#### **CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCIL**

# THIS PAPER RELATES TO ITEM 12 ON THE AGENDA

**Report to: Audit and Scrutiny Committee** 

Date of Meeting: 25<sup>th</sup> August 2022

Subject: Clackmannanshire Local Child Poverty Action Report 2021/22

Report by: Strategic Director Partnership and Performance

#### 1.0 Purpose

1.1. This report presents Clackmannanshire's Local Child Poverty Action Report for the period 2021/22 as required under the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017. The report has been jointly prepared with NHS Forth Valley with contributions from a wide range of additional partners in line with the statutory guidance.

#### 2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1. Committee is asked to:
- 2.1.1. Note, comment on and challenge the report as appropriate;
- 2.1.2. Note that the report will be considered by the Clackmannanshire Alliance on the 7<sup>th</sup> October 2022 and published on our website thereafter in line with requirements set out in the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017.

#### 3.0 Considerations

- 3.1. The Child Poverty Scotland Act 2017 and subsequent guidance on preparing Local Child Poverty Action Reports sets out the requirements on Clackmannanshire Council to prepare and publish reports on an annual basis. Reports are required to both set out achievements over the past year and set out the local actions being taken to deliver Scotland's national strategy Every Child Every Chance: Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2018/22.
- 3.2. This action report is the fourth published aligned with Every Child Every Chance 2018/22. The second national strategy Best Start, Bright Futures was published in spring 2022 and future Local Child Poverty Action Reports prepared for Clackmannanshire will be aligned with the actions and interventions set out in the plan for the next 4 years.

The reports reflects on achievements and developments throughout 2021/22 during which time communities have started the slow process of recovery from the Covid 19 pandemic. This has seen the availability of more face to face support and interventions increase and also the reintroduction of plans

and projects previously paused to accommodate Covid response activities across the Council, NHS FV and wider partner organisations. The report demonstrates the good work implemented over the reporting period and in relation to the priorities sets in the Local Child Poverty Action Plan for Clackmannanshire. Key achievements are outlined in the report and some of these are shown below:

- i. Activities hosted by the Clackmannanshire Alliance and partners to raise awareness of poverty in Clackmannanshire and the range of support and interventions being taken forward to reduce the impact of poverty in non-stigmatising ways as part of the annual **Challenge Poverty Week** campaign in October each year.
- ii. A range of support and interventions carried out in Schools as part of the Cost of the School Day programme;
- iii. **STRIVE** a holistic and whole systems multi agency partnership to support a rapid response for individuals at the point of crisis in order to prevent longer term entrenched chaos in their lives.
- iv. **Thrive to Keep Well** a 16 week programme supporting parents in deprived areas to improve their mental health & well being and life circumstances as a first step back into social connections and learning as part of stage 1 and preengagement into employability skills pipeline.
- v. Clackmannanshire's Family Wellbeing Partnership which seeks to improve the wellbeing and capabilities of families and young people in Clackmannanshire, working with families to support what matters to them; helping to improve their wellbeing and capabilities and leading to flourishing lives.
- vi. A range of activities which aim to reduce **Digital Exclusion** in Clackmannanshire and which includes the deployment of 670 digital devices through the Connecting Communities programme.
- vii. A range of programmes which seek to provide **employability** support for residents in Clackmannanshire including Pre Employability in Clackmannanshire (PEC), Fair-start, Parental Employability Support Fund (PESF), Flexible Skills and Inclusion Programme and ESF Employability Pipeline.
- viii. A range of services which seek to increase **Financial Inclusion** in some of our most vulnerable communities. This includes maximising income through Social Security benefits and help to mitigate the impacts of a Cost of Living increase. This includes Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) financial health checks, welfare rights and money advice; the New Baby Financial Health Service which is a partnership between NHS FV and CAB and work with partners by Social Security Scotland on benefits uptake maximisation.
  - ix. A range of partnership activities to address **Period Poverty** in Clackmannanshire, ensuring that women and girls have access to a range of sanitary products and work in Schools to raise awareness of period poverty in a way which removes stigmas associated with period poverty.

Appendix 1 of this report details the full range of activities and actions that partners are delivering to tackle child poverty to meet these priorities; these also relate to the 3 drivers of child poverty identified in Every Child Every Chance: Improving income through employment; Improving income through social security and benefits in kind and Costs of living. Additional focus is also shown on actions which promote partnership working and which help families in other ways.

# 4.0 Sustainability Implications

4.1. The report will have a positive impact on the following sustainability indicators: Improve quality of life in Clackmannanshire; encourage community decision making; reduce health inequalities; reduce social exclusion; target skills and training and unemployment; achieve sustainable economic development and eradicate fuel poverty.

#### 5.0 Resource Implications

- 5.1. Financial Details
- 5.2. There are no financial implications for the Council arising from the report. The initiatives described in the report are agreed within current budgets for 2021/22. Where external funding is used the source of funding is provided at appendix 1.
- 5.3. Staffing
- 5.4. There are no staffing implications arising from the report.

#### 6.0 Exempt Reports

6.1. Is this report exempt? Yes  $\square$  (please detail the reasons for exemption below) No X

#### 7.0 Declarations

The recommendations contained within this report support or implement our Corporate Priorities and Council Policies.

(1) Our Priorities (Please double click on the check box ☑)

Clackmannanshire will be attractive to businesses & people and	
ensure fair opportunities for all Our families; children and young people will have the best possible	X
start in life Women and girls will be confident and aspirational, and achieve	X
their full potential Our communities will be resilient and empowered so	X
that they can thrive and flourish	X

#### (2) **Council Policies** (Please detail)

Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2017/27 Clackmannanshire Council Corporate Plan: Be the Future 2018/23

# 8.0 Equalities Impact

8.1 Have you undertaken the required equalities impact assessment to ensure that no groups are adversely affected by the recommendations?

Yes No X

# 9.0 Legality

9.1 It has been confirmed that in adopting the recommendations contained in this report, the Council is acting within its legal powers.

#### 10.0 Appendices

10.1 Please list any appendices attached to this report. If there are no appendices, please state "none".

Appendix 1) Local Child Poverty Action Report 2021/22

# 11.0 Background Papers

11.1 Have you used other documents to compile your report? (All documents must be kept available by the author for public inspection for four years from the date of meeting at which the report is considered)

Yes X (please list the documents below) No  $\square$ 

- Every Child Every Chance: Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2018/22
- Best Start, Bright Futures: Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2022/26
- Clackmannanshire Local Outcomes Improvement Plan 2017/27
- Developing a Local Child Poverty Action Report: National Guidance
- Clackmannanshire Council Corporate Plan: Be the Future 2018/23

#### Author(s)

NAME	DESIGNATION	TEL NO / EXTENSION
Cherie Jarvie	Senior Manager Partnership and Transformation	2365

Approved by

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NAME	DESIGNATION	SIGNATURE
Stuart Crickmar	Strategic Director: Partnership and Performance	

# **Appendix 1**

# Clackmannanshire Local Child Poverty Report 2021/2022

#### Foreward

This report sets out the work that we have been doing with partners through the Clackmannanshire Alliance to tackle Child Poverty as part of partner's commitments to the national Child Poverty Strategy 'Every Child, Every Chance'. We recognise the challenge that we face alongside our partners to tackle the levels of child poverty in Clackmannanshire with the recent statistics published showing that 23.9 %<sup>1</sup> of our young people live and experience poverty.

We, along with our partners, are committed to improving outcomes for children, families and communities blighted by poverty. Child Poverty is a strategic priority for Clackmannanshire as set out in our Local Outcome Improvement Plan and Clackmannanshire Council's Corporate Plan. Our *Be the Future* Programme sets out the ambitious programme of transformation which the Council is taking forward in collaboration with our partners and our communities. As part of this work we are seeking to create the conditions in Clackmannanshire to achieve a wellbeing economy with inequality, inclusive growth, communities and families at the heart of this ambition.

#### Council Leader Ellen Forson

#### **Clackmannanshire Council**

We want all children in Clackmannanshire to have a stable, safe childhood and succeed. To achieve this, we need to work as a partnership to tackle the root causes and impacts of poverty. NHS Forth Valley, Clackmannanshire Council and our community planning partners show within this report the efforts which have been made to support families mitigate the impacts of not having enough to make ends meet. Tackling poverty and reducing inequalities has always been a priority for the public health and wellbeing agenda.

We require to be innovative in our approaches; ensure that we reach all who need support and ensure lived experience is built into the design of future services and support for people and communities. The role of anchor organisations and local communities working together on local solutions through a wellbeing economy approach is a priority for NHS Forth Valley and the community planning partnership. I am committed to driving forward the Forth Valley Anchor partnership to support this and I welcome this report which highlights the wealth of work undertaken to tackle child poverty in Clackmannanshire.

#### **Cathie Cowan**

Chief Executive, NHS Forth Valley

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Estimates of children living in poverty, below 60% median income after housing costs, by Scottish local authority based on statistics published by DWP Children in Low Income Families Local Area Statistics March 2022.

#### Introduction

This Local Child Poverty Action Report for Clackmannanshire is the fourth report published under the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 and the Scottish Governments strategy *Every Child Every Chance 2018-2022*. This report covers the period 2021/22.

We know that the challenge of reducing the levels of child poverty in Scotland is complex. We know that poverty affects families across Scotland and across Clackmannanshire, including those who have a parent in work, and including those who may live in some of the most affluent communities. Yet the impacts of poverty on families can be significant and challenging, and the ties of poverty can be incredibly difficult to break.

