

Newsletter

Community Planning Improvement Board • Issue 1 • March 2024



Community Planning
Improvement Board



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Given the deep-rooted and persistent inequalities within our communities, combined with the unprecedented financial challenges facing public services, the role of community planning is more important than ever in providing a space in which public services, communities and the third sector can work together to enhance local decision making and improve outcomes.

The Verity House Agreement (VHA) provides a further welcome opportunity to think creatively about how to maximise the impact of community planning in working across boundaries, supporting local alignment and using collective resources more effectively to deliver shared priorities and improve outcomes for people and communities.

The CPIB continues to provide leadership and improvement support for community planning in Scotland, and to generate valuable evidence-based solutions to the significant challenges facing communities and local partnerships. CPIB membership includes the key statutory community planning partners and provides direct links with all 32 Community Planning Partnerships.

Further detail of the work of the CPIB and its membership can be found on the CPIB [website](#). Regular updates will be shared with stakeholders following quarterly CPIB meetings to provide an ongoing flow of communications, sharing progress against the CPIB Action Plan and creating opportunities for stakeholders to engage with and inform the ongoing work of the CPIB.



CPIB Action Plan



A central element of the CPIB’s recent work as set out in the **CPIB Strategic Plan** has been to demonstrate the commitment of community planning partnerships to incorporate Covid Recovery ambitions into their work, as well as positive examples of practice.

The CPIB has focussed on three main areas in 2022 and 2023, which are:



Climate Change



**Financial Security
for Low Income Households**



**Wellbeing of Children
and Young People**

The CPIB reviewed their strategic focus in 2023, and agreed these themes remain pertinent given their importance to local Partnerships, and their broad alignment with the outcome priorities within the VHA and wider Public Service reform agenda. It was agreed however, that there may be value in revisiting our focus as greater clarity emerges in both national agendas.

Through engagement with community planning partners and Partnerships, deep dive workshops, and CPIB short-life working groups, we have continued to build a wide and varied evidence-based understanding of the important work community planning partnerships are carrying out to improve outcomes through good practice, and of the barriers limiting progress.

Across the next 12 months, the CPIB will consider the vision, strategy and set of actions needed nationally, to provide further support to CPPs as they take local action to tackle deep-rooted inequalities and improve wellbeing. As a starting point, and building on work to date, the CPIB identified a series of local and national actions to unblock barriers limiting progress and help community planning fulfil its potential.

The CPIB Action Plan outlines how we will deliver our priorities for the period ahead and represents the commitment of CPIB members to work together to deliver practical action to drive forward real change at a local level.

Action Plan

Source	Barrier	Action	How we will deliver	Who	Time
Systemic Issue across all 3 SLWG	Sustainable Funding for the Third Sector	1. CPIB to support implementation of new and existing local models relating to Third Sector funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will establish a new SLWG to collectively identify the role for CPP and what action the CPIB would wish to take to support this issue, including for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signing up to Fair Funding Principles Use the VHA partnership agreement to look at the role of the third sector & need for sustainable funding CPP partners consider how they provide sustainable/flexible funding Lobby for more preventative funding 	Anna Fowlie & CPIB members	Dec 2023
SLWG Climate Change	Strategic co-ordination of Procurement	2. CPIB to work with Scotland Excel to bring greater co-ordination in procurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will hold a CPIB workshop with Scotland Excel & other procurement providers to explore the potential to widen access to existing procurement frameworks and consider how procurement providers might work closer together to reduce fragmentation in procurement in relation to climate change. 	CPIB Chair	Dec 2023
	Co-ordination of funding landscape	3. CPIB to support co-ordination and streamlining of funding at a local level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share good practice of where different funding streams have been merged and applicants have been encouraged to submit solutions to broad issues (see p6). Share good practice with CP partners nationally to encourage good practice. Share with Scottish Government to demonstrate value of this approach 	DCC CPIB Chair CPIB Chair	Aug 2023 Oct 2023 Oct 2023

