

COMMUNITY PLANNING

# ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22



COMMUNITY PLANNING  
WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE



## Community Planning West Dunbartonshire (CPWD)

Community Planning is about how public bodies work with each other, and with local communities, to design and deliver better services that make a real difference to people's lives.

We strive to improve the lives of West Dunbartonshire residents by bringing together local public services with the communities they serve. We want to design and deliver services together, with a focus on specific local circumstances.

As a partnership we work together to improve local services and to ensure that they meet the needs of local communities, and individuals, especially those most in need.

# Executive

## Summary 2021/22

This Annual Report updates on the priorities and outcomes, set by Community Planning West Dunbartonshire in the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (West Dunbartonshire Plan for Place) 2017 – 2027, for the year 2021–22.

April 2021 was a time of continued response to the Covid-19 pandemic following the emergent omicron variant. This period and into 2022 involved partnership working on vaccination roll out, and various supports within the community to address the impacts of Covid-19 throughout West Dunbartonshire.

The Annual Report, as required through the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, provides an overview of the progress made towards five priorities illustrated by case studies of positive partnership working, including partnership responses to Covid-19.

Community Planning West Dunbartonshire (CPWD) is governed by a Management Board. Meeting quarterly, the Board is the final approval and scrutiny body for the partnership and is responsible for agreeing the joint priorities for community planning and the resources required to deliver progress. At the core of the priorities and aspirations of CPWD is a commitment to promote equality and reduce the impact of inequality on our residents. We will continue to progress this equality agenda, recognising the vibrant diversity within our local communities and ensuring that the needs of residents are considered and planned for in an equitable way.

The Board is made up of a number of key public, private and third sector organisations with a West Dunbartonshire responsibility or interest.



# 5 priorities

## of West Dunbartonshire



The five priorities of West Dunbartonshire Plan for Place are delivered on behalf of Community Planning West Dunbartonshire by Delivery & Improvement Groups (DIGs). DIGs support delivery of the priority outcomes for Community Planning West Dunbartonshire, bringing together key partners to plan and deliver improvement activity over the period of the plan. This is detailed in DIG action plans, approved and reported to CPWD Management Board on a regular basis. The DIGs are:

- 1) **A flourishing West Dunbartonshire**
- 2) **An independent West Dunbartonshire**
- 3) **An nurtured West Dunbartonshire**
- 4) **An empowered West Dunbartonshire**
- 5) **A safe West Dunbartonshire**

During 2021–22 three over-arching themes were developed; sustainability, wellbeing and empowerment and are being considered within DIG action plans.



# a flourishing West Dunbartonshire

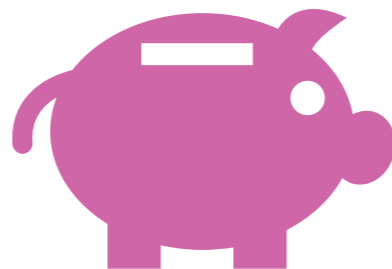
The Flourishing DIG has been focused on the direct and wider economic impact of the pandemic, with input provided by Scottish Enterprise and the City Region Intelligence Unit. The pandemic presented some real challenges in the communities of West Dunbartonshire and partners monitored the situation as restrictions relaxed and communities returned to some form of normality.



- our economy is flourishing, diverse and dynamic, creating opportunities for everyone
- our local communities are sustainable and attractive
- increased and better quality learning and employment opportunities
- enhanced quality and availability of affordable housing options

## In the last year:

- ✗ gross median weekly earnings fell slightly from £581.60 to £574.60
- ✓ the employment rate has increased to 73.9% by March 2022
- ✓ fewer people are claiming out of work benefits
- ✗ the latest available figures show a slight decrease in business survival for three years or more from 54.2% to 51.9%



### Covid-19 Business Support

Between January and March 2022, the Council Business Support team continued to administer a range of Coronavirus Business Support funds on behalf of the Scottish Government. This support included grants for the hospitality and leisure business sectors and financial support for Taxi Drivers and Operators. In this three month period over 860 grant payments were processed totalling more than £1.4 million.

### Scotland Loves Local

The Scotland Loves Local campaign has been helping businesses throughout West Dunbartonshire by encouraging local people to shop local, think local and support local enterprises. Promoted by Dunbartonshire Chamber of Commerce with support from West Dunbartonshire Council and backed by Scotland's Towns Partnership, the campaign was developed to make a positive impact on businesses in and around towns. The Loves Local initiative to support the recovery of towns and neighbourhoods across Dunbartonshire was shortlisted for the inaugural Scotland Loves Local Awards, with Dunbartonshire Chamber of Commerce recognised for their efforts to deliver the campaign in four locations across West Dunbartonshire. The campaign was also included as an example of best practice in the Scottish Government's retail strategy - 'Getting the Right Change'.