Poverty impacts outcomes and the potential of people. It can restrict choice and it can restrict opportunities for families. We know that poverty can have a huge impact on the health, wellbeing and educational outcomes of our young people as they enter into adulthood.

Tackling poverty in Clackmannanshire is everyone's responsibility. It requires the collective and joined up efforts of a wide range of partners to make a real difference. It requires partners to listen to people and communities with experience of the challenges that poverty creates. It requires solutions to be co-designed with people and communities who understand the differences than can be made, and the differences that need to be made in Clackmannanshire. The challenge of poverty requires all parts of government to be joined up and for both national and local efforts to compliment one another. The challenge of poverty is probably the single most important societal outcome we can change for human kind.

# The Scale of the Challenge – Background

This report sets out the work that has been taken forward in 2021/22 to implement activities which align with the national poverty strategy 2018/22. This report updates on initiatives which have been developed over the past 4 years in Clackmannanshire as partners prepare to refresh plans in line with the new national tackling poverty strategy Best Start, Bright Futures published in Spring 2022.

There is no doubt that the Covid 19 Pandemic has had a significant impact on not only how we have delivered projects and activities to tackle poverty, but also on new and emerging priorities and threats. It has impacted everything we do and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future as we design our recovery but also how we understand the long term impacts on health inequality, mental health and wellbeing and the cost of living crisis. This report sets out our progress 2021/22. Appendix A provides our progress against actions agreed aligned with the national strategy; Appendix B provides high level measures used to track our performance. Appendix C sets out the Social Inclusion Partnership approach for Clackmannanshire's Family Wellbeing Partnership and Appendix D sets out the Clackmannanshire Family Wellbeing Partnership Flourishing Lives process.

#### The Scale of the Challenge – The Statutory Targets

The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 included four statutory targets aimed at reducing poverty in Scotland by 2030. These targets state that by 2023/24, of children living in poverty:

Less than 18% should be living in relative poverty;

Less than 14% should be living in absolute poverty;

Less than 8% should be living with combined low income and material deprivation; and Less than 8% should be living in persistent poverty.

The Act also sets out targets, which state that by 2030/31, of children living in poverty:

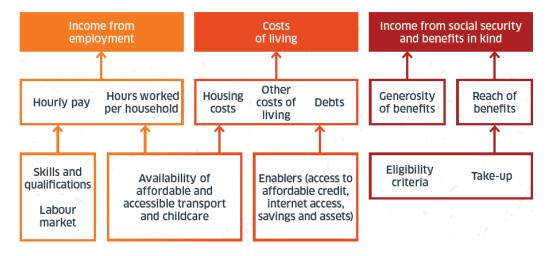
Less than 10% should be living in relative poverty;

Less than 5% should be living in absolute poverty;

Less than 5% should be living with combined low income and material deprivation; and Less than 5% should be living in persistent poverty.

Scotland's national strategy to reduce child poverty Every Child Every Chance: The Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2018/22, and the new Best Start, Bright Futures strategy 2022/26 identifies three key drivers of child poverty and sets out the national and local actions being taken in Scotland to tackle poverty. These are set out at Figure 1.

Figure 1 – Drivers of Child Poverty.



Significant bodies of research have highlighted families and households at greatest risk of poverty. These risks draw on evidence that poverty and inequality are often linked, particularly where several factors are present in a family or household. These include:

Large families with three or more children;

Families with a baby aged under one;

Families where the mother is aged 25 or less;

One parent families;

# Families in which someone is disabled;

#### **Ethnic minority families.**

Across Scotland rates of children living in poverty range from 1 in 3 in some of the most deprived communities in Scotland to around 1 in 9 in the least deprived areas. On average around 1 in 5 children are impacted by poverty. The scale of the challenge is therefore a very significant one. In Clackmannanshire based on the most recent figures published around 24% of children and their families live in poverty, which equates to just over 2000 children.

As already highlighted, the causes of poverty are complex. A lack of money (or low income) has been shown to have the strongest impact on children's cognitive, social-behavioural, educational attainment and health outcomes, independent of other social types of factors.<sup>2</sup>

The Tackling Poverty Partnership was established in 2019 to lead delivery of the Local Child Poverty Action Plan for Clackmannanshire. The work of the partnership however also has cross-over and an important relationship with a number of strategic and operational workstreams that are linked with poverty policy such is the complex nature of this work. This includes a range of activities to deliver key strategies including:

- Clackmannanshire's Children's Services Plan 2021/25
- Clackmannanshire Family Wellbeing Partnership
- Clackmannanshire's No-one Left Behind Delivery Plan 2022-25

This Local Child Poverty Action Report sets out the work that partners are doing jointly to contribute to, implement and compliment national initiatives across Scotland towards the achievement of the 2030 statutory targets.

<u>Progress Report & Key Achievements 2021/22</u>The following pages provide an update on the work being taken forward by partners to address child poverty in Clackmannanshire. Full detail of progress is set out in *Appendix A* under the 3 strategic drivers of poverty – Income from Employment; Income from Social Security and Benefits and Cost of Living.

Outlined below are some of the key achievements of the partnership work being undertaken to tackle poverty and its impacts on families in Clackmannanshire:

#### **Wellbeing Economy and Community Wealthbuilding**

Partners in Clackmannanshire are committed to developing a wellbeing economy with the principles of community wealthbuilding a key component in delivering that ambition. Working alongside Scottish Government the Council and our Alliance partners have completed the 6 stage inclusive growth framework and through that process have engaged with key stakeholders; completed a full data mapping exercise and worked with SIPHER to understand the complex systems in public service delivery and where and how efforts are required to

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> https://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/default/files/jrf/migrated/files/poorer-children-education-full.pdf

secure improved wellbeing outcomes through local systems change. This work will be captured in our refreshed Local Outcomes Improvement Plan due to be completed in 2022.

Community Wealthbuilding is a key part of our wellbeing economy journey. Council in collaboration with our Alliance partners agreed a Community Wealthbuilding Action Plan in 2020. Delivery of the action plan is ongoing but a number of early achievements have been made. Focus of the plan is shaped around the role of the Community Planning Partnership and local Anchor Partnership; Procurement and a circular economy and the development of a good employment charter for Clackmannanshire.

# **Clackmannanshire Family Wellbeing Partnership**

The Clackmannanshire Family Wellbeing Partnership, building on the learning of the Social Innovation Partnership, seeks to improve the wellbeing and capabilities of families and young people in Clackmannanshire, working with our families to support what matters to them; helping to improve their wellbeing and capabilities, leading to flourishing lives. This includes a focus on what needs to change within the existing system, shifting values and behaviours of the people designing, delivering and receiving support within Clackmannanshire. The current focus is on developing opportunities to support families and tackle inequalities through early intervention activities, flexible childcare and routes into employment.

The partnership works closely with Columba 1400 (2022) - our delivery partner for Values Based Leadership (VBL) experiences and I-SPHERE (2022) - our learning partner. The partnership is funded by the Scottish Government's Social Innovation Partnership (SIP). Jackie Brennan, Head of Social Justice Delivery Unit at the Scottish Government and Lynn Hendry, Professional Consultant of West Coast Capital / The Hunter Foundation are pivotal board members; supporting and challenging our thinking and the direction of travel. To date, over 100 key staff members have participated in Columba 1400 VBL experiences focusing on how we can all work together to improve the wellbeing and capabilities of children and families in Clackmannanshire. In addition, VBL experiences have been provided for young people in our three secondary schools with all participants reporting increased confidence as a result.

The Family Wellbeing Partnership will work with up to 65 families over 2022/23, providing holistic support, tailored to what matters to them. This will involve consultation about what families have reason to value and providing a range of choices, including opportunities to participate in community VBL experiences. Appendix C details the SIP approach to shifting culture in service provision in collaboration with Clackmannanshire Family Wellbeing Partnership. Clackmannanshire's Family Wellbeing Partnership's Flourishing Lives Process is provided at appendix D. The ongoing work within the Clackmannanshire Family Wellbeing Partnership and connectivity to broader SIP partners and other local authorities, such as Dundee Council, provides opportunities for accelerated and shared learning. Furthermore, complementary workstreams within the Clackmannanshire Family Wellbeing Partnership; for example the 'Community around the School' workstream provide opportunities to align childcare activities alongside the provision of adult opportunities, such as Street Soccer.

Multiple ideas have emerged from families and Clackmannanshire staff and community members, who have participated in the Columba 1400 VBL Leadership experience. To

explore these ideas and catapult these into action, the FWP was supported by The Lens Perspective. Through a series of workshops and an Investment Day, parents, community members and council staff have strengthened their understanding of the assets, capacity and needs within our community, as well as the barriers and enablers to achieving more flourishing lives and enhancing people's wellbeing and capabilities.

One such group, The Bowmar Borrowers, was led by three parents and directly evolved from the Summer of Wellbeing 2021 success. The Bowmar Borrowers simply sought to extend the opportunity they had last year to develop the capabilities of other families affected by poverty. They proposed to loan out free access to items that they know families cannot afford; for example, gardening equipment, camping equipment, power tools, birthday party accessories. The bid also sought to help others develop the capabilities to use these tools. The bid was accepted, and The Bowmar Borrowers gained £4,500 from Clackmannanshire Council to test this project before scaling up and scaling out. The Clax1400 families are on a journey to develop their own and others' capabilities and this small project plan is the tip of the iceberg. There is untapped potential, capacity and skills, individually and collectively, and real opportunities to ensure autonomy and choice.

