienced domestic abuse recovery)**

CEDAR is an evidenced-based program delivered by Angus Women's Aid, providing a group work programme for children and young people who have experienced domestic abuse. The service became operational in January 2023 with the groupwork programme delivering six groups per year.

## **Clinical Psychology and Counselling**

A chartered clinical psychologist provides advice and support for social workers working directly with adults, supporting care for experienced young people. Direct input is also provided to foster carers, kinship carers and residential staff to better equip them to respond to and support children with complex emotional needs, impacted by their early life trauma. The need for this service was highlighted by care-experienced young people and supports the commitment to the Angus Promise.

## **Aberlour Primary Support Service**

Aberlour, in partnership with The Mental Health Foundation and Angus Council, provide a Primary Years Wellbeing Support Service to children in Angus. The service delivers group wellbeing sessions and provides individual support for children and young people identified by the school. Through The Mental Health Foundation, the service offers training to teachers and school staff to build capacity and enable education staff to provide ongoing wellbeing support to children. The service commenced in January 2023.

**Additional specific individual counselling and Play Therapy** is being provided by New Solutions to a small number of children referred by social work to support their recovery from early trauma.

## **Care Experienced Engagement Team**

Two care-experienced Ambassadors (part funded and now funded longer term from other monies) support the Angus Promise work and The Hangout, a monthly youth group for care experienced young people in Angus who engage in service design and development, as well as having fun.

The Counselling in Schools programme continues to be delivered across Tayside with the three local authorities (Angus, Dundee, and Perth & Kinross) working collaboratively in the procurement of counselling providers. During the reporting period, 3,752 children and young people were supported through counselling in schools across Tayside, with 847 of those being from Angus. Most young people supported were in secondary school, with the greatest number attending counselling being in S3. The most prevalent issues identified at counselling were anxiety, self-esteem, emotional/behavioural issues, and family issues.

The three Tayside local authorities have agreed, in principle, to support an Effectiveness Study of School Counselling undertaken by the Head of Counselling at Aberdeen University and supported by the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP).

### **Drama Tour**

A successful S3 Drama Tour was delivered in partnership with NHS Tayside, Dundee and Angus College and Angus Council. The drama tour focused on social, emotional and health issues which may be experienced by young people. Issues to inform the performance were gathered from, young people, local service providers, school nurses, press and media, Cool2Talk, Guidance and Pupil Care and Support teachers. This year the performance entitled "Jeezy Peeps" focussed on e-cigarettes/vaping, anxiety, suicidal ideation, misogyny, disordered eating, friendships, and family relationships. After observing the drama performance young people took part in actor-led workshops to discuss the different characters' issues and where they may seek help through appropriate service providers. Other aims were to give young people an opportunity to explore their fears and anxieties about accessing services, such as, confidentiality, embarrassment, anonymity, and to consider the way that boys approach health issues and the difficulties they face in speaking about personal matters.

Ladyloan without Limits project was delivered to young girls in Ladyloan Primary School, successfully targeting young girls, supporting them in physical and mental health and wellbeing.

### **Social Prescribing team**

Approximately 7,800 appointments booked with the Voluntary Action Angus, with 84% of service users being offered an appointment within seven days of request. The most common issues users present with are general wellbeing, financial worries, mental health, housing problems, and social isolation. Among those referring people to the service are GP practice teams, mental health professionals, clinical nurse specialists, health visitors, community nurses, occupational therapists, post-dementia team, podiatrists, family, friends, and carers. The service welcomes self-referrals by those aged 16 or over. After receiving support from their Social Prescriber, service users report a 25%-100% improvement in their physical and mental health, how they are coping with life in general, and how connected they feel to friends, family, and their local community.

### **3.2 Community Learning and Development (CLD) Plan**

**(Appendix 5)** highlights the partnership activity in Angus. The outcomes achieved have built on the achievements of year one of the Angus CLD plan and is delivered by a diverse range of partners in many settings across the county. This partnership working empowers individuals, families, and communities to identify their individual and collective goals, to learn and to bring about positive change.

Year one of the CLD plan strongly focused on post Covid recovery and engaged with a wide range of people through outdoor activities, online and group work where possible. Over the remaining two years of the Plan, the priorities are targeted on those communities, families, and households who continue to face inequalities, by supporting them in a broad range of learning-based programmes designed to overcome barriers to participation at personal, community and institutional levels.

The key priorities of CLD continue to be

- Improved life chances for people of all ages through learning, personal development, and active citizenship.
- Create stronger, more resilient, and inclusive communities.

Full details of activities delivered can be found in the Community Learning & Development Plan at Appendix 5.

### **3.3 The Angus Community Justice Partnership (ACJP)**

ACJP brings stakeholders from the public, private and third sectors together to develop and deliver a Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan (CJOIP). Angus Community Justice priorities have been identified in line with the National Community Justice Strategy.

During this reporting period, there has been several changes for the ACJP, including the appointment of a new Chair, a new coordinator, new board members and a new model of integrated support from the Protecting People Angus Business Support and Development Officer team. Key highlights of actions delivered during the reporting period include:

- New members have joined the ACJP from a variety of backgrounds, including statutory and third-sector representation. Even though there has been a steep learning curve, positive relationships are being formed, and work has continued to progress.
- The move of the ACJP into the Protecting People Angus strategic structure will support the ACJP to be involved in more cross-cutting work. It will also allow other partners to have a greater understanding of the work undertaken on a multi-agency basis in relation to Community Justice.
- There are strong networks of multi-agency relationships, offering coordinated, proactive interventions across services.
- A collaborative approach to Arrest Referral, ensuring individualised support is being offered.
- The Glens Project continue to offer women involved with justice, a holistic, trauma-informed approach, with several proactive initiatives being implemented.
- The Care and Risk Management (CARM) process continues to be developed, supporting youth justice.
- A proactive process is in place that enhances individuals within the justice systems access to health support, including mental health and wellbeing and continuity of care.
- A housing strategy is in place to ensure the needs of people who use justice services are met.
- Trauma-informed practice is promoted, with staff offering proactive support to all individual who are involved with justice services.