### Employability Improvements

The Strategic Employability Partnership, including Skills Development Scotland, the Department for Work and Pensions and local employability service providers, have been focussing on the most effective use of grant funding for employability and have established a procurement framework that has allowed a broader range of specialist service provision to be drawn from. This has maximised the use of funds in programmes such as: No One Left Behind; the Parental Employability Support Fund; and the Young Persons Guarantee, where focus has been placed on incentives for employers to employ young people.

All of these funds provided additional resources to meet training costs and in some cases salary

costs for people to (re)enter the labour market and a monitoring framework has been established to capture progress in the design and delivery of the new activity.

### Building Bridges

Building Bridges is Dunbartonshire Chamber of Commerce's Skills Development Programme, designed to help support our young people and our schools and to develop local skills to meet the needs of the local economy.

Working with West Dunbartonshire Council, Developing Young Workforce West, Skills Development Scotland and a host of "Chamber Champions", a range of activities have been delivered including promoting the Young Persons Guarantee to the wider business community in West Dunbartonshire, promoting apprenticeships and full-time employment opportunities, facilitating school visits by representatives from local businesses and helping to co-ordinate and create "industry insights" to inspire and increase young people's understanding of the different types of business and industries in their area.

In addition, the programme has also provided business mentors to local schools, giving young entrepreneurs the support to turn their business idea into reality, and has promoted Women in STEM; providing role models and increasing the aspirations of the area's young people.

### District Heating Network

The West Dunbartonshire Energy Centre at Queens Quay has been operational since December 2020 and its water source heat pump and district heating network won the Just Transition To A Net Zero Economy category in the COSLA Excellence awards 2022 in addition to Clydebank being named Heat Pump City of the Year 2021 at the European Heat Pump Awards. The district heating network is connected to West College Scotland, the Golden Jubilee Hospital, Clydebank Leisure Centre, Queens Quay House Care Home, Titan Enterprise Centre and Aurora House as well as the nearby social housing development on Titan Boulevard, comprising 147 units. Clydebank Housing Association has also agreed to connect 45 flat units on Dumbarton Road.

# an independent West Dunbartonshire

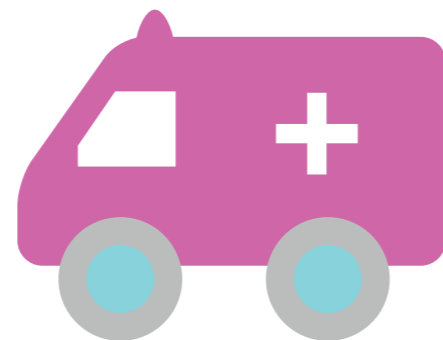
The Independent DIG enables a co-ordinated, multi-agency approach to supporting the services which allow West Dunbartonshire community members to live active and independent lives in suitable accommodation.

The Independent DIG has 3 outcomes:



- adults and older people are able to live independently in the community
- quality of life is improved for our older residents
- housing options are responsive to changing need over time

- ✗ the latest available figures show mortality rates have increased
- ✗ unplanned emergency hospital attendances have increased significantly
- ✗ emergency hospital admissions have increased slightly
- ✗ the latest available data shows wellbeing has deteriorated slightly



## Implementation of the National Dementia Strategy

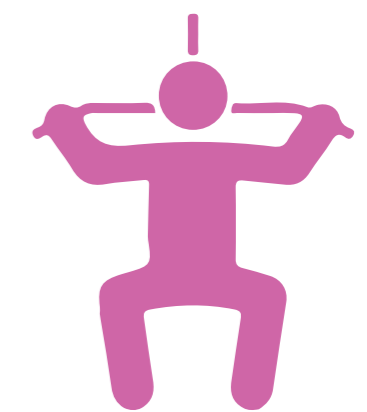
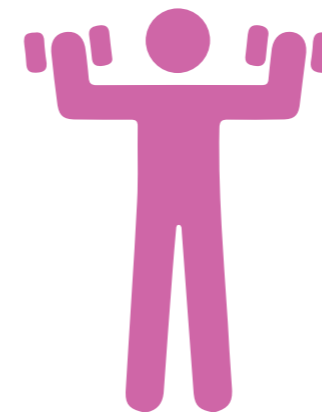
The West Dunbartonshire Independent DIG contributed to the conversation on how to implement the requirements of the Third National Dementia Strategy, including earlier diagnoses and referral to services; a greater focus on the client journey; and creating a culture change in societal attitudes to dementia, social isolation and post-diagnostic support.