Over the summer of 2022 the FWP have provided summer childcare, activities and food for priority families within Clackmannanshire through our summer hubs and partners. A full evaluation will follow. Meantime, a flavour of this can be evidenced here: <a href="https://padlet.com/vcully/ny0fmapeuwtx82zd">https://padlet.com/vcully/ny0fmapeuwtx82zd</a>

#### **Challenge Poverty Week**

Since 2018 the Clackmannanshire Alliance has supported annually a range of activities and events during Challenge Poverty Week to raise local awareness of the challenges that poverty brings but also to showcase local initiatives making a difference to people's lives in Clackmannanshire. In 2021 a week long programme of events, training and open days were held from the 4-11<sup>th</sup> October in support of the national Challenge Poverty Week campaign. Events included virtual workshops, virtual and face to face awareness and training sessions, practical food events and a range of schools based activities. Additionally, we hosted a visit from the Moderator of the Church of Scotland, who was welcomed to Alloa Academy to hear from children, young people and families about how schools, supported by Clackmannanshire's Family Wellbeing Partnership, are supporting our families. A review and evaluation was undertaken following the programme in 2021 which is informing how partners will support Challenge Poverty Week in 2022, the planning for which is already well underway.

#### **Pre Employability in Clackmannanshire (PEC)**

Since January 2022 Pre Employability in Clackmannanshire (PEC) has been operational with funding support from the Community Renewable Fund UK Fund. PEC provides a range of supports to help those who are unemployed and economically inactive to make progress towards stable employment. The programme seeks to help participants take steps to better

opportunities and health through counselling, literacy, numeracy or digital support, confidence-building, travel support, a wide range of training options and access work placements locally.

PEC is delivered by a consortium of third sector organisations, led by CTSi, including: CERT (the project managers), ApexScotland, Forth Valley College, Resilience Learning Partnership (providers of training), Dial a Journey (operators of pilot College Bus), Ceteris (deliverer of an enterprise programme), Japanese Garden and All Cleaned Up (providers of work placements), Recovery Scotland (provider of addiction support). To support the consortium others have been engaged to deliver specialist supports including Scottish Autism, Clacks CAB, a CLD practitioner to deliver literacy and a range of private sector training providers.

In its first 3 months of operation to end March 22 it has supported 124 participants, against a target of 158. By the end of June this had increased to 250 participants. Around 40% of participants are economically inactive and the biggest barriers identified by participants are confidence/self esteem (45%) and mental health (38%).

#### Thrive to Keep Well

Thrive to Keep well Programme in Clackmannanshire is a 16 week programme supporting parents in deprived areas to improve their mental health & well being and life circumstances a first step back into social connections and learning as part of stage 1 and pre-engagement into employability skills pipeline.

The Prepare to THRIVE pilot began in August 2021 aimed to support participants to become comfortable being in groups after 18 months of COVID-19 restrictions and the development of a short programme to support future participants to gain confidence to attend the THRIVE to Keep Well Programme. 9 participants completed the programme with high attendance and all reported an improvement in wellbeing. Feedback suggested feeling more confident going out after Covid-19 and being with others as well as feeling calmer and life being a bit easier.

In February 2022, 6 of these participants moved on to the THRIVE to Keep Well programme, with 5 completing it in June. The participants recorded improved wellbeing, both mental and physical, and increased confidence to move on and engage with further community projects, including volunteering and further learning opportunities.

#### **Mental Health Improvement NHS Forth Valley**

NHS FV has delivered a range of mental health improvement initiatives over the reporting period. The newly branded *Step on Stress* went live in Forth Valley in August 2021. Delivery is predominantly online, however as Covid measures have eased, small community facing sessions hosted within organisations have been held to overcome the digital barriers. Ask Tell Informed level learning for Mental Health improvement, self-harm and suicide prevention commenced in late 2020. The learning sits at the first level of the skills and knowledge framework and consists of three education animations that inform individuals working with adults about mental health; the factors that can lead to mental distress or mental ill-health; how to have compassionate conversations which sets out how to support people who are experiencing mental distress or may be feeling suicidal and help them seek help.

The Digital Bookshelf within Health Promotion services hosts a range of self-help guides rebranded and licensed for use across Forth Valley and continues to reach and support individuals across Forth Valley. Local resources are hosted within the bookshelf to further support mental health and wellbeing.

NHS Forth Valley was one of 5 test sites for *Daylight* during early 2021, which resulted in the Scotland wide roll out of Daylight and Sleepio in September 2021. NHS Forth Valley is the highest performing Board for registrations across both interventions.

Lastly Mental Health First Aid Training (SMHFA) face to face training across Forth Valley will recommence in 2022.

# Driving Change in Mental Health for Children, Young People and Families.

This programme is about doing things differently to improve mental health and wellbeing for children, young people and families in Clackmannanshire and delivers across nine key workstreams. This work includes:

<u>Referral Pathways</u> - launched in September 2021, the new Directory of Mental Health Supports website has received over 4000 hits and the majority of these on Anxiety & Worry; Depression & Low Mood; Suicide; Loneliness & Isolation support and information. Qualitative feedback on the content of the website from both families and other professionals has been positive.

The Counselling in Schools Service (CiSS) - for children and young people aged 10 – 18 was fully launched in September 2020. Children and young people are referred to the CiSS for a variety of reasons including: emotional regulation issues, behavioural difficulties (such as hyperactivity and attention issues), peer and family relationship issues, and mental health difficulties such as anxiety, depression, self-harm and trauma. Pupils also report struggling with transitions, bereavements, family change and the impact of COVID and lockdown. Evaluation data shows positive early impacts particularly around emotional wellbeing measures.

<u>Creative Therapeutic Interventions for Children Service (CTIfCS)</u> - was established in March 2021 to complement the Counselling in Schools Service (CiSS) provided for 10 – 18 years olds. CTIfC offers therapeutic support in a developmentally appropriate format such as through music and art. The range and capacity of the CTIfC has been expanded since its launch and now includes Music Therapy and Therapeutic Art.

Mental Health support for 16-26 year olds - Togetherall service for 16-26 year olds has been on offer since 1st April 2021 as a digital support service. The next steps for this workstream is to continue encouraging awareness and use of the service through a range of communications and marketing activities such as social media campaigns, engagement activities. Developing 'One Door' community spaces continues to have four digital mental health services in operation covering the entire age range from 5-26 and providing support for both mild/moderate and crisis level difficulties.

#### **Digital Inclusion - Connecting Scotland**

COVID-19 and the lockdowns, highlighted inequalities in people's ability to access the internet and stay in touch with family and friends, which prompted the Scottish Government to launch the Connecting Scotland Programme. Connecting Scotland provides a Chromebook or an iPad, as well as free connection to the internet for 24 months, with unlimited data to people on low incomes and at risk of isolation. Training is also provided for applicant organisations to become Digital Champions and support the beneficiaries of the scheme.

So far, there have been three phases of the Programme, plus a Winter Support Programme. The first phase supported shielding and vulnerable people; the second phase provided devices to families with children and care leavers; the Winter Support package was eligible to older people and people with disabilities; and the third phase was open to people who were on employability schemes. A total of 65 devices were allocated to Clackmannanshire in the first phase, 298 devices in the second phase and 51 devices through the Winter Support package, with 227 being allocated in phase 3. An additional 14 devices were allocated through the care homes scheme and 15 through the housing scheme.

#### **Digital learning – Devices for Schools**

In 2021 Clackmannanshire Council agreed a programme to roll out digital devices for all school pupils. The programme aims to provide all pupils with a digital device to support their learning whilst ensuring equity of digital access for all pupils. The promotion of responsible digital citizenship and being safe online are topics incorporated into the Health and Wellbeing agenda in schools, which runs alongside the digital rollout. Programme delivery is in its second year with over 1900 Chromebooks and 130 ipads deployed.

#### Cost of the school day

For Academic Year 2021-2022, all educational establishments refreshed their approaches to tackling poverty, taking into account the impact of the Covid Pandemic. The Education Week of Action (5-11<sup>th</sup> October 2021) celebrated the positive initiatives undertaken by educational establishments as part of the local and national Challenge Poverty Week Awareness Raising Campaign through targeted curricular inputs, parent learning/sharing, events and focused input themes such as hunger, resilience, uniform, trips and resources.

Working collaboratively with partners and agencies, establishments shared information with parents and carers from Citizen's Advice, Social Security Scotland and Clackmannanshire's Third Sector Interface to build awareness and support for solutions to tackle poverty and help remove the stigma of living on a low income. Educators attended a Regional Improvement Collaborative and Seminar led by the Child Poverty Action Group highlighting the impact of poverty on Cost of the School Day and giving advice on how to tackle poverty in Schools.

A Pupil Equity Fund Framework, supporting establishments to plan how they will most effectively invest their Pupil Equity Funding allocation to improve the educational outcomes of children affected by poverty is supporting the development of interventions with targeted children and young people( and their families if appropriate) that will lead to closing the poverty related attainment gap.

The wider *Cost of the School Day programme* and use of the Cost of the School Day Toolkit provided by the Child Poverty Action Group continues to have a significant role in raising awareness of barriers faced by those in poverty with its use reflected in School Improvement Planning.