- Careers advice and education is being offered, improving the life skills and readiness for employment.
- Proactive support is being offered at the remand stage ensuring the provision of person-centred care, building upon referral opportunities to support services including substance use and mental health services.
- Several successful group work programmes have been developed and facilitated across all justice services.

### **3.4 Angus Health Social Care Partnership (AHSCP) Strategic Planning Group**

AHSCP is committed to placing individuals and communities at the centre of service planning to deliver person-centred outcomes. AHSCP is focused upon improving the long-term health of its population, providing timely health and social care interventions when needed, and ensuring that such interventions give the best outcomes for service users and unpaid carers.

Due to factors that impacted on the health and social care sector, the Strategic Commissioning Plan 2019-2022 was extended for a further year. Work has commenced to review this plan and prepare a refreshed Strategic Commissioning Plan for 2023-2026.

#### **Some of the key achievements for 2022/23**

- The Strategic Commissioning Plan 2019-22 was reviewed to inform the new Strategic Commissioning Plan for 2023 - 26. Collaboration between NHS and independent sector leads (ISL) in Tayside produced a Supporting Tayside Excellence Programme (STEP). The programme aims to promote a whole system approach to improving health and care for residents of adult care homes in Tayside.
- Implementation, evaluation and roll out of the 7 Day Community Mental Health Service.
- Roll out of the Mental Health and Wellbeing Enhanced Community Support Hub in the Northwest of Angus in February 2023.
- Implementation of Triangle of Care which is a partnership between professionals, the person being cared for, and their carers. It sets how they should work together to support recovery, promote safety, and maintain wellbeing.
- Continued to support implementation of the Angus Carers Strategy, Improvement Plan and Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 through the work of the Angus Carers Strategic Partnership Group
- Some care homes and all-day care providers in Angus committed to become part of the Paths for All programme. Some staff have undergone Walk Leader training to ensure the walks are as meaningful and beneficial as possible and to support evidence regarding the positive effects and outcomes which these planned walks have for people.
- KOMP – Test of Change using very simple technology giving access to social contact and stimulation for those who cannot engage using normal social media platforms (maximising support for people in their own homes).
- Increase in the uptake of Telecare Equipment
- Eclipse – embed TEC (Technology Enabled Care) assessment as part of the referral pathway to ensure access for all potential users – supporting more people in communities and making best use of resources)
- A comprehensive and transparent learning and development framework has been established for care management. This includes an induction programme for all staff undertaking the function of care management, team

manager induction and a broader spectrum of training and learning for individual services, which delineates the respective cycles of refresher training

- In September 2022, the Mental Welfare Commission published a report titled 'Ending the exclusion', which highlighted our Mental Health and Wellbeing ECS hub in Angus, which did not reject any of the around 850 referrals.
- The IJB approved the Partnership's Workforce Plan 2022-2025 in June 2022 (Report IJB 36/22). The Scottish Government has subsequently approved the plan.
- New Equalities Mainstreaming Report and set of Equality Outcomes was approved by the IJB on 24 August 2022 published on partnership website.
- Preventative and Proactive Care Programme Steering Group was established in December 2022. This is jointly funded initiative between ANGUSalive, Angus Council and Angus Health and Social Care Partnership (AHSCP) aimed to achieve long-term behaviour change in target areas identified to improve public health in Angus and make a contribution towards tackling health inequalities.

### **Health and Work Team, Public Health, NHS Tayside**

Workplace mental health is a priority given the recent rise in the numbers of people who are absent from work or economically inactive due to long term health conditions, of which depression and mental health conditions are a leading factor.

This team engaged with businesses and workplaces across Tayside to support fair and healthy workplace conditions, policies, and practice with specialist support, advice, and training. During 2022-23 priority sectors such as agriculture, social care, retail, construction, and hospitality were included.

Several training courses were delivered including Creating a Mentally Healthy Workplace, Keep Active at Work and Looking After Your Wellbeing at Work and staff worked with the following partners to deliver further training and information sessions: See Me; Andy's Mans Club; Enable (Inclusion and Diversity in the Workplace and Supporting and Developing Employees).

35 individuals from Angus-based public, private, and voluntary sector organisations attended training or workshops delivered or facilitated by the team. Feedback from initial evaluation demonstrated the value of these sessions with all participants rating them as excellent (88%) or very good (12%).

Tailored one to one support and advice to a further six businesses in Angus were provided on workplace health and wellbeing, including support to develop initiatives, embed good practice and create supportive policies and procedures.

### **Voluntary Action Angus (VAA)**

The VAA, as the third sector interface for Angus, has supporting access to, and applications for, funding for third sector organisations that deliver health and social care benefits, and negotiating funding for the sector and creating new funding opportunities. Over the past two years VAA has successfully secured, managed, and distributed over £2.5 million to local third sector organisations and community groups in Angus.