The target for dementia services to offer an information pack within a year of diagnosis was 80.7% in West Dunbartonshire against a national average of 75%.

## Vitality and Live Active

The Vitality scheme has recommenced following the pandemic with weekly sessions on building strength, co-ordination and flexibility delivered by qualified instructors in Alexandria, Clydebank and Dumbarton leisure centres.

The Live Active initiative which is a 12-month supported programme to encourage and promote the benefits of having an active life through trying new activities has also restarted, with regular referrals on to the programme from GPs and health professionals.



# a nurtured

## West Dunbartonshire

The Nurtured DIG works through multi-agency planning to prioritise and support measures to help address challenges faced by children, young people and their families. This work reflects the ambitions of the Integrated Children's Services Plan and embedding the principles of Getting It Right For Every Child and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The Nurtured DIG has 3 local outcomes:



- all West Dunbartonshire Council children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed
- families are supported in accessing education, learning and attainment opportunities
- improved life chances for all children, young people and families

### In the last year:

- ✗ the latest available figures show a slight decrease in babies born with a healthy birthweight
- ✓ the latest available figures show an increase in young people entering a positive destination on leaving school
- ✓ the latest available figures show educational attainment levels have improved slightly
- ✗ the latest available figures show the BMI of Primary 1 children has increased
- ✗ the latest available figures show child poverty rates have increased to 27% after housing costs



### Summer holiday programme

A range of community planning partners were involved in delivering a five-week summer extravaganza in 2021, supported by funding from West Dunbartonshire Council and the Scottish Government's Get into Summer Fund. The programme provided 10,000 free places to children and young people allowing them to participate in a range of exciting holiday activities and access to free food and snacks.

Alternative payment was also provided to those entitled to free school meals including Early Years and P1-3 categories and eligible P4-S6 children.

### Youth Connections

Working 4U, Y Sort It, West Dunbartonshire Council Educational Services and a range of local organisations have piloted a new Engaging Learners Pathway. The Youth Connections element of the pathway, which is led by the Youth Alliance, focuses on S3-S6 pupils' school, home and community life, providing a tailored programme of engagement opportunities.

Youth Connections has also offered opportunities to help support the wider family through Family Opportunity Hubs and has allowed the partnership to address the key drivers of poverty outlined within the local Child Poverty Action Plan; supporting young people and their families to maximise opportunities available to them. Over 30 young people have participated in group work or one-to-one mentoring through the programme.

### West Dunbartonshire Distress Brief Intervention Associate Programme

A priority for the Children and Young People's Mental Health Community Supports and Services group during 2021-22 was to establish a new service for young people experiencing emotional distress with the aim of "ask once get help fast". The service is aimed at young people aged 16 - 24 yrs (26 yrs for care experienced young people) to support those who are experiencing 'emotional distress' and not requiring clinical interventions.

The service is overseen by a delivery group with members from the National Distress Brief Intervention Programme, Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Health and Social Care Partnership Mental Health Services, Specialist Children's Service, Looked After and Adopted Children Services, Health Improvement, Primary Care and Education Services and is co-chaired by West Dunbartonshire HSCP and Scottish Association for Mental Health (SAMH).

10,000  
free places  
for children on the  
Summer  
Extravaganza  
holiday activities  
programme

# an empowered West Dunbartonshire

The Empowered DIG is chaired by West Dunbartonshire CVS and comprises representatives from the public, private and third sector with a focus on restarting community conversations, fostering greater community resilience and developing community empowerment as West Dunbartonshire emerges from the pandemic.

The Empowered DIG has 3 local outcomes:



- we live in engaged and cohesive communities
- citizens are confident, resilient and responsible
- carers are supported to address their needs

## In the last year:

- ✗ CO2 emissions have increased
- ✗ the latest available figures show 29% of households in West Dunbartonshire in fuel poverty
- ✗ the latest available figures show community fragility has increased



## Third Sector Volunteering Strategy

An extensive two-stage consultation on a draft authority-wide volunteer strategy has taken place with wide-ranging feedback received through online focus groups, attended by over 100 volunteer representatives, and through a dedicated workshop facilitated by the Volunteer Engagers Forum. The draft strategy will be implemented through alignment with the national Volunteering for All outcomes framework.