#### STRIVE: Safeguarding through Rapid Intervention

Safeguarding through Rapid Intervention (STRIVE) is a project testing the concept that a multi-agency, public sector team delivers better outcomes, faster, for the most vulnerable residents of Clackmannanshire through integrated working. STRIVE considers the public service system as a whole and not as a collection of separate parts.

This "whole-systems" approach is a team of multi-service professionals working together from the earliest opportunity to improve the existing system of safeguarding vulnerable individuals. STRIVE is made up of core partners from Clackmannanshire Council Housing Service, Money Advice, Children and Families, Education, Health and Social Care Partnership and Alloa Police Services

The team aims to share information relating to vulnerable individuals and families in the hope to "join the dots" This leads to a rapid package of support and interventions to be agreed upon to support vulnerable adults and children in the most efficient way avoiding duplication. From evaluation data almost all Strive referrals required an intervention from two or more agencies; just under half had immediate financial concerns and a third were at serious risk of homelessness. Immediate interventions put in place included prevention of escalating problems around homelessness, mental health and harm; and poverty related interventions such as heating, household essentials, access to food and money.

STRIVE has always evolved organically and has been able to achieve better outcomes for by agencies for vulnerable adults and children by agreeing new and creative ways of working together and with a focus on early intervention and prevention of crisis related pressures on services.

#### **Clacks Good Food partnership programme**

Community Planning partners have provided strategic support to the approach being taken by the Clacks Good Food (CGF) partnership of pooling resources and investment across Forth Valley for achieving our overall aims. The relevant programmes of work include the FV Anchors Consortium, Community Wealth Building (e.g. through CLES), Wellbeing Economy developments, the food partnership work in neighbouring Local Authorities, the Climate Justice agenda and the ongoing work on the community food agenda by Forth Environment Link (FEL).

CGF work has continued to review options for dignified food provision including holiday hunger programmes, promotion of Best Start Grants and community based kitchen/s. Delivery of REHIS training has continued, with support to some Primary schools for the Food, Families, Futures programme. Ongoing support to community food groups and gardens was provided by the CGF partnership during the pandemic.

In February 2022 we were successful in securing match funding and 2 years funding for a Sustainable Food Places (SPF) Coordinator post for Clackmannanshire, who came into post in April 2022. The CGF partnership was officially launched in May 2022 and is currently developing a food charter. CGF has been successful (July 2022) in securing £5,000 from the SFP Participatory Processes Development grant to take its new food charter out into communities and undertake participatory research to ensure that the lived experience of people drives forward all partnerships developed in support of this agenda.

# Case study: Community Larders by The Gate

The Gate has led on a changed approach to food access providing both a 'self service' option at their main venue and also working with community partners in now developing a model of provision via self service 'community larders' closer to people's homes including with Tullibody Development Trust; Tillicoultry Soup kitchen, Clackmannan Development Trust and Alva Parish Church. They are in talks with Sauchie Acitve8 also. This is being run by Tillicoultry Baptist Church

Hawkhill Community centre also continues to offer their community shop membership scheme. Alongside this provision is the continuation of the CAB outreach service to provide help in conjunction with Hawkhill, Alva Development Trust, Tullibody Civic Centre and in Clackmannan Development Trust, as well as at Reachout with Arts in Mind and Play Alloa. CSREC and Forth Valley Welcome also support families from ethnic minority groups. CSREC now has a drop in clinic, held at CAB. Work outlined in Appendix C that the Public Health Nutrition team leads on for reducing food security in communities, dovetails with this partnership programme.

#### **Income Maximisation and Financial Support**

Citizen's Advice Bureau run a wide range of projects focusing on income maximisation e.g. welfare rights; help to claim and welfare rights & money advice (in partnership with Clacks Works). All clients accessing Clacks CAB services are offered a Financial Health Check. During 2021/22, 3502 clients accessed services. The majority of enquiries related to income maximisation: 43% benefits; 12% debt issues; 9% finance & charitable support; 8% energy issues and 4% housing. This resulted in just over £2 million client financial gain for Clackmannanshire residents. Over 580 residents in Clackmannanshire were supported during the period with energy advice including bills, budgeting, switching suppliers and dealing with fuel debt with this work generating financial gains of over £40k. More than 120 residents were supported with welfare rights and representation with a 92% success rate in overturning benefits decisions during the period.

#### New Baby Financial Health Service, NHS Forth Valley

The service was established as a partnership between NHS Forth Valley and Citizens Advice Bureau funded by NHSFV. The service provides direct access for families referred from health visitors. In 2021/22 the service was fully funded by NHSFV April to September. During this period, the CAB received 21 referrals which resulted in £27,120 financial gain for the 11 clients who subsequently engaged. 85% of advice focused on benefits, 9% on housing and 3% on tax and utilities & communications, respectively.

#### **Social Security Scotland and Benefits Maximisation**

Social Security Scotland continues to work in close partnership with organisations across Clackmannanshire to maximise the take-up of key benefits. Currently, Social Security Scotland administers twelve benefits, seven of which are brand new. These include: <a href="Carer's Allowance Supplement">Carer's Allowance Supplement</a> – an extra payment of £245.70 paid twice a year for people in Scotland who get Carer's Allowance on a particular date. Best Start Grant - is a package of three payments that will give extra money to families on certain benefits or tax credits during the early years of a child's life.

Best Start Grant - Pregnancy and Baby Payment —one off payment of up to £642.35 from 24 weeks in pregnancy up until a baby turns 6 months for families who get certain benefits. This goes up to 1 if you've taken over looking after a child, such as if you've adopted. You get £642.35 for your first child or £321 for any subsequent child. Best Start Grant - Early Learning Payment — one off payment of £267.65 when a child is between two and three years and six months. People can still apply if your child is not taking up a place at nursery. Best Start Grant - School Age Payment — one off payment of £267.65 for eligible families around the time a child normally starts Primary 1. People can still apply if they are deferring school entry. Best Start Foods - a prepaid card for families to help buy food for children under 3 or during pregnancy. It replaced the UK Government's Healthy Start Vouchers in Scotland.

Funeral Support Payment - a payment available to people in Scotland, who are on certain benefits or tax credits, and need support to meet the costs of a funeral. Young Carer Grant a yearly payment of £326.65 for young carers aged 16 to 18 who live in Scotland and care for people for an average of 16 hours a week or more. Job Start Payment - a one off payment of £267.65 for 16 to 24 year olds, or £428.25 if the main carer of any children, who have been out of work and on certain benefits for six months or more to help with the costs of starting a job. Child Winter Heating Assistance -a payment of £214.10 to help disabled children and young people and their families with increased heating costs over winter. Scottish Child Payment – a benefit unique to Scotland of £80 every four weeks to eligible families and carers to help towards the costs of looking after each child under 6. There are no limits on the number of eligible children supported by the Scottish Child Payment. Child Disability Payment - provides support for the extra costs that a disabled child might have, whether mental or physical disabilities. People can apply for Child Disability Payment for a disabled child under 16 however Social Security Scotland will pay Child Disability Payment until the child is 18. Adult Disability Payment – is extra money to help people who have a disability or long-term health condition that affects your everyday life. This benefit is currently live in 3 pilot areas in Scotland and will be available in Clackmannanshire from 29th August 2022.

Looking ahead as part of Scotland's second Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan Best Start; Bright Futures 2022 and subject to parliamentary approval, Scottish Child Payment will extend to under 16 year olds and rise by a further £5 to £25 per week, per child later in 2022. By that point around 430,000 children living in low income households could be eligible. At this point the Best Start Early Learning Payment and Best Start School Age Payment will be paid automatically to parents and carers receiving Scottish Child Payment when their child becomes eligible.

By the end of 2022, the Scottish Government's package of five family benefits for low income families, administered by Social Security Scotland, will be worth up to a maximum of over £10,000 by the time a family's first child turns 6 – and £9,700 for second and subsequent children. Social Security Scotland is responsible for administering a number of benefits that have been devolved to Scotland. The actions set out are projected to drive child poverty in Scotland to the lowest levels in 30 years, with current projections suggesting 60,000 fewer children could live in relative poverty by 2023 compared to 2017 (to 17%, from 24%). This includes lifting an estimated 50,000 children out of relative poverty in 2023 through the Scottish Child Payment.

# Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) NHS Forth Valley

The Family Nurse Partnership seeks to improve the rate of young mothers accessing ante natal care and post natal maternity services. Following a pilot phase, the project was made permanent in 2017 and subsequently expanded. The service provides support to teenage mothers to support them to engage with services early and throughout their pregnancy. The programme is research based that aims to ensure best outcomes for families through delivery of an evidence based intense home visiting programme. 73.3% of eligible teenage parents from Clackmannanshire enrolled with the Family Nurse Partnership programme in 2022 and 80% of clients received the recommended optimum programme delivery during pregnancy.

# Food Poverty and Food Insecurity in schools

This partnership project with Education, CTSI, NHS FV Dietetics and Health Visitors and Tullibody Community Garden aimed to tackle food poverty and insecurity through a combination of income maximisation through Best Start grants and practical food and cooking skills for children, young people and families. This project saw School staff trained in Tullibody in REHIS which enabled them to run accredited cooking classes with children and young people who needed support. Tullibody Community Garden provided the use of the community kitchen and gardens for the cooking sessions. Support was also provided as part of holiday provision with training sessions provided to staff and volunteers running food activities during the School holidays. Young Food Ambassadors events were also run as part of the summer holiday programmes with young people identified by local family support workers and voluntary organisations. These sessions were provided face to face over 4 weeks by Community Food Development Workers from NHS FV.

