

Our Bright Futures Child Poverty Action Plan Updates 2022/23

This document details the progress that we have made against our Action Plan for the year and where relevant provides information on the outputs and outcomes achieved. Additional actions delivered against each of the drivers are also included.

COSTS OF LIVING			
Action – (What will be better?)	How will impact be assessed?	Lead	2022/23 Update
NHS Tayside - Development of a mobile phone app and website to tackle fuel insecurity in Tayside.	Participants accessing the APP and the feedback on uptake	NHS Tayside	Due to staffing, website development and input to the app the project is taking longer to be developed. Work continues on the app and website development.
Establish and embed the role of NHS Tayside as an Anchor Institute, with the aim of using its strategic influence to tackle poverty and health inequalities.	Development of anchor organisations and monitoring of poverty levels linked to them	NHS Tayside	Throughout 2022/23 Public Health have 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, particular in areas such as recruitment, spending and use of land and assets, we can make a significant difference to the prosperity of communities and social, economic and environmental outcomes of our populations. NHS Tayside are working towards the production of an Anchors Strategy which will set out how we will

			work in partnership to achieve these aims. We have carried out baseline assessments to understand our current contributions and partnerships and to identify areas for further development.
Share and promote the NHS National Services Scotland, Community Benefit Gateway (CBG) to help reduce health inequalities across Tayside.	Monitoring of health inequalities data Uptake of the gateway services	NHS Tayside	The Health and Work team in Public Health have contributed to this agenda through leading the delivery of an NHS Community Benefits Gateway for Tayside. This enables community organisations to submit needs that can be delivered by suppliers who are awarded public contracts by NHS Scotland. Angus CPP are represented on the Tayside steering group although membership has changed over the past 12 months. This has enabled promotion of the facility in Angus and has resulted in several community organisations submitting needs.
Scarf (Energising Communities social enterprise) in partnership with Angus Council will operate a further top-up fuel voucher scheme for households with children on low incomes.	Uptake of fuel vouchers and fuel poverty rates	Angus Council/SCARF	See case study
Holiday Food and Fun campaign will see a wide range of free activities available for families over the school holiday periods.	Uptake of places across Angus and the feedback from delivery of the programme	Angus Council	Work has continued to offer a successful provision which supports the Six Priority Groups as noted in the child poverty delivery plan. April 2022 - March 2023 saw the delivery of over 21,000 child activity slots for children and families. Offering support to food and fun with

			specialist advice available if and when required.
Develop an app to allow pupils to pre-order menu choices based on what they want following feedback from Service Design Project	The number of people using the app will be monitored and feedback from the change in service	Angus Council	See case study
<p>Implementation of Prevention of Homelessness Duties.</p> <p>The consultation on the proposed Prevention of Homelessness Duties closed in April 2022 and invited views in two broad areas:</p> <p>1. Introducing new duties (through a Housing Bill expected in 2023) on a range of public bodies and landlords to prevent homelessness, particularly by asking and acting on a risk of homelessness, as well as responsibilities relating to strategic and joint planning.</p> <p>2. Changing existing homelessness legislation to ensure homelessness is prevented at an earlier stage, including a proposal to extend the duty to take reasonable steps to prevent homelessness up to six months before, to maximise the housing options available to people and to prescribe what reasonable steps may include. An analysis of responses to the consultation will be published by the end of September 2022 and the government intends to bring forward the legislation in a new Housing Bill in 2023.</p>	Homelessness rates will be monitored and the analysis report will show the impact of the new duties	Angus Council	<p>Following the consultation, a report Prevention of homelessness duties: consultation analysis was published. In November 2022, the Scottish Government and COSLA published a response, and this welcomed the broad support given and confirmed that further work will be undertaken with partners and stakeholders as they develop legislative provisions for inclusion in a forthcoming Housing Bill and work to develop supporting guidance.</p> <p>The Scottish Government will include new prevention of homelessness duties for public bodies in the forthcoming Housing Bill which was planned to be introduced as soon as possible after the 2023 summer recess. No further update has been given and consultation with stakeholders is ongoing.</p> <p>Plans include a new role for public bodies to 'ask and act' about an individual's housing situation, alongside</p>

			<p>changes to existing legislation to allow local authorities to act at an earlier stage. These changes will mean different things for different organisations but will mean acting within your own powers in addition to considering the need to refer a household to a local authority for a homelessness assessment.</p>
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Additional actions taken to support people during 2022/23 include:

- Dundee and Angus College have been supporting students with food insecurity by offering free food. A free breakfast club has been running for both staff and students with a huge increase over the past year with numbers of participants going from 700 to 2500. Free lunches are also offered.
- Angus Council created a **Cost of Living webpage**, launched in November 2022 with the purpose of sharing practical information in one place, to support with immediate, medium- and longer-term needs around increased costs of living.
- During winter months and throughout the year, Angus partner organisations and community groups provide **Community Spaces - warm and welcoming places** out of the cold, spaces to spend time with others, and get support information and useful resources. A [Community Spaces webpage](#) and map was created to promote Community spaces, open to all, free or low cost to use.