Source	Barrier	Action	How we will deliver	Who	Time
		4. CPIB/CPPs to encourage greater focus of City Deal money on Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify those Climate change initiatives currently prioritised within City or Growth Deal programs. Ask CP partners to review and update the list to address any gaps (identifying funded projects that have the potential to make a strategic difference) Encourage CP Partners at a City or Growth Deal level to prioritise these funded opportunities before other smaller, unfunded ideas that may distract. 	<p>SDS</p> <p>SDS/CPIB Chair</p> <p>SDS/CPIB Chair</p>	<p>Aug 2023</p> <p>Oct 2023</p> <p>Oct 2023</p>
SLWG Financial Security	Data Sharing	5. CPIB to promote good practice & learning on local progress in data sharing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CPIB to widely promote the good practice examples collected through SLWG in relation to data sharing (See p11). Edinburgh Third sector interface to share their approach to data sharing. 	CPIB Members Edinburgh TSI	<p>Dec 2023</p> <p>Dec 2023</p>
		6. CPIB to develop national principles on data sharing and risk levels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CPIB members to identify a specific cross-sector example/ use case that could be used to help progress work on data sharing principles, minimum standards and common understanding of risk. Develop a template approach to help prime stakeholders to participate and allow testing and confirmation of the process. Carry out an environmental scan to identify and engage with those bodies/groups who can provide support/ guidance to resolve issues across a broad spectrum of areas including data quality, information security and technology (involve ICO for regulatory view). Build an index or catalogue of data sharing agreements (consider role for LG Data Standards Board). Share existing toolkits with CPPs/CP partners that allow the testing of potential data sharing requirements to provide support. Work with the SG to look at what they are doing across all areas of government and what they already have in place re principles and risk. 	IS/NHS/ PS - with support from CPIB members	Mar 2024

Source	Barrier	Action	How we will deliver	Who	Time
SLWG Wellbeing CYP	Building & facilitating relationships	7. CPIB to encourage partners to recognise, resource and sustain the places (inc. 3rd Sector) where nurturing relationships happen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write to CPPs/CP Partners to emphasise the importance of 3rd sector having equal place within Childrens Service Partnerships as part of delivery of whole family wellbeing approaches. • Write to CPP's/CP Partners to promote the support and resources available from the National Trauma Training Programme. 	CPIB Chair & CPIB Members	Dec 2023
SLWG Wellbeing CYP	Collective prioritisation and decision making in relation to funding	8. CPIB to encourage CPPs to put in place mechanisms for collective prioritisation and decision-making in relation to allocating funding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and promote examples of collective funding approaches that work well that could be put in place quickly • Explore level of collaboration taking place at CSP/CP level in relation to WFWF and share best practice examples where collaboration is working well across sectors. • Analyse the use of WFWB throughout Scotland, drawing on TSI audit currently underway on use of this funding. 	CPIB Members CPIB Members TSI	Mar 2024



Sharing Good Practice

To help inform local practice, we are pleased to share some of the good practice examples, resources and support which have been identified so far from the work of the CPIB.

Improving local co-ordination in Climate Change funding

This good practice example showcases a successful approach where different funding streams have been merged locally and applicants have been encouraged to submit solutions which have the potential to create a significant impact for local communities.

Dundee Climate Fund Round 1

Report + Evaluation

Overview:

The Dundee Climate Fund has been established with the aim of supporting community-led projects addressing climate change. It operates on the principles of the Community Choices model, wherein citizens play a pivotal role in determining the allocation of funds towards the city's Climate Action Plan. The fund has a total budget of £750,000, comprising £250,000 in revenue and £500,000 in capital funding.



The Dundee Climate Fund aims for projects to fall within the following thematic areas:



Energy:
Focused on reducing consumption, promoting energy efficiency, and encouraging the use of renewable energy sources.



Transport:
Aimed at promoting active travel and decarbonising transportation systems.



Waste:
Focused on waste reduction, recycling, and resource reuse.



Resilience:
Geared towards enhancing greenspaces, biodiversity, and local food growing initiatives.



Community Engagement:
Targeting the increase of public awareness and engagement of communities and young people in climate change efforts.

The fund invites applications for both small projects (with budgets ranging from £6,000 to £25,000) and large projects (with budgets up to £100,000). Proposals exceeding £25,000 will require organizations with free reserves exceeding three months' operating expenses to provide 25% match funding in cash or in-kind contributions.



Distinctive Features of the Dundee Climate Fund:

The unique aspect of the Dundee Climate Fund lies in its citizen-centric approach. Community members play an integral role in determining the funding recipients. Each application undergoes an internal review process to ensure compliance with feasibility and eligibility criteria. Projects that meet these criteria are then made available for public voting.



Submission Process:

The application process involves three steps:

1. Initial submission via Consul (Dundee's Voice), a public-facing platform where the information is displayed for voters to see.
2. Detailed application through MS Form.
3. Supporting documentation submission via ClimateChoices@dundeecity.gov.uk.