In addition a supper club was delivered for a group of 25 through a joint project with Sauchie Active 8, with further supper clubs being planned in other communities in Clackmannanshire. Following the success of this programme one of the local voluntary organisations, Sauchie Activie 8 is looking to roll out this programme which we supported by providing REHIS training in Elementary Cooking and Introduction to Food & Health to volunteers to enable them to run their own holiday provision training and supper clubs.

#### **Tackling Period Poverty in Clackmannanshire**

This partnership aims to ensure that all women and girls in Clackmannanshire have access to free sanitary products. Free sanitary products are provided in schools in Clackmannanshire and plans are well underway to ensure that women and girls can access sanitary products in

public buildings and venues across Clackmannanshire. In addition targeted work by the partnership in Clackmannanshire has delivered the following projects:

Working in partnership with the voluntary sector most notably CTSI and Resilience Learning Partnership, 3 months supply of sanitary products have been distributed in care packages to 175 young people across Clackmannanshire.

Inclusion of sanitary products within food packs distributed to targeted families by Community Learning and Development.

Sanitary products delivered and supplied to local foodbanks in Alloa, Menstrie, Dollar and Clackmannan and with Clackmannanshire Women's Aid and Home/School Liaison Officers provide supplies for the most vulnerable families through home deliveries

Alloa Academy has been nominated in the Young Scot Award 2021 for its creative solutions to tackling period poverty through awareness raising, removing stigmas associated with period poverty and increasing access to products within the community.

# **Governance and Reporting arrangements**

This Local Child Poverty Action Plan and Report has been developed jointly by Clackmannanshire Council and NHS Forth Valley with full support from a wide range of community planning partners in the public and voluntary sectors. Clackmannanshire's Tackling Poverty Partnership (TPP) has responsibility for delivering on the priorities set out in the delivery plan, and is accountable to the Clackmannanshire Alliance for doing so as part of the overall delivery of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2017/2027.

Approval and scrutiny of this plan lies with Clackmannanshire Council and NHS Forth Valley (Health Improvement Programme Board). Both organisations will formally sign off the Local Child Poverty Annual Reports and Delivery Plans through their respective governance processes.

Details of published plans and reports will be made available on the websites of both Clackmannanshire Council and NHS FV.

Further information can be found here:

https://www.clacks.gov.uk/site/documents/deprivation/clackmannanshirelocalchildpovertyaction/clackmannanshirelocalchildpoverty

https://nhsforthvalley.com/publications/annual-reportsreviews/

#### **The Challenge Ahead**

In Spring 2022 Scottish Government published their second Tackling Poverty Strategy for Scotland called Bright Start, Bright Future. This strategy renews the national vision for eradicating child poverty over an ambitious programme that will delivered over the next four years and which aims to secure the poverty targets for Scotland by 2030. The strategic priorities set out in the strategy are: **Providing the opportunities and integrated support** 

parents need to enter, sustain and progress in work; Maximising the support available for families to live dignified lives and meet their basic needs; Supporting the next generation to thrive.

Locally, over the coming months, partners in Clackmannanshire will plan how we deliver the priorities in the national strategy, embedding them within our new Local Outcome Improvement Plan, and also reflect on the particular needs of individuals, families and communities living in poverty. This work will build on the many achievements over the last few years and will have a focus on continuous improvement, whilst also seeking to continue to strengthen whole systems approaches in Clackmannanshire. This work will seek to complement the structural changes being made to social security and benefits which will directly help families in Scotland.

Appendix A: Clackmannanshire Local Child Poverty Action Progress Report 2021/22

Action	Lead Organisation	Poverty driver(s)/ Outcomes	Timescale for action	Group(s) the action is intended to reduce poverty amongst	Progress for 2021/22. Notes and performance indicators
Deliver Fair Start Scotland Employability Programme in Clackmannanshire through the provision of person centred 1 to 1 and group based support.  The programme aims to support those who are unemployed to get into work within a year to 18 months through the provision of pre work support depending on the support needs of the participants e.g. those with intense support needs can have 18 months of pre work support where required. Participants can also access a year of in work support to help them sustain employment	Clackmannansh ire Works, Clackmannansh ire Council and third sector organisations as appropriate, employers	Increase Income from Employment	Ongoing since April 2018 and running to March 2023* (*where a participants joins in April 2021 and is entitled to access one year pre work support and one year of in work support	All child poverty target groups where individuals meet eligibility for Fair Start Scotland	Fair Start Scotland is Scotland's employability service which delivers locally targeted employment support for unemployed people who are disabled, have health conditions and are at risk of long-term unemployment. The service provides 12 months pre-employment and 12 months in-work support – a total of 2 years' support entitlement  Fair Start Scotland contract has been extended for a further 2 years from April 21 to end of March 2023.

<b>Deliver Clackmannanshire</b>	Clackmannansh	Increase	January 2019 to	All child poverty	Provides one-to-one key
ESF Employability	ire Works,	Income from	December 2022	target groups	worker support to people
Pipeline programme	Economic	Employment		where participants	to help address barriers
through the provision of	Development,			have more than	to employment. Support
person centred 1 to 1 and	Clackmannansh			one barrier to	is personalised and
group based support.	ire Council and			progression	tailored to meet
Dre complex meant as an extra	third sector				individual's needs and
Pre-employment support to	organisations as				can include confidence
those unemployed to gain	appropriate,				building, IT skills, money
employment	employers				advice, jobsearch skills
Support to participants to					(job applications, CVs,
address multiple barriers to					interview techniques),
employment such as					access to volunteering
childcare, travel, clothes for					and work taster
interviews, PPE, training					opportunities, industry
					specific training, help with
Support to participants to					travel and childcare
gain qualifications					costs, clothes for
					interview/starting work.
					ESF programme finishes end of March 2023. Clacks works is looking to replace elements of it and build on lessons learnt through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

New (Jan 2020) – Stirling and Clackmannanshire City Region Deal (CRD), Flexible Skills & Inclusion Programme.  Programme will support the recruitment of 2 Flexible Skills Co-ordinators to co-ordinate the delivery of the CRD Skills & Inclusion Programme which comprises the development and delivery of a Community Benefits programme, Skills Pathways Plans, a Barrier Free Fund and a Fair Work Incentive.	Flexible Skills Co-ordinators, Clackmannansh ire Works, Economic Development Clackmannansh ire Council	Increase Income from Employment	Scheduled for January 2020	All child poverty groups in CRD targeted communities e.g. Alloa South & East	Two projects were developed in 2021/22 and will be delivered in 2022/23:  Forth Valley College delivering flexible digital skills programmes; and  FEL delivering a bikeability (cycling skills, maintenance, road safety, etc.) programme over Summer 2022.  Skills Pathways Plans have been developed, and next steps are being discussed to take these forward. Recruitment of a Flexible Skills Officer post in Clacks Council is underway.
New (April 2020) - Stirling and Clackmannanshire City Region Deal (CRD), Inclusion Support Worker programme.  Programme will support access to a range of barrier removal programmes e.g.	Inclusion workers, Learning and Employability Team, Stirling Council	Increase Income from Employment	Scheduled for April 2020	All child poverty groups in CRD targeted communities.	Inclusion Workers now in place and working in Clackmannanshire.

adult literacy and numeracy, confidence building, wellbeing activities, selfesteem programmes, basic computing all designed to help people progress to next steps programmes where they can take full advantage of pre employability support programmes and then progress in to work					
Provision of a range of initial and progressive employability support programmes supporting progression in to work the Parental Employability Support Fund.	Clackmannansh ire Works, schools, nurseries, family support staff	Increase Income from Employment	Funding available for financial year 2019/20 but allocation process to be determined	All child poverty target groups	PESF funding allocated from Scottish Government since 2019 to support to provide one-to-one pre-employability support for unemployed parents and in-work support to employed parents to help them maximise their household income.  Support is personalised and tailored to meet individual's needs and can include confidence

					building, IT skills, financial advice, jobsearch skills (job applications, CVs, interview techniques), access to volunteering and work taster opportunities, industry specific training, help with travel and childcare costs, clothes for interview/starting work, help to gain employment or a better job.  PESF funding has been extended for a further year from April 2022 to end of March 2023.
Deliver Youth Employability Programmes (Modern Apprenticeship (MA) Employability fund (EF) Scottish Employers Recruitment Incentive (SERI) Progression of participants	Clackmannansh ire Works, NHS Forth Valley supports MA's form Clacks residents	Increase Income from Employment	Funding available annually	All child poverty groups with focus on young people aged 16 - 19	Employability Fund programme ended on 31 March 2022 and Scottish Employer Recruitment Incentive (SERI) has been replaced by the Fair Work Incentive.  Since late 2020, Scottish Government has

into work, FE, other employability support programmes, Modern Apprenticeships					allocated annual Young Person's Guarantee funding to all local authorities to support 16 – 24 year olds. The Young Person's Guarantee commits to guaranteeing within 2 years, every young person aged between 16 and 24 locally either the opportunity to study at university or college, take part in an apprenticeship programme, take up a job or work experience, or participate in formal volunteering or training programme according to their own personal circumstances.  A range of interventions have been funded locally to provide opportunities for our young people.
Developing the Young	Clackmannansh	Increase	Ongoing	All child poverty	Weekly meetings have
Workforce Programme.	ire Council	Income from		groups with focus	taken place with Skills