Some examples of funds managed by VAA include:

- Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing year 1, 2 and 3
- Third Sector Energy Support Fund

- Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund
- Community Anchor Fund
- Transforming Services Agenda

### 3.5 The Angus Sport and Physical Activity Framework

The framework was launched in July 2021 and key activities delivered during this reporting period include:

- Learn to Swim officially launched at Forfar Community Campus in partnership with ANGUSalive & Scottish Swimming, attended by Great Britain's most decorated swimmer in Olympic Games history Duncan Scott MBE.
- Active Schools saw a continued recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic and this year over 8000 extracurricular physical activity sessions were on offer, delivered by over 440 volunteers.
- 181 Higher Education pupils completed education courses through the Sports Leadership Academy (19 different courses were delivered).
- New 3G surface laid at Forfar Athletic FC using the new Scottish FA Facility Fund.
- New 3G surface and asset transfer of Arbroath High School Astro to Skilz Academy, part funded by Sport Scotland's Sports Facility Fund, Place Based Investment Fund, Seagreen Community Fund and Angus Council Participatory Fund.
- The launch of a new Athlete Support Programme for young aspiring athletes "Developing Athlete Support Angus".

### 3.6 Case Studies - Caring for our People

#### Case Study 1 cool2talk

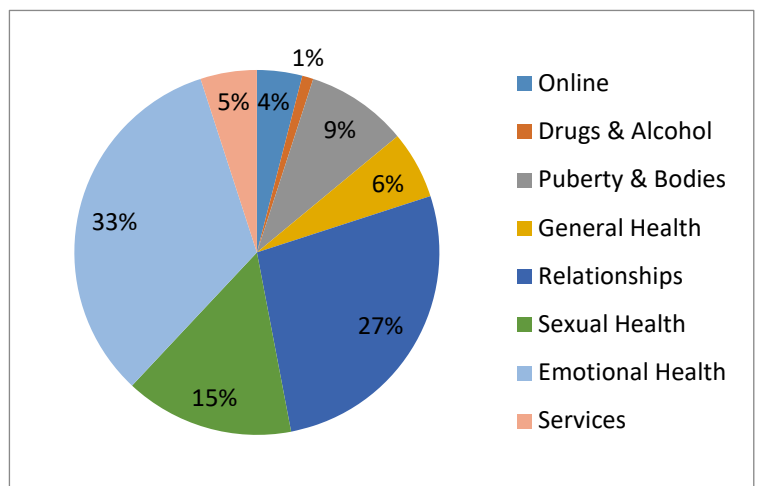
cool2talk ([www.cool2talk.org](http://www.cool2talk.org)) is an NHS Tayside website for young people aged between 12- and 25-years old living in Tayside, The Western Isles, and Argyll & Bute. Young people post a question online & receive a professional response back on the site within 24 hours. cool2talk provides accurate health information, has a directory of services for young people and can promote events and services and can be used to consult with young people.

There were 1109 questions answered in 2022 on cool2talk 24% from young people in Angus Male: 109 Female: 140 Other:13

Questions answered shown below

The service is non-judgemental, anonymous with a robust safeguarding protocol. Questions received regularly include feelings of isolation and loneliness, anger, sadness, depression, confusion, feeling different, worthless or insignificance. These themes reflect the vulnerability of the young people using the site. Emotional health and relationships are the highest percentage of questions.

#### Case Study 2 - INTENT



INTENT is a licensed tobacco prevention programme for S1 – S4 pupils and included delivery of training to Pupil Care and Support teachers across Angus secondary schools, to enable them to deliver the INTENT programme to pupils. The programme involves two teaching sessions each year with eight sessions in total. Lessons focus on Implementation intention behaviour where young people make a specific “if ... then” plan focussing on how, where, and when to carry out the behaviour such as refusing the offer of a cigarette or vape. In writing down their plan pupils process it and the plan is activated in the brain. Early Years & Young People (EYYP) Team designed and created an E-cigarette/vaping teaching resource to meet the needs of teachers.

### **Case Study 2 VAA Social Prescribers**

A 30-year-old male was referred to a social prescriber by the Community Mental Health team as there was no further help the service could provide.

A general chat with the service user revealed he was a qualified teacher who taught in America until the COVID-19 outbreak. He had what he termed as a full mental breakdown and returned to his parents' house in Carnoustie and isolated himself in his room.

He had not claimed any benefits nor paid any money to his parents. He found it difficult to make eye contact or reveal any information, so instead had a general conversation about his interests was initiated. He spoke about his interest in politics and for the first time he was able to make eye contact and became very forthcoming.

He attended every fortnight and time was spent building a relationship and gaining his trust. He was asked that if there was a magic wand that could give him one wish, what would it be. He responded that he wanted to get better and get his life back. His immediate identified goals were to lose weight and get fitter. An application was made to the Angus Alive Live Well programme which provided him with 12 free sessions at the gym. He was supported to visit and meet the gym manager for an introduction and to receive his induction training. After this, he was happy to stay on at the gym himself. He is enjoying going to the gym and following a training programme. He intends to become a full member after the initial free passes he was given are used. He now claims benefits, owns his own mobile phone, and continues to communicate via text. His mother visited the Social Prescriber at the health centre to thank him personally for not giving up on her son when others had.

## 4.Caring for Our Economy

The global economy, including Angus' local economy, is still in a period of recovery from the seismic economic shock of the COVID-19 pandemic. In the UK, the aftermath of a split with the UK's largest trading block is also having a negative economic impact. Conflict in Ukraine has disrupted key exports and global trade, leading to an increase in the price of raw materials. Food and energy prices have risen substantially, creating a cost of living and cost of doing, business crisis.