Applications for the first funding round were open from September 26, 2022, until November 20, 2022, at midnight. A Review Panel evaluated all submissions, and projects meeting the funding requirements proceeded to the public voting phase.



Review Panel:

The core review panel comprised members from the Dundee City Council Dundee Climate Fund working group, including representatives from various departments relevant to the funds themes. For each topic covered by the Dundee Climate Fund, a specific review panel was constituted, supported by additional internal and external experts.



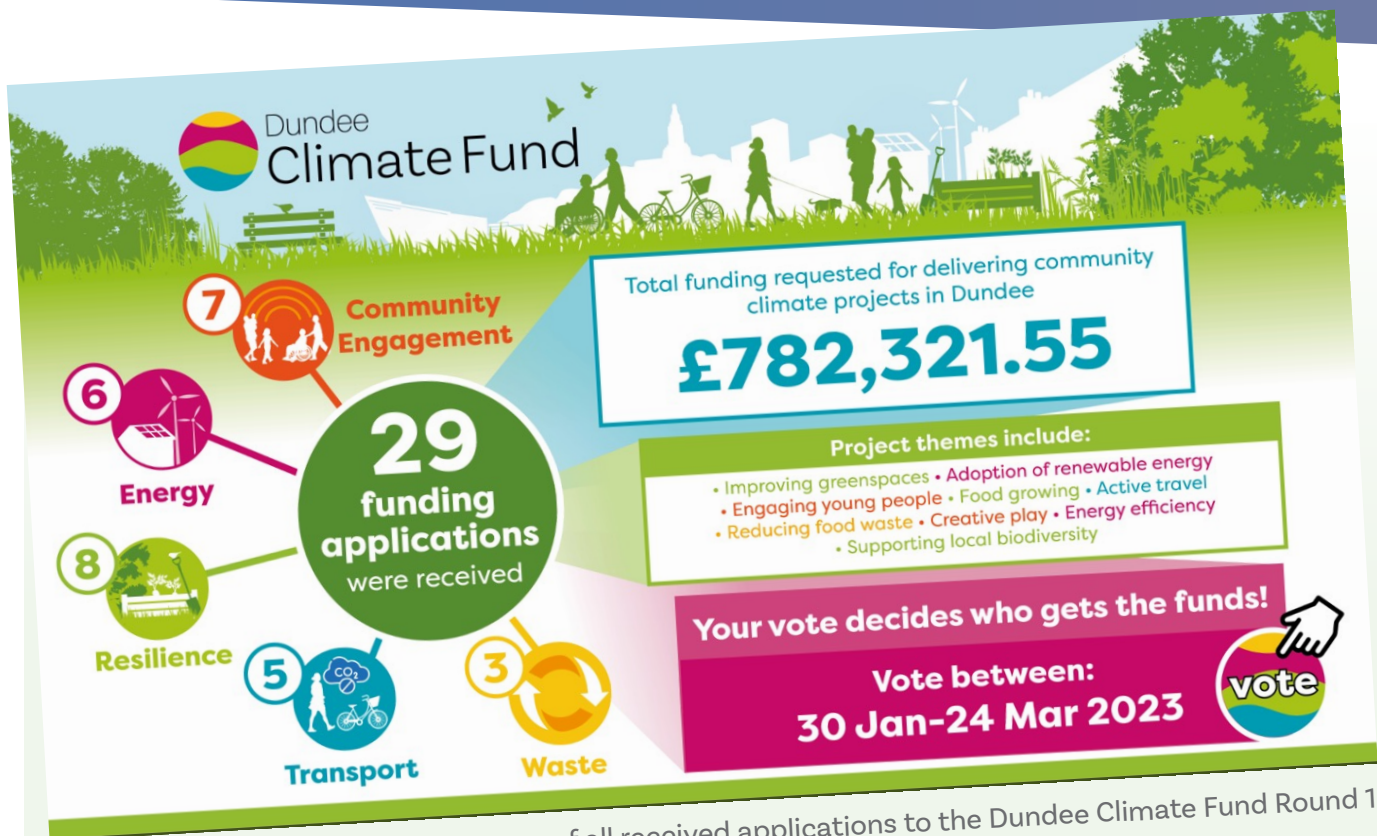


Figure 1. Summary of all received applications to the Dundee Climate Fund Round 1

Applications

Figure 1 provides a summary of all the applications received during Round 1 of the Dundee Climate Fund. Notably, the fund received a diverse range of innovative proposals that had the potential to create a significant impact on local communities. Surprisingly, the fund attracted interest from organizations that had not previously been involved in climate action. Smaller community groups received support from Community Empowerment Officers, who assisted them in navigating the application process, garnering positive feedback.