Through the National	Forth Valley	Employment	on young people	Development Scotland
Improvement Framework	College	, ,	aged 16 - 19	staff and Depute Head
schools are working to			3	teachers with
improve employability and	Clackmannansh			responsibility for DYW
skills to develop the young	ire Education			and improving post
workforce. A task group	Services			school destinations.
has been established with	Developing the			These meetings afford
Forth Valley College,	Young			time to discuss
Developing the Young	Workforce			individuals at risk of a
Workforce, Skills				negative destination and
Development Scotland and	Skills			additional pathways
Headteachers of all	Development			available to ensure these
secondary schools. The	Scotland			become positive.
aim of the programme is to				Stronger ligioen with
increase the numbers of				Stronger liaison with Forth Valley College, to
school leavers in positive				ensure greater cohesion
destinations.				between leaving school
				and entering further
				education, thereby
				increasing participation
				levels.
				TOVOIO.
				DYW coordinators work
				with the DYW
				stakeholder group and
				are now based in school
				and line managed by
				Deputes with an

					Employability remit, ensuring stronger links between schools and employers.
Scottish Attainment	Clackmannansh	Increase	The Scottish	All young people	The Clackmannanshire
Challenge in	ire Education	Income from	Attainment	with a focus on	Attainment Programme
Clackmannanshire and		Employment	Challenge	those schools with	continues to build on the
Pupil Equity Fund.			programme runs	high levels of	recognised themes within
A co-ordinated and			to 2021.	deprivation and	the Clackmannanshire
focussed programme plan				free school meal	Attainment Challenge 5
designed to improve				entitlement.	Year Impact Report to
literacy, numeracy and					ensure that there is a
health and wellbeing in our					relentless focus on
schools, closing the poverty					excellence, equity and closing the poverty
related attainment gap.					related attainment gap.
The second equation from the second					Good progress has been
The pupil equity funding is					made through the
allocated directly to schools and targeted at closing the					alignment of all
poverty related attainment					Attainment Scotland
gap.					Funding SEF (Strategic
gap.					Equity Funding), Pupil
					Equity Fund (PEF), Care
					Experienced Children
					and Young
					People(CECYP) and
					targeting of resources
					and associated

					governance focused on improving outcomes for the children and young people impacted by poverty and Covid 19.
Deliver the Healthy Working Lives programme, which supports employers to proactively identify health, safety and wellbeing issues in the workplace. Supportive policies and practices are developed to improve employees' physical & mental health. Ongoing programme	NHS Forth Valley with Public Health Scotland, Business Gateway Alloa, Forth Valley Chamber of Commerce	Increase Income from Employment	Ongoing funding allocated form Public Health Scotland	All child poverty groups, adults aged 16 years plus	Re-engaged with all 8 Clackmannanshire HWL registered workplaces as part of the recovery from C19 to continue to take forward staff health and wellbeing as identified by their employees.  Hosting monthly HWL conversation cafes highlighting good practice in relation to supporting positive mental health in the workplace, relevant health information campaigns, opportunities to be physically active in the workplace and free training opportunities.  Hosting free monthly HWL Information Sessions to all HWL

	workplace contacts: Working Health Services, Managing Long Term Conditions, Creating a Mentally Healthy Workplace.  Developing working partnership with LEP contacts at Clackmannanshire Council and sharing information as appropriate. Developing working partnership with Clackmannanshire Local Provider Network contacts and sharing information as
	information as appropriate.

Engage with Social	Social Security	Increase	Funded by	All child poverty	See details in the key
Security Scotland to support Local Delivery Teams to:  • Advise people on what they're eligible to claim through the Scottish social security system; • Assist the completion of application forms; • ID and document verification; • Benefit Maximisation • Advice and support for a client whilst their application is in progress; and • If required, advice on requesting a redetermination or appeal and making a complaint.	Scotland This service will be delivered through: Dedicated, colocated service delivered from a permanent location; Regular 'surgeries' in i.e. Medical Centres, Community Centres etc. Visits to prison and hospitals; Home visits.	Income from Social Security and benefits in kind.	Scottish Government	groups.	achievements section of this report.
A programme designed for children and young people, parents/carers and school staff to identify financial barriers and take actions to	Clackmannansh ire Education Services Child Poverty Action Group	Reduce Costs of Living	Ongoing from Jan 2019.	All young people attending school and their families.	See details in the key achievements section of this report.

mitigate them.					
<ul> <li>Food Poverty and Food Insecurity in Schools.</li> <li>Work with schools, nurseries and holiday hunger programmes to ensure:</li> <li>access to healthy lunches and snacks as part of early years programme;</li> <li>Engagement with parents on access to holiday food and grant in place for a test of change with a primary school.</li> <li>An increased uptake of Healthy Start in one Clackmannanshire nursery – a test of change is being piloted.</li> <li>Food, Families, Futures – A programme to ensure families can be together, prepare healthy food, eat a</li> </ul>	Education Services, Clacks Council, Third Sector interface, NHS Forth Valley Dietetic service  NHS Forth Valley dedicated Community Food Development Worker will be in post from Spring 2019.	Reduce Costs of Living	Ongoing  Holiday food test for change 2019.	All child poverty groups, with a focus on early years and under 16 years	See details in the key achievements section of this report.

free lunch and take					,
part in fund activities					
using schools as					
community hubs over					
the holiday periods.	NHS Forth	Dadwaa	On main m	All abild a accomb	Sustainable Food
Food poverty and Food		Reduce	Ongoing	All child poverty	
Insecurity in	Valley Health	Costs of		groups.	Places partnership and
Communities.	Visiting and	Living			engagement events
To reduce the number of	Dietetics teams				launched across Clacks,
families experiencing food	NHS Forth				funding successfully
poverty and insecurity.	Valley Health				achieved and a co-
poverty and insecurity.	Visiting and				ordinator in place.
Local communities and	Midwifery teams				Regional work across FV
schools continue to work	Wildwilery teams				supported via NHS with
with Fareshare to improve	The Gate				recommendations from
local access to affordable	Charity				the Food Dignity report
produce.	-				suggesting collaborative
·	CTSI				working.
Clackmannanshire's Food					Dublic Health Nutrition
Bank, run by The Gate					Public Health Nutrition
charity, provides starter					Team NHS FV Grants –
packs for families to ensure					Sauchie Nursery – Make
that they have the basic					and Taste, St Serf ELC
cooking equipment and					Tullibody – growing and
utensils to prepare and					cooking grant, Tillicoultry
cook meals.					ELC growing grant,
Community has a d Community					Tulach ELC online family
Community based Cookery					cooking grant,
and learning: community					Tuestation as 1 G
groups/organisations are					Training and Capacity

embedding food activities into services, organisations actively promoting the Best Start Foods Scheme; practical cookery sessions delivered in target SIMD areas.  Health visitors, midwives and dieticians across Forth Valley are promoting Best Start Grants to all eligible pregnant and antenatal women. Best Start Grants aim to provide lower income families with financial support during the key early years of a child's life.  Short-life working group reviewing options for dignified food provision including holiday hunger programmes and community based kitchen/s.	building/Food Activities  REHIS training (Elementary cooking & Introduction to Food & Health) with volunteers and staff at Sauchie Active 8 now running their own supper club.  Challenge Poverty week event in 2021 led by Community Food Development Workers in collaboration with Tullibody school support service & Tullibody Community Garden — cooking and growing activity for young people  Puddleducks toddler group — make and taste sessions with parents and toddlers led by CFDW. Linking in with Family Nurse Practitioner to provide food activities to parents in Hawkhill.
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Tackling Period Poverty.  To ensure that all women and girls in Clackmannanshire have access to free sanitary products.	Education Services Facilities/Proper ty services CTSI Local Community organisations/tr usts. NHS Forth Valley	Reduce Costs of Living	Ongoing. Schools provision commenced in 2018. Community provision commencing in 2019/20.	All child poverty groups	See details in the key achievements section of this report.
Fuel Poverty/Energy Advice  Clackmannanshire Council HEAT programme delivers universal energy advice for residents.  Clacks Cab have been delivering the Local Energy Advice Project (LEAP) since spring 2019 and have secured further funding until March 2023.	Clackmannansh ire Council CAB	Reduce Costs of Living	Ongoing  Funded until  March 2023	Universal service  All child poverty groups.	£322,273.19 in total savings during 2021/22. Carbon-savings 2021 - 2022 £1292.00  Solar PV and battery storage for 16 properties at West Haugh Travellers site. Provision for up to 38 properties EWI/IWI/CWI owner occupier properties and installation of 26 Solar PV and Battery Storage

The project focuses on tackling fuel poverty by providing year-round advice on energy efficiency, energy bills, switching, dispute resolution and fuel debt. CAB also provides Energy Best Deal group training and works on behalf of partners to distribute fuel vouchers.					Units.  During the period, Clacks CAB has given advice to 586 households on all aspects of energy use including bills, budgeting, switching and direct support in negotiating with suppliers This has generated client financial gain of over £43k.
Budgeting and financial advice  Clacks CAB provides a wide range of support including personal budgeting, financial education and financial health checks. They also run a number of projects focusing on income maximisation e.g., Help to claim, Money Talk Team, Welfare Rights and Money Advice (in partnership with Clacks Works).	CTSI/CAB  This is delivered by Falkirk CAB  CAB	Reduce Cost of Living Increase Income from Social Security and benefits in kind.	Pilot Programme (Scot Gov funded) Scot Gov funding for another 12 months	All child poverty groups	All clients who access Clacks CAB services are offered a Financial Health Check  3502 clients accessed advice. The majority of enquiries were for income maximisation: 43% benefits; 12% debt issues; 9% finance & charitable support; 8% energy issues; 4% housing. This resulted in financial gain to Clacks residents of just over £2

A CAB office is present at Forth Valley Royal Hospital for patients to drop in for advice including financial health checks.				million.  Clacks CAB supported 491 residents with debt advice, resulting in £386k client financial gain.  In addition, 164 Clacks Works clients were supported with welfare rights and money advice amounting to £74k in financial gain. See Appendix B.
NHSFV New baby health initiative	Reduce Cost of Living Increase Income from Social Security and benefits in kind.	NHSFV (for New Baby Financial Health Service)	All child poverty groups	In 2021/22, the service was fully funded by NHSFV April to September. During this period, the CAB received 21 referrals which resulted in £27,120 financial gain for the 11 clients who subsequently engaged. 85% of advice focused on benefits, 9% on housing and 3% on tax and utilities.