It is reassuring to see the claimant count reducing from the 20/21 baseline. However, economic inactivity rates in Angus have remained higher than the Scottish average since December 2020. Labour market conditions have been difficult, and this has been characterised by staff shortages and recruitment difficulties.

Despite this, business survival rates have increased. New business starts per 10,000 of the 16-64 population have declined slightly, but the actual difference is only 10 fewer.

Weekly earnings have increased, for both residence and workplace-based rates, however workforce-based earnings remain higher. The percentage of employees earning below Living Wage Foundation rates has decreased. It should be noted that it is difficult for Community Planning Partners to have a meaningful impact on wages rates

Digital access has improved in Angus and now around 88% of all premises have access to superfast broadband (>30 megabits per second). The percentage of premises unable to access broadband speeds of less than 10 megabits per second has dropped to all time low of 5.8% and continues to decrease.

Priorities are delivered by partnership subgroups, Tay Cities Deal, Local Employability Partnership and Community Wealth Building. Highlights of key outcomes delivered are detailed below.

### **Priorities**

- Support Angus to achieve inclusive and sustainable economic growth, with a particular focus on the long-term potential of private and public investment opportunities in offshore renewable energy.
- Deliver The Mercury Programme – A Tay Cities Deal ambition for clean growth, low carbon and Agri tech, creating high paid jobs that positively contribute to our climate.
- Encourage and invest in fair work opportunities for those that live, work and study in Angus.
- Support entrepreneurship across Angus.

## Performance Measures



Measure	Baseline 20/21	2021/22	2022/23 Update	Target 2024/25
Claimant count as a percentage of working age population	5.4%	4.1%	2.9%	5%
Claimant count as a percentage of 16-24 population	7.6%	5.4%	3.9%	7%
Business Survival rate	59.5%	59.2%	65.7% <sup>1</sup>	59.7%
New business starts per 10,000 working age population	47	49	47	48
Gross weekly earnings – Residence based	£614.60	£609.40	£637.70	£615
Gross weekly earnings – Workforce based	£590.30	£572.30	£682.30	£585
Proportion of people earning less than living wage	25.2%	22.3%	19.3%	24.5%
Proportion of properties receiving superfast broadband (>30 megabit/second)	88.1%	87.7%	88.6%	90%
Premises unable to access 10megabit/second broadband	6.9%	5.9%	5.8%	6.7%
Town vacancy rates	16.5%	14.5%	16.3%	14.2%

<sup>1</sup> Next update due June 2024

## 4.1 Tay Cities Regional Deal

The Tay Cities Region Deal continues to be delivered across the region.

### **The Mercury Programme,**

The Angus Fund used to stimulate is Angus Council's visionary £1 billion partnership programme between government, public, private and community sectors, known as [The Mercury Programme](#).

### **The Angus Rural Mobility Hub (ARMH)**

Angus Council and Dalhousie Estates signed a Memorandum of Understanding in January 2022, to work together to develop a clean growth business park, with supporting infrastructure, in Brechin, Angus. The [Angus Rural Mobility Hub \(ARMH\)](#) based at Brechin, has the potential to deliver a step change in clean transport infrastructure on the national trunk road network and in doing so, create skills and new career opportunities within Angus and the Tay Region.

### **High Speed Broadband**

A project to develop access to high-speed broadband throughout Angus was completed in March 2023. This collaborative regional project unlocked funding available at a UK level from the DCMS Local Full Fibre Network (LFFN) Programme. £1m has been allocated through the Tay Cities Deal for rural broadband, helping Angus businesses to compete globally and improving accessibility for our citizens. Addressing the issues of rurality and digital connectivity are key to reducing the digital divide, improving access to services, adapting delivery models to increase reach and performance, and to improving economic recovery and growth.

The 'Connected Tay: Digital' project recognises the critical link between improving digital and transport connectivity and increasing access to regional jobs and training. The provision of this infrastructure across part of Angus has also allowed opportunities for Internet of Things equipment to be installed.

## 4.2 Angus Local Employability Partnership (LEP)

The Angus Local Employability Partnership (LEP) focuses on improving employability and skills within the region, the median weekly wage, and helping local people who are underemployed to enhance their skills, which in turn supports local business growth. The LEP finalised the [Angus Employability Strategy](#) in September 2022, and it will now be delivered to create an inclusive well-being economy that works for all – the people, communities, and businesses.

### **Angus Council's 16+ Team**

This team has delivered various interventions and wellbeing activities, including Art Therapy courses. 2022 saw the introduction of their Well-being programme in recognition of the complex needs of young people and the level of support required before pathway planning can begin. An experienced mental health practitioner has led this, and sessions have been well attended and really enabled the young people to develop relationships with key workers and form friendships with peers.

### **No One Left Behind - Employer Recruitment Incentive Grants**

In 2022/23 the Scottish Government through No One Left Behind grants funded opportunities to support local businesses with an incentive to employ individuals who were struggling to secure sustainable employment. As a result of the funding, Angus Council delivered Employer Recruitment Incentive Grants for 77 individuals who

were experiencing significant barriers to securing sustainable employment and who would have continued to struggle to find work had these opportunities not been secured with the funding. Opportunities were designed to meet individual needs and circumstances and were as flexible as possible, e.g., varying the duration or intensity of delivery, including options of part-time or term-time placements to allow participation.

