



**Report by the Flourishing DIG Chair**

**West Dunbartonshire Community Planning Partnership  
Management Group - February 2021**

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**Subject: Flourishing DIG Update - Wellbeing**

**1. Purpose**

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to update members on the progress of wellbeing focussed activity being undertaken under the auspices of the Flourishing Delivery and Improvement Group (DIG).

**2. Recommendations**

- 2.1** The Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Management Group is asked to
- Note the work undertaken

**3. Background**

- 3.1** The Flourishing DIG action plan supports the local outcomes ensuring:
- our economy is flourishing diverse and dynamic, creating opportunities for everyone;
  - our local communities are sustainable and attractive;
  - increased and better quality learning & employment opportunities, and
  - enhanced quality and availability of affordable housing options:
- 3.2** This report provides members with an update on the key wellbeing focussed activity undertaken during the operational year to date.

**4. Main Issues**

**COVID Response**

- 4.1** The announcement of the Covid19 Stay at Home Order/ Lockdown on March 23<sup>rd</sup> 2020 saw a comprehensive response from the Flourishing partner organisations.
- 4.2** The Flourishing DIG discussed the forecast economic impact on the Pandemic with input from Scottish Enterprise and the City Region intelligence unit presenting the potential impact on employment and the wider economy. The indicator of the impact along with some Brexit unknowns at the time presented some real challenges in our communities and for the partners in developing a suitable response.

**4.3** Examples of wellbeing impacts achieved through activities of DIG partners include the following:

**March 2020:** The Business support team of the Council with other services supporting the delivery of Scottish Government business support grants which commenced in March 2020 and continues well into 2021 following additional lock-down and impact on the business community, more than £16m has been provide to local business to support their survival in these difficult pandemic times.

**June 2020:** The Council in partnership with the local Chamber of Commerce and community groups supported the national initiative of 'love local' across our three main conurbations of Clydebank, Dumbarton and the Vale. This involved promotion and awareness in our community to support local businesses and shop locally during this extended pandemic period, in particular through social media and encouraging businesses to increase their digital presence through online shopping and click and collect arrangements.

**4.4** The employability team and partners have been developing No One Left Behind; a new approach to the delivery of local employability services. This has seen the development of the strategic employability partnership that includes representation from key agencies such as SDS and DWP who are now working alongside Working 4U and local employability service providers to co-ordinate efforts for the benefit of local residents

**4.5** The strategic employability group are looking at the best methods to make most effective use of grant funding for employability. This will include the use of funds in programmes such as the Young Persons guarantee, where focus will be placed on incentives for employers to employ young people. In add the new Kickstart programme will allow us to connect young people with employers providing resources to meet salary and training costs. We will also continue to develop assistance that support parents into the labour market through the extension of the parental employment support fund. All of these funds will provide additional resources to meet training costs and in some cases meet salary costs for people to (re) enter the labour market.

**4.6** As West Dunbartonshire has progressed through varying levels of restrictions, and now entering a second period of national restrictions, individual employment support and business support services with additional grant distribution is anticipation for months to come.

**4.7** West Dunbartonshire Council's Housing and Homelessness Services have been operating fully throughout the pandemic providing a wider range of existing and new services in response to the pandemic including direct financial assistance available to all tenants and homeless households.

**4.8** Engagement with citizens to establish any direct and support need has been a key driver in service delivery going forward since the initial lockdown in March,

the direct assistance has seen over 1000 households provided with a home since March and provided with support to enable.

- 4.9** The delivery of the new homes has included a significant contribution from the Council's More Homes New build programme, which after the initial lockdown has been delivered since June. The current programme will see 416 new council homes for social rent to be delivered providing much needed new homes for our communities.

## **5. People Implications**

- 5.1** There are no personnel issues

## **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1** There are no specific financial implications arising at present. The introduction of Covid specific funding has assisted delivery during the 2020-21 financial year, however should the interruption and subsequent restrictions continue into the 2021/22 financial year, financial implications may come into focus.

## **7. Risk Analysis**

- 7.1** There are no specific unassessed risks relating to this report

## **8. Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)**

- 8.1** Equalities Impact Assessments are carried out in all key action areas as required.

## **9. Consultation**

- 9.1** Ongoing consultation activity with both providers and service recipients is undertaken allowing for flexibility of approach as needs throughout the pandemic progress alter.

## **10. Strategic Assessment**

- 10.1** The contents of this report could impact on all community planning strategic priority areas.

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**Person to Contact:** Michael McGuinness  
[Michael.mcguinness@west-dunbarton.gov.uk](mailto:Michael.mcguinness@west-dunbarton.gov.uk)  
0777 442 8294

**Background Papers:** Flourishing DIG Action Plan 2020-22

**Wards Affected:** All