The Dundee Climate Fund intentionally kept its thematic areas open to stimulate creativity and imagination among applicants. A total of 29 applications were submitted during the 8-week application period, exceeding the fund's available budget.

For detailed information on each application, refer to the [Dundeel Voice website](#).

Voting Process:

Funding allocation was determined through a public vote on CONSUL. All applications were simultaneously subjected to voting. Each Dundee citizen had one vote per funding round, with the ability to allocate the entire available budget across all proposals. Two videos were created to help citizens vote, one to show them how create a MyGov account, another explaining the voting process.

Funding was awarded based on the successful votes calculated by the CONSUL software, taking into account the available capital and revenue funds.

A multimedia targeted marketing campaign for Dundee was developed to get people to vote. This included the following media:

242,000

impacts Pure Radio Tayside, 8-week Campaign, (David Attenborough impressionist)

300,000

Digital Audio impressions (podcasts, radio, streaming)

107,700

Ads
360 impressions, 789h12m exposure

60,400

Facebook Ad impressions;
28,700 reaches

40,000

Google Ads impressions

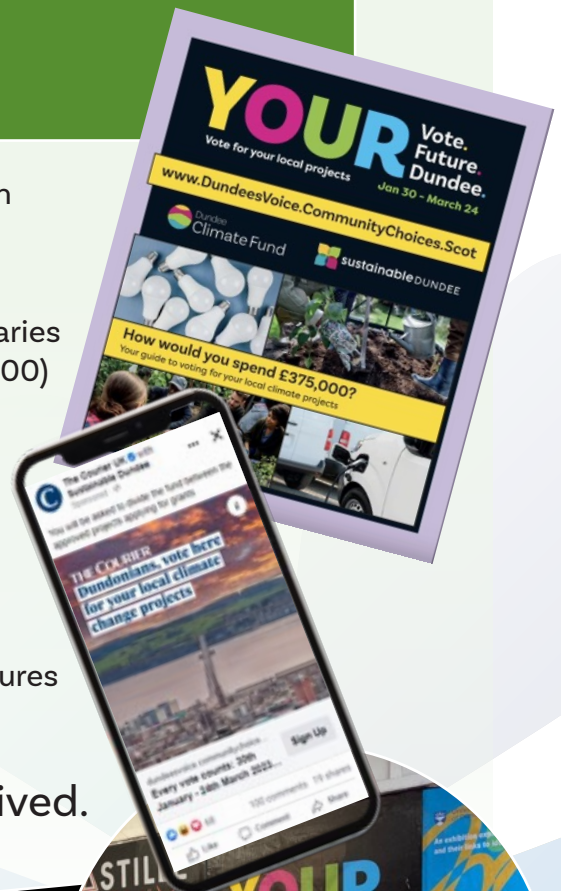
610

Native Content Article views

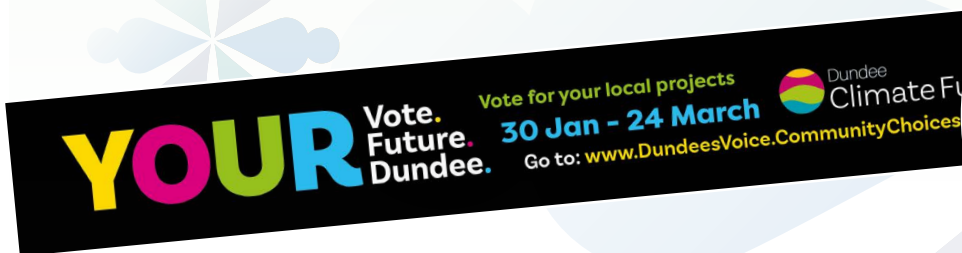
200

Bus interior posters

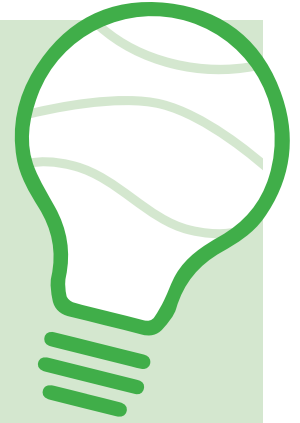
- 16page Evening Telegraph brochure,
- extras distributed to Community Centres, libraries & local shops (reach 70,000)
- Street Advertising
- Organic social media
- Press release
- Bus shelter advertising
- DCC hosted email signatures



A total of **4376** public votes were received.