A number of projects were supported by Scottish Government LACER funding to support businesses and communities recover from the pandemic. These include;

- Free Bus travel was provided to eligible people in Angus who required to use public transport and were identified in need of support with travel costs to ensure they could continue to make essential journeys. Support was offered as part of a needs assessment either through partner referrals or as an additional avenue of support available through Welfare Rights or Voluntary Action Angus when clients make direct contact.
- £350,000 was allocated to schools to support families in crisis with the cost of living. Direct payments of £100 and other various discretionary payments were made by Head Teachers to identified families in need who did not meet the means tested criteria.

- Working in partnership with food support agencies throughout Angus, Angus Council offered access to funding to support vulnerable families during the 2022 Christmas Holiday Period. Funding was provided to a number of community groups across Angus offering food hampers, food parcels and cooking bags.
- One-off energy Payments/Vouchers were provided to our lowest income households in recognition of the increased cost of living including rising food, fuel, and transport costs. The program supported overall 1558 unique households in Angus providing vouchers to the total value of £397,519. Evidence suggests this supported 1,484 children across Angus.
- Angus Council Vibrant Communities allocated £103,000 to help eligible local charities and community organisations across Angus to support vulnerable communities affected by food poverty and connect them with the support they need.

INCOME FROM EMPLOYMENT			
Action	How will impact be assessed?	Lead	
NHS Tayside to become a fully accredited Living Wage Employer	Impact will be seen if accreditation is successful and feedback from employees	NHS Tayside	Living Wage accreditation was achieved in November 2022. All staff directly employed by NHS Tayside are already paid above the real Living Wage however this new commitment will see everyone working at NHS Tayside, including agency staff, contractors and procured services receive a minimum hourly wage of £10.90 per hour.
Two support workers will be employed to work with Community Learning & Development funded through PESF to support parents in our communities with literacy, numeracy and signposting to the support required.	Work will be reviewed regularly with surveys and feedback from participants – uptake in benefits, learning and employment will also be collated	Angus Council	This project was aimed toward parents and/or carers who have been out of work or community activities for a prolonged period, due to personal/societal barriers. The project worked with individuals and ESOL learners to build

			their confidence, to re-engage with the community through social activities, work, or other opportunities such as volunteering and further education.
Working in partnership with Dundee and Angus College, Angus Skills and Employability Team, Skills Development Scotland, Barnardos and Journeycall, an Angus Telecoms Academy will start on 1 st of August 2022 and run for four weeks. Angus Local Employability Partnership (LEP) and Department of Work and Pensions will provide participant costs.	Participant numbers will be measured and the outcomes of the programme	Employability Partnership	The LEP in partnership with Dundee and Angus College, Angus Skills and Employability Team, Skills Development Scotland, Department of Work and Pensions, Barnardo's and Journeycall, executed a Telecoms Academy in August 2022 that ran for four weeks. All participants who interviewed at the end of the programme were successful in securing jobs with Journeycall.
The Local Employability Partnership (LEP) will hold a Festival of Dangerous Ideas Event in September 2022. This will have a focus on effective partnership working, sharing good practice, joint evaluation, motivational guest speakers, and finalising shared Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) and joint self-evaluation.	Participant numbers and feedback on the event will show the impact and learning	Employability Partnership	A Festival of Dangerous Ideas was held in November 2022, with 45 delegates from across the Angus Employability Landscape. Keyworkers and Services Leaders attended, and discussion was productive around the theme of Working as One Team, Creating the Angus Virtual Employability Team, and lifting communities out of poverty. Feedback was positive, and delegates made pledges to work more cooperatively together, and adopt a no wrong door approach.

<p>The Local Employability Partnership will hold 'Virtual Team Meeting' events quarterly for all staff working in the Angus Employability landscape, to share best practice, hold shared training events, and create networking opportunities between organisations, and help to facilitate a consistent approach for service users.</p>	<p>Quarterly updates from meetings with exception reports to show areas of need and development</p>	<p>Employability Partnership</p>	<p>The Local Employability Partnership (LEP) held its first virtual team event with 25 employability partners participating in service design around what the Employability Training providers needed to work collectively and consistently across the landscape. Monthly delivery group meetings are now held. Training on Trauma Informed Practice for employers and employability training providers (30 delegates). Understanding Anxiety (17 delegates) and Understanding Neuro diversity (14 delegates), in addition to a Tayside wide event for Employers on 4th of June. Which was a Refugee Awareness and Right to Work session organised in Partnership with Scottish Refugee Council have been organised as a result of the events and ongoing collaboration.</p>
<p>A Journey to Work roadshow will take place at Arbroath Job Centre delivered by AMEY PLC (private company) in partnership with the Local Employability Partnership with jobs for local people on offer.</p>	<p>Participant numbers and feedback on the event will show the impact and learning</p>	<p>Employability Partnership</p>	<p>Working in partnership AMEY and LEP partners facilitated a Journey to Work roadshow on 13th of June 2022 at Arbroath Job Centre. Feedback from AMEY noted that the ANGUS event was very successful and well attended. Angus Skills and Employability Team, DWP and Barnardo's attended the event to support Angus residents.</p>