## Digital Skills

Members of the Empowered DIG have engaged with work to further empower digital skills and training throughout the community; enabling access to digital devices by facilitating applications to the Connecting Scotland initiative while providing digital support to individual community members from trained volunteers. A programme of cyber security training, supported by Cyber Security Scotland, was also delivered throughout the Autumn and Winter period in response to the rising incidence and level of risk around scam emails and texts.



## Dementia Friendly West Dunbartonshire

This initiative was re-established in 2021-22 and provides community support for people with dementia and their carers through a partnership approach involving service providers across the public, private and voluntary sectors.

The Empowered and Safe DIGs provide governance and direction of the initiative's activities which have included development of the Dementia Ambassadors Network, community roll-out of the Herbert Protocol and installation of call blocker devices.

# a safe West Dunbartonshire

The Safe DIG facilitates discussion amongst organisations and bodies involved in community safety activities, to allow information exchange on new and ongoing initiatives and to work towards a safer West Dunbartonshire.

The Safe DIG has 3 local outcomes:



- residents live in a safe and positive community
- our communities are supported and included
- we encourage enhanced water safety

## In the last year:

- ✗ the latest available figures show a very slight increase in total dwelling fires
- ✓ the rate of recorded crimes has decreased by 18%



### Location based Needs Assessment

Highlighted and brought to the Safe DIG by West Dunbartonshire Alcohol and Drugs Partnership, this initiative brings partners together from a range of safety, health and wellbeing backgrounds to consider a Public Health approach to tackling substance related harms. A working group has been established and an initial discussion took place to consider necessary objectives/outcomes with a focus on engaging with people most at risk of harm.

### Anti-social behaviour/Violence

The "Safe Summer" partnership meetings initiated in February 2022. These allow for necessary discussion and planning of joint activities to address anti-social behaviour. Several joint action plans have already taken place involving Police Scotland, West Dunbartonshire Council, British Transport Police, Scotrail (Travel Safe teams) and the National Park. Partnership activity will extend to include youth diversionary services where available, to educate and divert young people from the harms associated with this behaviour.

### The Partnership Approach to Water Safety Group (PAWS)

West Dunbartonshire PAWS Group secured initial funding from Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and conducted site visits to identify locations requiring additional or new Public Rescue Equipment (PRE). A total of 21 locations within Balloch Park now have geo-located PRE including mounting hooks and throw lines and these will be maintained by West Dunbartonshire Council and other partners on an ongoing basis. The group also established a communications strategy to align social media accounts across partners and to develop a water safety learning package for schools, and developed a close working relationship with the West Dunbartonshire Suicide Prevention Group to discuss locations of concern.





This document is also available in other languages, large print and audio format on request.

### Arabic

هذه الوثيقة متاحة أيضا بلغات أخرى والأحرف الطباعية الكبيرة وبطريقة سمعية عند الطلب.

### Hindi

अनुरोध पर यह दस्तावेज़ अन्य भाषाओं में, बड़े अक्षरों की छपाई और सुनने वाले माध्यम पर भी उपलब्ध है

### Punjabi

ਇਹ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਹੋਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵਿਚ, ਵੱਡੇ ਅੱਖਰਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਅਤੇ ਆਡੀਓ ਟੇਪ 'ਤੇ ਰਿਕਾਰਡ ਹੋਇਆ ਵੀ ਮੰਗ ਕੇ ਲਿਆ ਜਾ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ।

### Urdu

درخواست پر یہ دستاویز دیگر زبانوں میں، بڑے حروف کی چھپائی اور سننے والے ذرائع پر بھی میسر ہے۔

### Chinese (Cantonese)

本文件也可應要求，製作成其他語文或特大字體版本，也可製作成錄音帶。

### Polish

Dokument ten jest na życzenie udostępniany także w innych wersjach językowych, w dużym druku lub w formacie audio.

### British Sign Language



BSL users can contact us via [contactSCOTLAND-BSL](mailto:contactSCOTLAND-BSL), the on-line British Sign Language interpreting service.



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For more information on Community Planning in West Dunbartonshire please check out our webpages:  
<https://www.west-dunbarton.gov.uk/community/community-planning-west-dunbartonshire/>  
Or contact our delivery partner: [cppadmin@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:cppadmin@argyll-bute.gov.uk)