Affordable Credit  Commission work to understand the impact of credit and debt in Clackmannanshire and develop approaches to raise awareness and promote affordable savings and credit options.	Clackmannansh ire Council  NHS Forth Valley  CAB  Credit Union	Reduce Cost of Living		All child poverty groups	The CAB was engaged in Covid related work for much of 2021 and participated in Citizens Advice Scotland's Financial support and Debt Happens campaigns in early 2022 – both aimed at people at risk of debt. CAS commissioned a poll, which informed media work highlighting a link between debt and poor mental health.
Deliver the Young Parents Project supporting young mothers to remain in education; higher education and/or employment. The Young Parents Programme links young parents with support for housing, accessing learning and employment grants, money advice and sourcing childcare. The Young Parents project works	Clackmannansh ire Council  NHS Forth Valley  Family Nurse Partnership,  Forth Valley College  Skills Development	Increased Income from Employment Increased Income from Social Security and Benefits in Kind	Ongoing Funded by Clacks Council.	All child poverty groups:  Mothers with a baby under age one;  Families where the mother is under 25 years.  One parent families Families in which someone is	The Clackmannanshire Young Parents Project continues to be delivered in Clackmannanshire supporting some of the County's most vulnerable young people. The project has links with the Family Nurse Partnership and employability programmes including PESF.

closely with the Family Nurse Partnership and with Forth Valley College; Stirling University and Skills Development Scotland.	Scotland Stirling University.			disabled	
Enable digital inclusion and support for Universal Credit.  Implement Universal Credit and Health to Claim initiative.  Put in place digital and financial inclusion hubs in Clackmannanshire communities, and recruit Digital Champions — volunteers to assist and support people with digital access knowledge and practical skills.  Work with communities to ensure people can access technology, and be supported, to develop their digital skills and capabilities.	CTSI/CAB  Local Development Trusts	Income from Employment Income from Social Security and Benefits in Kind	Externally Funded/projects and funding currently being developed.	All child poverty groups	CTSI has 4 volunteer Digital Champions but due to Covid restrictions and volunteers having health concerns/caring responsibilities, there has been limited activity during this period.  Clackmannanshire Works Digital Support (Clackmannanshire Works Clients only) IT & Employability Trainer recommenced 1 to 1s in July 2021, although had to stop/restart due to restrictions. 50 client 1 to 1s were delivered. No classes held within this period due to restrictions.  Techshare project: 67 devices were donated. 64

Provide Digital Support in					devices (52 devices/12
communities in					mifis) were given out to
Clackmannanshire					50 individuals at least half
specifically to help with					this number received
universal credit claims.					some form of initial
					support i.e. how to use
					device and in some
					cases ongoing support
					via phone/zoom/teams or
					social distanced.
Implementation of					See details in the key
Connecting Communities					achievements section of
Programme.					this report.
Digital Davison for					
Digital Devices for					
Education.					
Health – welfare rights	NHS Forth	Increased	Action Plan in	All child poverty	Awareness raising for
advice.	Valley	Income from	place by end and	groups	income maximisation and
	-	Social	ongoing		supports progressed via
NHS Forth Valley planned		security and	performance		the NHSFV staff health &
work to develop an action		Benefits in	monitoring		well being group, post
plan & associated		kind			pandemic. Mapping for
outcomes, supporting the					supports across a range
mitigation of welfare reform					of themes in Clacks has
for patients and staff within					been completed and will
NHS Forth Valley. Actions					

potentially to include increasing awareness of where/how to signpost patients for WR advice; workforce planning and welfare rights training programmes					be disseminated.
Scoping work for Specialist Link worker (SLW) and Community Link worker (CLW) roles within Primary Care to take place aligned with Locality needs analysis & Locality planning for the HSCP.	Stirling/Clacks HSCP, Clacks Council, NHS Forth Valley, CTSI & SVE	Increased Income from Social Security and benefits in kind	Ongoing	All child poverty groups	The development of Community Link workers roles has progressed and 2 part time CLW's start post in July 2022 with identified GP practices within the HSCP. Further CLW's are anticipated for 2022/23 – highlighted within the Primary Care Implementation Plan.

Implementation of Thrive	NHS Forth	Helping	Ongoing	All child poverty	See details in the key
to Keep well Programme	Valley in	families in		groups, with focus	achievements section of
in Clackmannanshire.	partnership with	other ways		on one parent	this report.
40	Clacks Council,	- stage 1 &		families (CRD	
16 week programme	CTSI, SFRS,	pre		funding)	
supporting parents in	Forth Valley	engagement			
deprived areas to improve	College, DWP,	into			
mental health & well being	DWP (UK	employabilit			

and life circumstances. 1	Government)	y skills		
programme for 9 women	,	pipeline.		
completed in 2018.	Supported by			
·	UK Government	Increased		
3 programmes planned in	funding as part	Income from		
2019, further 3-4	of the Stirling	Employment		
programmes each year	and Clacks City	D. L.		
thereafter.	Region Deal.	Reduce		
L LIE BILLIA		Costs of		
In addition, PH Nutrition		Living		
team NHS FV provided 3				
training events to Thrive				
Facilitators involving over				
21 staff and volunteers with				
training on Mini Steps to				
Positive Nutrition as part of				
their overall training.				
PHN team NHS FV and				
Why Weight team NHS FV				
collaborated with FNP and				
Homestart to provide				
mother and toddler				
sessions at Hawkhill				
community centre to groups				
of young mothers, with				
access to the food pantry &				
baby necesseities and				
lunch provided and Make				
and Taste activities for				

mums and toddlers.					
Thrive Plus Project in conjunction with the Skills & Inclusion programme within CRD. Target 50 lone parents in Alloa S&E. Scoping & development to take place in 2019, with pilot for 2020.	NHS Forth Valley in partnership with Clacks Council, DWP (UK Government). Supported by UK Government funding as part of the Stirling and Clacks City Region Deal.	Helping families in other ways	2020- 2023	All child poverty groups, with a focus on lone parents (CRD)	This programme has not progressed, partly due to the pandemic and partly due to challenges in defining costs that were suitable to be funded by DWP (UK Govt).  The PESF will now support parents registering for THRIVE from Autumn 2022 onwards.
Family Nurse Partnership (FNP). FNP seeks to improve the rate of young mothers accessing ante natal care and post natal maternity services. Following a pilot phase, FNP was made permanent in 2017 and expanded. The service provides support to teenage pregnancies to support them to engage	NHS Forth Valley	Helping families in other ways	Ongoing	All child poverty groups, with a focus on lone parents (CRD	Refer to the Key Achievements section in the main report.

with services early and throughout their pregnancy.					
Deliver a range of community based mental health support including:  Stress Control —  Workforce Development — Mental Health First Aid  Applied Suicide Intervention Training (ASIST).  Crisis Card  Work will commence with the IMHS and Forth Valley College to deliver stress awareness courses and workshops for employees and students with the aim of raising awareness and knowledge to recognise and manage stress and mental wellbeing.	Clackmannansh ire Council NHSFV	Helping families in other ways	Ongoing	All Child poverty groups	Performance data is reported on a Forth Valley wide data April 2021-March 2022:  Step on Stress – 3 week programme to learn ways to manage stress. 7 x delivery of Live events online – 868 attendances across 3 sessions per event.  4 x in house events (to support delivery across digital divide) - 55 attendances across 3 sessions per event  Ask Tell – Mental Health Improvement and Suicide Prevention workforce development Informed level:  Ask Tell: Delivery of 3 x

					1hr or in some cases bespoke delivery of 2 x 90min workshops: 16 courses delivered Attendees completing more than 2 workshops - 157
Delivering a range of support and services to ensure that communities are connected and empowered to enable and provide routes out of poverty. This includes further roll out of the Place Standard Tool (PST) to build on neighbourhood strengths and assets; development of asset based approaches and self-reliant groups and work with new community development trusts established in 2018 to build community based capacity and develop new services.	Clackmannansh ire Council Community Learning Development CTSI Community Development Trusts	Helping families in other ways	Ongoing/Externall y funded pilot schemes.	Won't directly deliver services to child poverty groups however will contribute to community empowerment and decision making and development of new services and projects.	Most communities now have one or two community-led anchor organisations helping provide supports – either in partnerships with other organisations for example HSCP and NHS workers; Clacks CAB outreach; Social Security Scotland or through their own developed services like parent groups, after school clubs; youth groups. These can provide more information to families in need through family contact but also support improved mental health, wellbeing

		and build family
		resilience.