### **Disability Confident Job Fair**

In March 2023, a job fair for those with disabilities was held to support individuals in finding employment. In addition, local businesses were encouraged to come along and sign up to the Disability Confident Employer Scheme. 68 individuals attended, with 10 employers offering opportunities.

### **Towards Employment Angus (TEA)**

The programme supported 17 registered Ukrainian guests who worked with a Skills and Employability Adviser on bespoke employability support and training. Two groups were established in Arbroath and Brechin where an adviser worked on a one-to-one basis with clients and a translator, doing job searching, undertaking interview prep, and creating a CV. Other providers were also invited to attend the group to help clients overcome any barriers they may be facing to employment, such as Welfare Rights to deal with benefit issues, Housing and charities that help with vouchers for food banks, etc, if required. The Health and Social Care partnership also worked closely with the adviser and group members in Brechin to help clients gain skills to improve their chances of securing employment in social care.

### **Angus Business Engagement Group**

In February 2023, the LEP set up the Angus Business Engagement Group. This group is chaired by the Dundee and Angus Chamber of Commerce to map and provide information on the services that can be offered to support businesses within Angus and businesses that employ Angus residents. In addition to this, the group support employers to identify training to help job seekers sustain employment, and new businesses to thrive and provide information on the most appropriate service to help each business to grow.

### **Business Breakfast**

In partnership with D&A College Business and Business Gateway the LEP held a Business Breakfast on 2 March 2023 in Gayfield Stadium Arbroath. This focused on support for businesses to attract and retain staff. Using a service design approach, several conversations led to a menu of training which will be actioned in 2023/24. Dundee and Angus Chamber of Commerce, DWP and Angus Council Skills and Employability Team also attended to support local businesses.

### **Angus Council's Skills and Employability Team**

This team supported seven young people (ages 16 – 19) through their Modern Apprenticeship whilst completing their SVQ in Business Administration. Of the seven, six of them moved into employment with the employers they were working with, and the other young person moved into a new post with a new employer.

## **4.3 Community Wealth Building**

Throughout 2022/23, Public Health has been coordinating work within NHS Tayside to enhance its role as an Anchor Organisation, taking a community wealth-building approach to improving health and reducing inequalities within local communities.



By working in partnership with other Anchor Organisations, particularly in areas such as recruitment, spending and use of land and assets, a significant difference can be made to the prosperity of communities and to the social, economic, and environmental outcomes of residents.

NHS Tayside is working towards the production of an Anchors Strategy, which will set out how it will work in partnership to achieve these aims. Baseline assessments have been completed to understand current contributions and partnerships and to identify areas for further development.

#### **4.4 Case Studies - Caring for Our Economy**

##### **Case Study – Long Term Unemployment Programme**

The client is a 51-year-old female who had worked in care homes her entire working life (and was training to become a manager). In 2017 she suffered a stroke which left her unable to work. She lost her speech due to the stroke and had to learn how to speak again. Although she was keen to get back to work, she was conscious that her speech was still impaired, and she also tired easily. The client lives in Angus and is reliant on public transport.

The client really wanted to return to a role in a care environment but knew that the physical demands of a care home role would be too much for her. She did not feel that she would manage full time work and she is also reliant on public transport.

The Long-Term Unemployment Programme offered her the opportunity to work 21 hours per week in a dementia meeting centre in a town which is easily accessible by bus. With support from her supervisor and keyworker, her confidence has increased hugely, her speech has improved, and she thoroughly enjoys going to work, reporting that it has given her a purpose in life. She is now much happier.

Throughout her placement, the participant has demonstrated excellent timekeeping, she works well as a team player and her contribution to the centre is invaluable. She has developed excellent relationships with all the meeting centre members and is starting to take the lead on planning and delivering activities.

Quote from participant:

*“Since starting the programme my confidence has increased hugely and my speech has improved massively. I was exhausted to start with, but I really enjoy coming to work and am much happier than I was – even my daughter comments on how happy I am. Without the programme I don't know what I would have done.”*

## 5.Caring for Our Place

In recent year, the threat posed by climate change come close to home with an increasing number of climate impacts on Angus such as Storm Arwen causing considerable damage to infrastructure, businesses, homes and the health and wellbeing of those directly affected. It is therefore an essential priority for the CPP to support action at a national and local level, including with those undertaken by governments, the private sector, and local communities.

Further, national policies regarding tackling climate change requires committed action at a local level, with local authorities key to reducing carbon emissions and build resilience. Angus Council recognises the critical strategic leadership role it has in tackling climate change. It has developed a Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan involving all Angus stakeholders and partners. The purpose of the SECAP is to support Angus in its commitment to sustainable development, environmental management, and the transition to a low carbon economy.

To date, Angus Council has achieved significant reductions in carbon emissions from its estate, as well as taking steps to increase the resilience of the region to the impacts of climate change. However, more needs to be done to embed climate change into everyday decision making and place Angus at the forefront of the 'green recovery' and low carbon innovation.

Other indicators around place show a mixed view. Recorded crimes have continued to reduce in 22/23 from 409 in 21/22 to 399. The partnership's new Antisocial Behaviour Plan aims to tackle localised issues.

The recycling rate fell from 54.7% in 2021 to 51.7% for 2022 but remains high compared with similar local authorities. This continues to be an environmental and financial priority for Angus Council.

The volume of affordable new-build housing was lower than anticipated, primarily due to pressures within the construction sector beyond the control of the CCP. The increase in material costs, labour, and lending and borrowing pressures has meant that several new-build projects were cancelled, delayed, or halted. These market conditions still exist but it is hoped to achieve higher outputs going forward. Where new-build outputs are expected to be lower, resources have been redirected toward open market acquisitions to ensure a sustainable affordable new housing supply.