Learning and Improvements:



Applications:

Following the success of the first round, the Dundee Climate Fund 2.0 is building on its achievements with a bottom-up, responsive, and collaborative approach for its second phase. To generate new ideas and foster community involvement, an innovative Speed-Dating Ideas Generation Workshop was conducted, where local community groups brainstormed ideas together with experts from the internal review panel. Subsequently, several public engagement events were held at Dundee's community centres, allowing for further input from the local community.

Through a comprehensive consultation process involving several hundred local residents, the generated ideas were filtered based on their feasibility and deliverability. The selected ideas were presented to community groups and projects, to urge them to come forward and utilise a share of the remaining funding to bring these ideas to fruition.



Voting:

In an effort to enhance the voting process and encourage broader participation, social media log-ins were enabled for Consul. This move aimed to facilitate a more accessible and convenient voting experience for the public. Additionally, voting was available in local libraries to develop in-person, ballot-style voting options. This step catered to individuals who preferred traditional voting methods or faced barriers in accessing online platforms.

To accommodate the extended voting options and allow ample time for processing and voting, the voting timeframe had been increased to 12 weeks. This extension ensured that a diverse range of participants could have their say in selecting the projects to be funded, contributing to a more inclusive decision-making process.

The Dundee Climate Fund 2.0 strives to learn from the first round's experiences and make improvements based on feedback and observations. These enhancements aim to foster even greater community engagement, creativity, and collaboration in the pursuit of meaningful climate change projects for the city of Dundee.

Overcoming data sharing obstacles

To help community planning partners address barriers in organisational sharing of population and personal data, the CPIB has collated some good practice examples of local progress which offer learning in relation to overcoming the obstacles which exist.

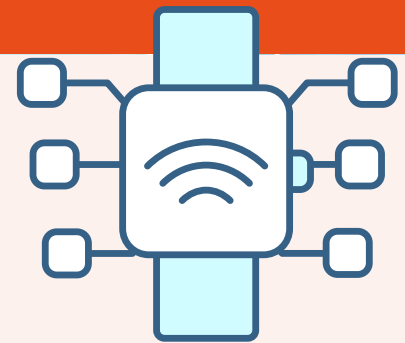
Data Sharing Good Practice Examples

Using HMRC/DWP data to support targeting of services

Glasgow City Council has received permission from the UK Government to use DWP/HMRC information relating to household income for research purposes. This has allowed Glasgow City Council in partnership with the Centre for Civic Innovation to continue its **exceptional work**, combining DWP/HMRC data with SEeMis data to map the level, location and depth of child poverty across Glasgow. This includes information on how rates of poverty vary across the priority groups. The incredibly rich and granular nature of this household level data has allowed Glasgow to make more informed, evidence-based decisions and target its services (Such as FISO) more effectively. However, they cannot use the data to explicitly target individual households and engage directly with them.

In terms of using DWP/HMRC information to proactively contact low-income household, legislation has been passed that allows the Scottish Government to receive and processes data from Social Security Scotland, DWP and HMRC about households who are entitled to funded early learning and childcare. All 3-and 4-year-olds in Scotland are eligible for 1140 hours of funded early learning and childcare (ELC), along with some 2-year-olds who meet eligibility criteria targeting children facing the most disadvantage. In most cases, this is because their parents receive a qualifying benefit. Research into barriers to uptake of ELC found that many households with an eligible child were not aware that they met the criteria. Local authorities have therefore requested data about eligible families in their area so they can contact them directly to let them know about their entitlement and what's on offer to them. Once received and processed, a data file is uploaded to datapipeline.scot, sorted into 32 mailboxes based on their postcodes, before each local authority is then notified that there is a file available for them to download. This data file allows local authorities to use HMRC/DWP data to identify and contact households which are entitled to but not currently accessing a free childcare place for their two-year-old.

This raises a question of why such an approach could not be taken (with or without further legislation) to maximise uptake of wider local and Scottish benefits.