<p>Build on the existing programmes for under 16's as our evidence shows that there is a potential challenge for them engaging in school.</p>	<p>Case studies and testimonials will be collated outlining key impacts of this work</p>	<p>Vibrant Communities</p>	<p>UK prosperity funding successful to deliver new pilot 1:1 support for young people not engaging in learning across 5 secondary schools. This area of work was developed as a result of large scale engagement work with schools, public services and 3rd sector. VC and Schools and Learning worked in partnership to create the model.</p>
<p>As part of the wider Developing the Young Workforce Strategy within Angus Council the Angus Works programme will be reviewed refreshed and re-run for 2023.</p>	<p>Indicators will be set alongside this refreshed programme to show the impact</p>	<p>Angus Council</p>	<p>The review of Angus Works has been completed and a refreshed programme is now operational. The review included discussion with school-based staff, partners, former participants and Angus Council Services. This allowed a more targeted and meaningful offer to be developed. Uptake has been lower than expected and recruitment timescales are now better aligned with course choices in school to address this. Evaluation process for 23/24 cohort is currently being developed.</p>
<p>Four locality employability key workers will be employed to support people within our communities to help create a more coherent and consistent 'Angus employability service'. Their role will be to work with local partners to ensure the effective local promotion of the 'Angus employability service', to carry out early triage for those being referred to the service or engaging directly with the</p>	<p>Work will be reviewed regularly with surveys and feedback from participants – uptake in benefits, learning and employment will also be collated</p>	<p>Angus Council</p>	<p>Three locality employability keyworkers were employed to support residents in Angus to progress towards, into and sustaining employment. Keyworkers sit with caseloads between 10-25 and provide holistic support to all clients dependent on their barriers to employment. To increase engagements, Keyworkers are located in DWP Job Centres, SDS offices and</p>

<p>service, provide appropriate early support, co-design with clients an appropriate journey into work, refer to the most appropriate part of the service as a first step, and manage their progress through the most appropriate service for each step on this journey.</p>			<p>offer Employability Drop-In's across Brechin, Montrose, Forfar, Arbroath and Frickheim. Since employment, a total of 149 referrals were received into the service - 51 of those referrals have registered with services, whilst others have been referred or signposted to more appropriate services e.g., Enable, 16+., as well as disengagement and closed cases for those progressing into employment without keyworker support. Approximately 12 clients have since moved into positive destinations and received access to the Employment Welfare Funds for support with living expenses, travel and work clothing. All clients are now supported over the 52-week tracking period with regular check-ins to track progress and monitor sustainment within their new role.</p>
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Additional actions delivered during 2022/23 include:

- Significant investment was made by the Local Employability Partnership in procuring provision to **support residents at all stages of the employability pipeline who have a disability or are a parent of a child with a disability** who wish to gain employment or upskill. Enable Works Scotland delivered this, working closely with council employability services. All in Angus is our all-stage offer that is targeted towards individuals with health conditions and disabilities and works to the principles of the supported employment model.
- Angus Council Skills and Employability Team delivered **supported placements for 32 individuals over the age of 25** who were experiencing Long Term Unemployment and who, without significant investment, would have struggled to secure employment. The LTU programme facilitated the opportunity to deliver intermediate labour market opportunities including wraparound support and access to appropriate industry recognised, certificated training which provided participants with the necessary skills to effectively compete and move into jobs.

- A range of qualifications are now on offer to adult learners in community based settings across core literacy, digital and health projects, supported by Vibrant Communities and the Skills and Employability Team. These include SQA core skills, certificated courses such as first Aid and Food hygiene and the Adult Achievement Award.
- Dundee & Angus College have grown their community engagement provision, working with 40 community partners now (forming the College Community Collaborative) to explore and support pathways from community to college. Partnership working provides the college with direct pipelines to the NEET (Not in education, employment or training) audience, in particular, young carers, care experienced, young parents, young unaccompanied settlers and neurodiverse young people. Since 2019, the community engagement team has engaged with over 500 young people, re-introducing the majority back into learning through their Touchpoints programme. Having a dedicated outreach team has helped to reframe D&A, demystifying college and empowering more young people to recognise that college can provide opportunities for them. In addition, the D&A College campus in Arbroath now has the LACE hub, incorporating Learner and Community Engagement activity. Working with the likes of the VAA, Street League, Havala and DD8, our centre is helping to connect the wider community with our campus, and vice versa.