Active travel to school by primary and secondary pupils has increased by 6.1% from 50.3% in 21/22 to 56.4% in 22/23. This can be attributed to a mix of physical infrastructure improvements and behaviour changes including increased knowledge and awareness, leading to larger participation in active travel.

### Priorities

- Protect and enhance our natural and built environment.
- Enable inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe communities across Angus.
- Make our local services accessible.
- Improve connectivity in and around Angus.

## Performance Indicators

### Caring for our Place

Measure	Baseline 20/21	2021/22	2022/23	Target 2024/25
 Adults stating their neighbourhood is a good place to live	96%	96%	NA <sup>11</sup>	96.5%
 Recorded crimes and offences (per 10,000)	702.9	409	399	NA <sup>12</sup>
 Recycling rate	57.9%	54.7%	51.7% (2022)	64%
 Number of new build affordable homes delivered against annual target	141	150	47	120
 Percentage council stock that meets the Scottish Housing Quality Standard	94.2%	70.7%	56.7%	Increase
 Active travel to school by primary and secondary pupils	55.6%	50.3%	56.4%	51.5%
 Number of electric charging points available	51	121	NA	140
 Number of changing places facilities & use	8	10	10	13

<sup>11</sup> Data not available until 2024.

<sup>12</sup> Not appropriate to set targets for recorded crime due to the complex nature of the measure and the percentage of police time applied to this work.

## 5.1 Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP)

[The Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan](#) was approved by Angus Council in November 2021. The purpose of the SECAP is to support the council in its commitment to sustainable development, environmental management, and the transition to a low carbon economy in Angus.

A SECAP initial work programme was developed which was designed to enable the delivery of immediate actions involving 13 priority projects across most of the original SECAP themes. This shortlist of priority projects was informed in consultation with key stakeholders, combined with learnings from best practice elsewhere.

The SECAP steering group was set up to ensure actions are carried out within Angus to deliver emissions reductions across various sectors including within communities, businesses, domestic and non-domestic buildings.

## **The Transition to Net Zero Action Plan (TNZAP)**

Since the publication of the SECAP, Angus Council has further committed to undertake action to mitigate climate change and reduce emissions associated with Council activity across various service areas. The Transition to Net Zero Action Plan (TNZAP) states that Angus Council must reduce organisational emissions by 5% each year to meet the interim target of a 75% emissions reduction by 2029/30 across the below areas:

- Leadership, Governance & Procurement
- Buildings, Energy & Infrastructure
- Waste, Recycling & Circular Economy
- Fleet & Business Travel
- Land Use Adaptation

A comparison of the SECAP and TNZAP has taken place to understand which of the 70 SECAP actions will be undertaken by each strategy. A full review of the actions will shift in action owners from Angus Council to partnership working with external organisations, with these being reported back to council as part of the next progress report in 2024.

### **5.3 Angus Community Resilience Forum (ACRF)**

The Angus Community Resilience Forum was initially established in 2014. In 2022, further engagement was undertaken with several community groups, and an updated remit was agreed; to provide information and support through engagement, networking and sharing of good practice, to empower individuals and communities in Angus to plan for, respond to and recover from a range of incidents and emergencies from identified risks within the Angus area. The ACRF provides the community with an understanding of the role of emergency response organisations, including Angus Council, Scottish Fire and Rescue and Police Scotland, etc., who all sit on the emergency response and recovery partnership, which is known as the resilience partnership. Regular meetings are held led by the community and supported by Angus Council. The focus and priorities are all based on community needs and are reviewed regularly.

Face-to-face and online forums have been delivered, working with communities in their locality and exploring opportunities for the development of resilience response plans. This also includes exploring the development of community resilience hubs.

The ACRF identified that there was a need for improved communication during adverse weather events. This has led to introducing a WhatsApp group for all resilience groups to communicate with the council and partners. It has also been used to test a page one alert system that sends out a signal when Angus Council receives a weather alert.

Funding for village halls and resilience groups has been available to help communities purchase generators and other equipment and become more resilient and self-sufficient.

### **5.4 Angus Transport Network**

The Angus Transport Network provides a forum for local people, communities, and organisations to highlight opportunities, challenges, and innovation around transport and accessibility.

A transport consultation for Sidlaw was carried out using online and in-person methods. 167 completed responses were received, and the survey results will be used to develop the new Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) services.

### **Arbroath – A Place for Everyone**

This is a major investment project with over £10.5m grant award from Sustrans and Transport Scotland and £4m investment from Angus Council. This project will create an exemplary walking and cycling route, accessible to all, connecting destinations throughout Arbroath. The route will improve accessibility in the town by restoring those areas and facilities disconnected by the current road and creating a seafront people want to use.

Initiated in community groups in Arbroath as far back as 2012, there has been several further engagement and consultation activities. The design development has been completed with drawings and specifications issued to the contactor for feasibility pricing and Hospitalfield, based in Arbroath, has been engaged to add public art installations. Angus Cycle Hub has also been asked to facilitate further behaviour change. Work with the Pippin Group to bring native fruit trees into the landscaped areas is ongoing, and the project team will be exploring options for outdoor space at Ladyloan Primary School. Construction is to start late March 2024 and completed by Autumn 2025.