Resilience Learning Partnership set up in 2018 to establish a formal approach to engaging with local people with lived experienced in a way which is dignified and rewarding.  This approach enables partners to learn from those with lived experience in a way which ensures appropriate financial reimbursement.	Clackmannansh ire Council CPP Partners	Increased Income from Employment Supporting families in other ways.	Ongoing/SocialE nterprise	Won't directly deliver services to child poverty groups however will assist with learning to develop non-stigmatising and dignified approaches to delivering services	Resilience Learning Partnership (RLP) continues to deliver its own TI training. In the past 12 months RLP have delivered trauma training to an additional 60 Police staff as well as 62 staff from other organisations in Clacks. RLP also continues to deliver the Scottish TI leaders training (STILT).
CSADP - Support For Families Affected by Substance  Since 2015, the ADP has invested in dedicated CAB workers within local alcohol and drug services.  Substance workers refer service users for support	CSADP	Increased income through Maximised benefit entitlement Increase recovery	Funded by ADP – alternative funding options currently being explored.  Funded by ADP  Statutory and		Recovery Cafe attendance has increased by 130% over the year in Clackmannanshire (241 clients in Q1 - 556 clients in Q4), suggesting more people are finding recovery in their communities.

with income maximisation,		from	Commissioned		There has been an
housing, employment and		substance	Services funded		increase in presentations
money and debt advice and		use	by HSCP / ADP		in line with local and
support.					national trends through
					Covid-19. Our system of
The Forth Valley Recovery					care has been
Community provides a					responding to greater
pathway for people that					levels of need, and
leads to worthwhile					changing patterns of use.
work/further education.					In support of this the ADP
Increase access to					dedicated funding to
treatment from alcohol and					support delivery through
drugs services.					the pandemic period, and
drugs services.					has been seeing more
					people than at pre-
					pandemic levels, though
					quantiative data is
					unusually volatile quarter-
					by-quarter.
Trauma informed practice	NHS Forth	Supporting	Project runs until	Consideration	Raising awareness of the
agenda – NHS Forth Valley	Valley in	families in	March 2021-	across the	importance of the trauma informed workforce
leading on developing and	partnership with,	other ways	Focus on making	lifespan, initial	(through meetings and
delivering trauma informed	NES, Public	Partnership	the training	focus on	local events), and
practice training framework	Health Scotland,	Working	sustainable	adults/parents	signposting to NES
across 4 scopes.	local HSCP's.		beyond this	who've	resources, including a
This will aim to reduce			timescale.	experienced	trauma skilled e-module.
impact of psychological				psychological	Trauma informed and trauma skilled level
1 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11	1		<u> </u>		traditia skilled level

trauma, reduce retraumatisation and prevent negative impact of intergenerational psychological trauma on families, and children.				trauma.	training also delivered face to face (at the end of 2019, and online in 2020. Consultation and support with health, local authority, and third sector colleagues – staff group being prioritised.
We will commission research to better understand the barriers and potential solutions to affordable and accessible transport to, from and within Clackmannanshire. We will work with a wide range of partners on this research and associated delivery plans including, where appropriate, our neighbouring authorities.	CPP Partners	Income from Employment Partnership Working	Commence October 2019	All child poverty groups	Access to local transport is a significant priority for partners in Clackmannanshire and across Forth Valley and is a key part of the Regional Economic Forum identified priorities.  In 2021/22 the implementation of the free bus travel for people under 22 years has been rolled out across Scotland. No data has been published on uptake yet however this will be reported in future reports if available.

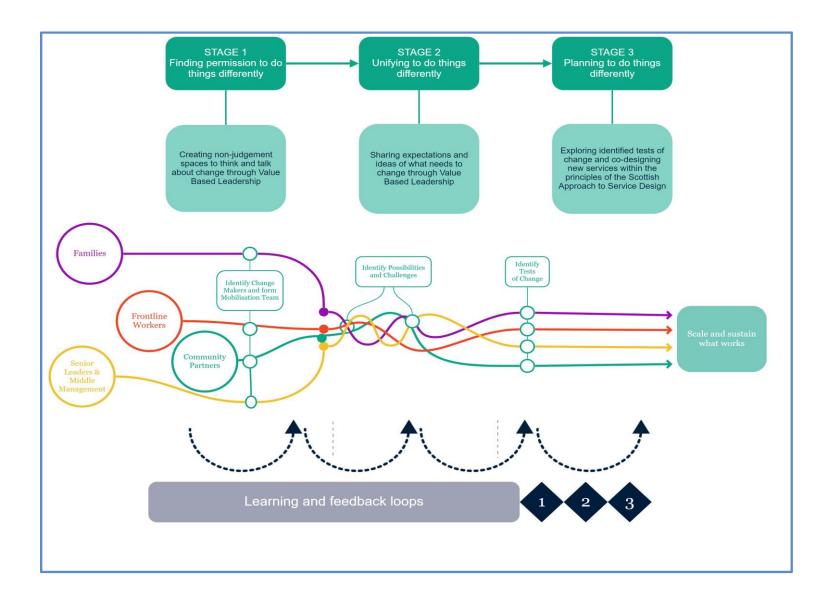
We will, along with our	CPP Partners	Increased	October 2019	Won't directly	The Alliance hosted a
partners, hold a series of		awareness	(potentially	deliver services to	range of events as part of
Child Poverty and Inclusive		of poverty	annually	child poverty	Challenge Poverty Week
Growth events to coincide		stereotypes.	thereafter)	groups however	in Clackmannanshire.
with Challenge Poverty				will raise profile	This included workshops,
Week in October. These				and awareness	open days and training
events will aim to raise				and will shape	events. A range of
awareness; promote work				future work and	events were also held by
to tackle poverty in				partnerships.	schools – see detail in
Clackmannanshire and					the Key Achievements
identify new strategic links					Section.
and opportunities around					
poverty and inclusive					
growth.					

## <u>Appendix B – Clackmannanshire Data Dashboard</u>

Indicator	Clackmannanshire	Stirling	Falkirk	Scotland
Migration (net), 2019-20	100	130	230	16,900
Dependency ratio 2020 (Dependents as proportion of working age population %)	61.2	55.7	57.4	56.5
Working age population forecasts (% change 2018 to 2043)	-8.7	7.6	2.2	-4
Job density, 2019	0.49	0.91	0.71	8.0
Employment rate, 16 - 64 (%), June 2021	72.7	72.7	75.5	72.9
Male median weekly earnings (full-time, excluding overtime),2021	698.5	693.6	602.5	624.2
Female median weekly earnings (full-time excluding overtime), 2021	538.5	536.3	584.7	569.4
Underemployment of population aged 16 and over (proportion of respondents who would like to work longer hours given the opportunity), 2020	11.1	7.1	3.4	8.5
Proportion of people aged 16-64 in employment receiving job-related training in last 3 months, 2020	14.2	21.8	13.3	22
Public sector employment, Jul 2020-Jun 2021	32.5%	27.0%	28.4%	28.6%
Children living in relative low-income families (%), FYE 2020	22%	15%	19%	19 (UK figure)
No qualifications (NVQ), 16 - 64 (%), 2020	10.2	6.7	10.4	8.1
Life expectancy male (at birth), 2018-2020	76	78	77	77
Life expectancy female (at birth), 2018-2020	81	82	80	81
Degree qualification equivalent and above, 16-64 (%), 2020	29.4	43.6	32.9	34.5
School leavers in positive destinations, 2019/20	90.1%	90.3%	91.9%	92.2%
Workless households, 2020 (%)	18.5%	14.6%	18.0%	18.10%
School attendance rate	92.9	94.1	93.1	92
School exclusion rate (per 1,000 pupils), 2018/19	1.2	17.6	16.5	11.9
Drug-related deaths per 100,000 population, 2020	21.5	35.6	23.2	21.2
Suicide rate per 100,000 population, 2015-2019	17.41	11.25	17.51	14.8

Teenage pregnancy rate (crude rate per 1,000 females aged 15-19 (2017-2019))	39.1	20.2	32.3	27.7
Modern Apprentices who are female, Q2 2021/22	41.2%	34.5%	27.4%	37.80%
18-24 claimant count (October 2021)	7.2	3.2	6.7	4.8
Residents who are very or fairly satisfied with the quality of public services, 2019	53%	58%	53%	53
Percentage of homes with ultrafast broadband availability (download speeds of 300mbit/s), September 2021	20.1%	52.3%	80.7%	59%
SIMD 20% most deprived (local share), %	25.0%	12.4%	16.4%	
Proportion of households in fuel poverty, 2017-2019	23.7%	21.2%	22.2%	24.4%
Access to green and blue space (proportion of adults who live within 5 minutes of their local green/blue space), 2019	76%	84%	66%	65.50%
Number of crimes and offences recorded by the police per 10,000 population, 2019-20	401	402	442	451
% of dwellings that fail the SHQS overall, 2017-19	24%	32%	36%	41%
CO2 emissions per capita (tonnes), 2019	10.1	6.6	7.2	5.7

Appendix C - SIP Approach to shifting culture in service provision within Clackmannanshire Family Wellbeing Family Wellbeing Partnership



## <u>Appendix D – Clackmannanshire Family Wellbeing Partnership - Flourishing Lives Process</u>