Key activities delivered by Third Sector Partners:

- **Poverty and relationships/parenting:** There is a high prevalence of significant relationship difficulties in families affected by poverty, closely associated with stress and conflict. Relationship Scotland support has enabled parents and children living in poverty to access support effectively and promptly, to successfully address the pressures they face. This includes facilitating parental communication and negotiation around child-maintenance, in mediation. Non-payment of maintenance is one key factor in single parent households featuring so heavily in poverty statistics; 39% of children in single parent households are in poverty, and 60% of these children would be lifted out of poverty if child maintenance was received (only cc 50% of resident (single) parents receive any maintenance at all, and only 33% receive their full entitlement) (OPFS data).
- Tayside Hardship Project - In total Aberlour have supported 18 families with awards from the hardship fund to the total of £55,200.18, averaging £3,064, supporting a total of 64 people including children and spouses. Referrals to welfare rights are processed within 1 week. 14 families have accessed the hardship fund totalling £36,775.37.

Income from Social Security Benefits and In-Kind Support			
Action	How will we know? How will impact be assessed?	Lead	
Establishment of an NHS Tayside in-work poverty taskforce group.	Feedback on this work will be monitored through the Child Poverty Working Group with key areas of good practice shared across partners	NHS Tayside	Cost of Living Staff Task Group formed in May 2022. Continues to meet around every 2 months. Actions to date include development of a Cost of Living Support Director, awareness sessions/training provided to staff around home energy use or personal finances and pensions and 80% of funding grant awarded to fund research from Strathclyde Uni to plan, execute and evaluate a cost of living staff survey to find out issues around absolute and relative poverty across the workforce.
Increase the number of health and educational income maximisation referrals to welfare/energy advice services across Tayside.	The number of referrals and poverty data will be reviewed regularly	NHS Tayside	See case study
Re-establishment of the Advice Centre in NHS Tayside, Ninewells Hospital - multiple agency support.	Marketing and promotion of this service will be essential with monitoring done around number of people accessing the service and the feedback from it	NHS Tayside	The Advice Centre at Ninewells Hospital reopened in December 2022. Social Security Scotland advisors are co-located at the Centre with Home Energy Scotland advisors delivering fortnightly drop-ins from March 2023. Client numbers are fairly low at present with the average of 6 people visiting on a daily basis. Promotion of the Advice Centre includes communication to all

			staff through visits to wards and clinics, promotion on Stafnet and within staff bulletins, talks to the staff Wellbeing Champion Network and to the Staff Carers Network.
Maximise Angus Programme – Covid recovery funding secured to enable to work in partnership with Welfare Rights. Two new members of staff to support head teachers and families within school to access their entitlement and to help raise awareness and identify what the barriers are within the school context.	Increasing the entitlements people are claiming and diversion from crisis loans will be monitored	Angus Council	See Case study
Tayside Regional Improvement Collaborative continuing with the income maximisation work including development of a fuel poverty sway module with students.	Fuel poverty rates will be measured and complimented by case studies from this work	Tayside Regional Improvement Collaborative	Due to staffing and input to the app and website development the app is taking longer to be developed and rolled out by end of 2022-23. Work continues on the app and website with development expected to be completed June 2023.
Department of Work and Pensions will, through work coaches support clients with mental health and anxiety to develop a social anxiety 10-week programme delivered by telephone initially eventually leading to a group setting.	Monitoring of the progress of this project will be extremely useful for all partners in supporting the growing challenges around mental health and resilience	Department of Work and Pensions	The Job Centre across Angus have seen an increase in clients with mental health & anxiety. They have worked closely with the work coaches to break this and have introduced a social anxiety 10-week programme leading from phone calls eventually leading to a group setting,

Additional actions delivered:

- **Citizens Advice Bureau** have been providing advice focused heavily around income maximisation and immediate relief of poverty, including benefit checks/applications/reconsiderations, and food/fuel/clothing bank vouchers and the like. Funding has been secured to provide energy support until 31st March 2024. This includes being able to offer 3x training sessions around energy to some of the housing and tenant participation officers at Angus Council , and we have capacity for 1-1 appointments and group work directly with clients and client groups.
- Angus Council Education and Lifelong Learning Directorate developed a **Connecting Parents website** for all parents and carers with parental responsibility in Angus. It provides access to a wide variety of services who support families and their child's education.