### **Active Travel**

Angus Council was awarded funds from Paths for All relating to Smarter Choices Smarter Places (SCSP) to deliver an active travel programme over the financial year 2022/23. Several projects were targeted at local commuters, residents, students and pupils, and visitors to encourage a change in travel behaviour. Examples of some of the projects from this year are:

- **Bike Recycling Support and Regional Community Engagement** - Angus Cycle Hub CIC (Community Integrated Care) (ACH) working with Angus Council extending the delivery of the current Bike Recycling programme and incentive scheme operating in Angus, previously supported by SCSP in 2020 and 2021. The programme encourages people to cycle more and gather intelligence on how people use the recycled bikes that ACH redistributes in the Angus Region via a membership model and utilising Strava to gather data. ACH has a service-level agreement with Angus Council to collect discarded bikes from the region's recycling centres. The number of scrap bikes collected from Angus Recycling Centres has risen from approximately 150 bikes per month in 2019 to 223 bikes per month in 2021, which would otherwise be scrapped. The ACH bike recycling scheme helps encourage access to cycling by providing low-cost access to refurbished bikes by the public. The scheme also reduces waste to landfill while reducing carbon emissions on a regional level through recycling and modal shift to cycling.
- **Get on the Go Social Media Campaign** - Along with our neighbouring authorities and TACTRAN, Angus Council continued the Get on the Go social media campaign which promotes and supports the success of its wider SCSP programme alongside a range of active and sustainable travel initiatives.
- **Park Smarter Campaign** – This project is a campaign to help reduce road safety risks and local traffic congestion caused by parents/ carers driving primary school children to school and parking too close to the school gates. The 'Safe Parking at Schools,' Park Smarter, campaign was designed and delivered by a transport consultant in conjunction with the council's school travel co-ordinator. Targeting pupils from P4 to P7 with a 45-minute workshop

the data was collected before and after the workshop. Homework tasks were given to all pupils with the aim of the campaign to educate and change the travel behaviour of the parent/carer.

- **Active Travel and on bus safety workshop** – This active travel workshop was very interactive for the pupil and delivered by a transport consultant in conjunction with school travel co-ordinator. The aim was to achieve independent active travel for pupils making the transition from primary to secondary school and in their leisure time (after school and at weekends).
- **Angus Cycling Outreach Activities** - Outreach activities were held across Angus. These included continued support for the Angus Healthy Living Initiative through delivery of Dr Bike maintenance service, Electric Bike Hire and demonstrations, travel information and advice for shift to lower carbon active travel methods. Support was also provided for Angus Council Vibrant Communities team's summer programme for young people in SIMD areas through the Crazy Bike Experience. The Active Travel clinics offered a variety of adaptive and ebikes for people to try and included help and advice to parents and others to swap to lower carbon active travel methods. Other initiatives included Active Travel, Dr Bike and ebike demonstration events to Angus Council employees and pool bike servicing for Angus Council.
- **Arbroath Community Planning Project** - This process allowed participating communities to identify and prioritise key local measures to support and encourage greater uptake of active and sustainable modes. The project helped the community to identify and generate a costed, prioritised action plan.

### **The Cycling, Walking and Safer Streets Fund (CWSR)**

This is a ring-fenced capital grant from Transport Scotland. Allocations have been provided on an annual basis in recent years. The allocation for 2022/23 was £741,000. The projects delivered this year through the fund included:

1. Kinnordy Nature Reserve, Kirriemuir – Footway Upgrades (additional work)
2. Forfar Loch Path Improvements – Improving path surface along south side of loch and links joining the path
3. Drumachlie Loan, Brechin – Detailed design following on from previous year's feasibility study
4. Brechin to Montrose Walking and Cycling Route, Brechin – Feasibility study looking at route between Brechin and Montrose
5. Removal of Street Clutter, Montrose – Removal of and repositioning of barriers and other street clutter across the town to improve accessibility
6. Barns of Craig in Ferryden, Montrose – Footpath down into Ferryden and connecting into the School Friendly Zone at Ferryden Primary School
7. Angus Disused Railway Lines, Angus Wide – Feasibility study looking at disused railway lines across Angus with a view to utilising them as active travel routes between settlements
8. Kirriemuir to Forfar Route, Kirriemuir – Feasibility study looking at improving the route between Kirriemuir and Forfar
9. School Road, Tealing – Feasibility study looking at active travel routes along School Road and around Tealing
10. New footpaths, Leysmill – Provision of footpaths where there is currently no provision
11. Kellas to Murroes Primary School, Murroes – An additional phase providing a link from last year's path from the village of Kellas to Murroes Primary School
12. Hillside to Craigo, Hillside – Feasibility study looking into a route from Hillside through to Craigo and on towards Marykirk

## National Cycle Network (NCN1)

Sustrans Network Development Team provided £172k to carry out substantial work to a section of the National Cycle Network 1 (NCN1) at Elliot Links. This section floods frequently, making passing difficult while impacting the surface and surrounding area. The works to this section included a new bridge, surfacing, drainage and raising the path height to make this section passable all year round for all users. Native flora have thrived on the path's new edges, further enhancing this section's aesthetics.

## 5.4 Caring for Our Place – Case Study Case Study – Resilience Events



Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) Distribution supported a series of community resilience events in Angus during winter 2022 to help local community members better prepare for the weather. Coordinated by Kirriemuir Landward West Community Council, SSEN supported four events across the region in Glenisla, Airlie, Kingoldrum and Kilry. Following a series of named storms impacting the Angus region, SSEN has significantly invested in network and community resilience. A key part of this investment has been engaging with communities worst impacted last winter, providing vital funding to local community groups, charities, and local authorities to support resilience projects. The events brought the spirit of partnership working to life to empowering local communities to build resilience. The four events were held over successive weekends at local village and community halls and were incredibly successful and well received. It is hoped that the investment of time and resource in these events will make residents more aware and better prepared and so reduce demand on SSEN in the event of future adverse weather events.

## 6. Our Partnership

The Community Plan is an eight-year plan, which represents a comprehensive and collaborative effort to foster positive and sustainable development within Angus. Through the collective dedication of partners, key priorities have been identified and will continue, through strong partnerships, to deliver on the established road map for the future.

This plan not only outlines specific priorities and actions but also highlights the importance of inclusivity, engagement, and partnership. The commitment to working together ensures that the diverse needs and aspirations of our community are considered and addressed. By fostering a sense of shared responsibility, we aim to build a community that is resilient, vibrant, and responsive to the evolving challenges and opportunities we face.

A review of the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) structure has recently been undertaken to ensure it is fit for purpose to deliver on the priorities of the Community Plan 2022-2030.

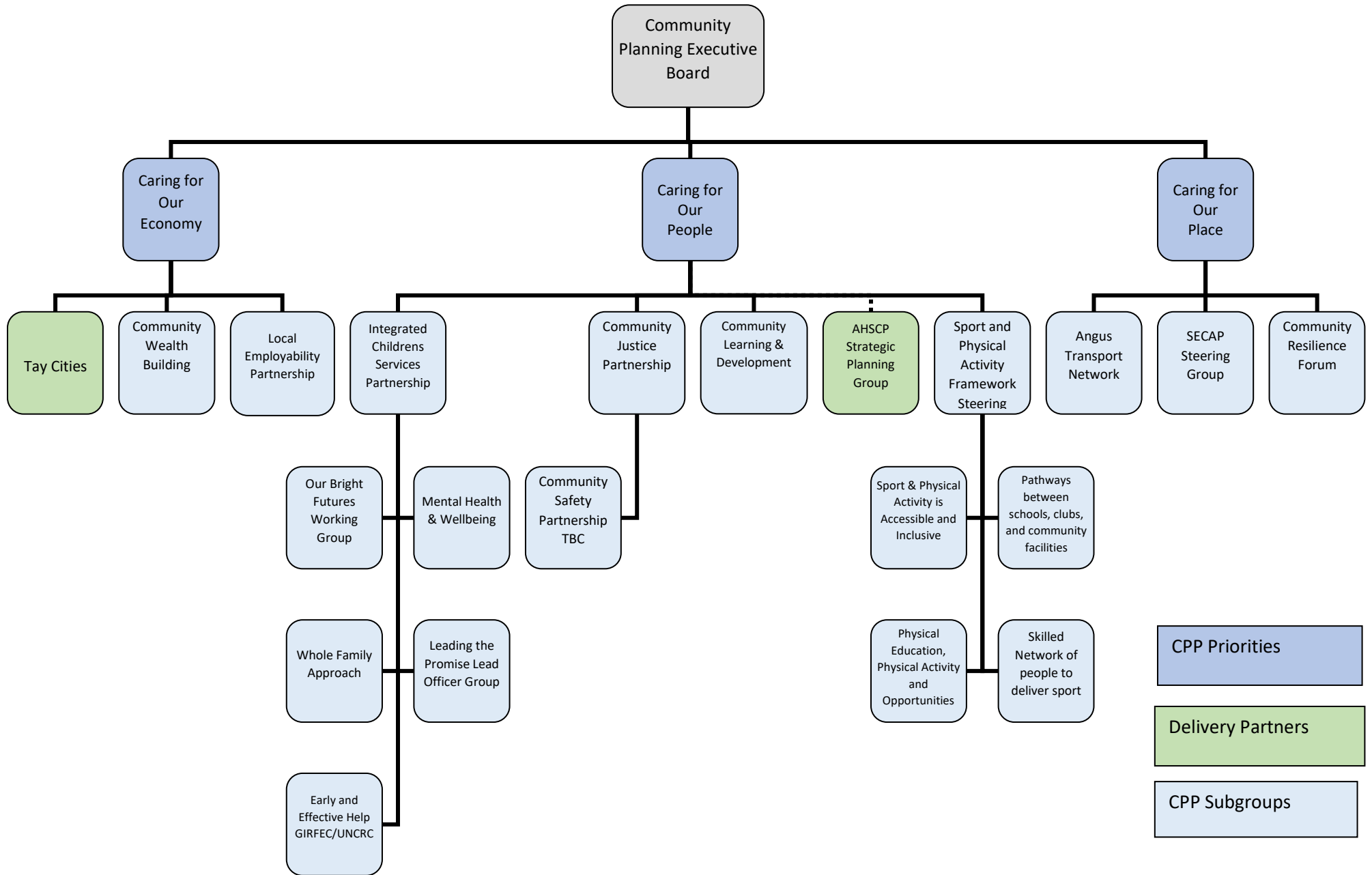
The Angus Community Planning Executive Board will have an oversight of the subgroups for each priority to ensure outcomes are achieved and work in partnership to unblock any challenges. The membership of the Board is included at the end of the report.

The diagram below shows the CPP structure and subgroups delivering on our priorities.

The work of the Angus Community Planning Partnership is underpinned by several legislative and strategic requirements. A full list of these can be found in the [Community Plan 2022-2030](#).

The diagram below shows the partnership groups delivering on our priorities. The AHSCP Strategic Planning Group report to the Integration Joint Board.





## Partners



DUNDEE & ANGUS  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Third Sector Interface