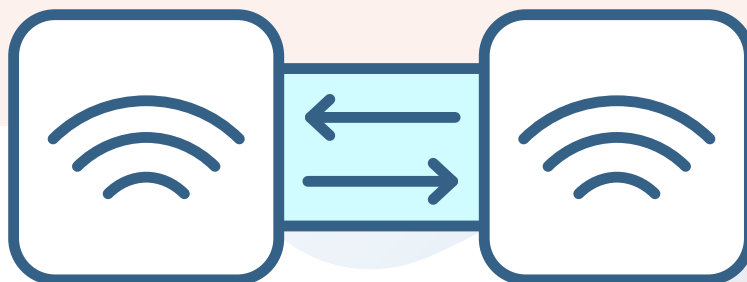
Data Sharing Agreements between voluntary and public sectors

In 2015 Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations' Council's (EVOC – a partner of Edinburgh TSI) Network of Children, Young People & Families Organisations were informed that the NHS Lothian Health Visiting service was moving entirely to electronic email-based referral and information sharing. Many voluntary organisations in the Network worked closely with the service and this development was to become a barrier to all communication threatening services for this vulnerable client group.

EVOC worked with the SE Scotland Data Sharing Partnership and NHS Lothian Information Governance and Security to develop a Data Sharing Agreement (DSA) satisfying the requirements of NHS Lothian to allow for electronic data sharing. 17 organisations became signatories, and the secure flow of referrals and data was established.

In 2022/23 it became apparent that the DSA needed to be thoroughly reviewed to comply with legislative changes and encompass broader public sector data sharing aspirations – namely the ability to include the City of Edinburgh Council as well as NHS Lothian. Furthermore, a number of new organisations wished to sign up to ease, professionalise and ensure best practice compliance with data sharing arrangements. Through the erstwhile SE Scotland Data Sharing Partnership, which hasn't met for some time the mechanism of an existing Pan Lothian Agreement to allow data sharing between public authorities was suggested to enable multi public sector agency data sharing with one agreement with voluntary sector organisations. A number of existing signatories from the original cohort and a couple of potential new entrants kindly volunteered their time on a working group led by Kirstine Fergusson a data governance specialist, to start the process of writing a new document from first principles and using the national NHS toolkit for developing DSAs.

In late 2023, the Data Sharing Agreement was signed by NHS Lothian and City of Edinburgh Council. Incorporating learning and a request from public sector partners for a mechanism to ensure a degree of assurance on the systems and processes of signatories, we have required voluntary organisations wishing to become signatories to attend compulsory full day training around data governance. We have also developed a [checklist for voluntary organisations](#) to complete, submitting required documentation for EVOC to hold as evidence should a query from public sector partners arise. EVOC does not judge such evidence or check its validity or standards – we believe that information governance is solely the responsibility of voluntary organisations signing up to the DSA but by asking for documents to be submitted it ensures systems, processes and a deep understanding of the issues within that organisation exist enabling a degree of confidence for public sector partners.





Local areas lead the way on data sharing to prevent child poverty

The Improvement Service is working with three local areas (Angus, Argyll & Bute and Inverclyde) and **SAVVI** (Scalable approach to vulnerability Via Interoperability) to identify legitimate and ethical ways of re-using personal data to identify and reach families at highest risk of child poverty, with the aim of offering those families advice and wider support to avoid financial crisis. The **Project Initiation Document** provides further detail.

The project is considering how locally held data (such as information on Crisis Grant applications and Council Tax arrears) could be combined with data held by the DWP/HMRC (UC data on household type) and that held by Social Security Scotland (on receipt of Scottish Child Payment) to identify and proactively reach out to those at highest risk of poverty and associated negative outcomes.

SAVVI are involved in proactive dialogue with the DWP around this work and are seeking to establish similar links with the Scottish Government.

If the project is successful in identifying legal pathways, all relevant documentation will be made widely available to support other councils and their local partners to replicate or build upon the approach.

The initiative - which should conclude in early 2024 - stemmed from a work led by the Improvement Service and funded by the Scottish Government's Scottish Rural Network, which took a Design Approach to identifying and overcoming barriers to tackling child poverty in remote, rural and island settings. Recommendations emerging from the process (including the need for improved data sharing protocols) are contained in this **report** and are being taken forward by the recently established Remote, Rural and Island Child Poverty Network which is facilitated by the National Coordinator for Local Action on Child Poverty.



Prioritise Child Poverty: A Data and Systems Approach

Public Health Scotland has developed a **toolkit** to support local areas to identify relevant data sources and also develop pathways for sharing relevant data between different departments and organisations. This toolkit offers a number of resources designed to support data-informed decisions being made about how best to support families and prevent child poverty. It was piloted in Inverclyde and is currently being used to support data sharing in Dumfries and Galloway.

Inverclyde Pilot: PHS worked together with Inverclyde Council to build up a better picture of what the local child poverty system looked like in Inverclyde, what data was being captured and how it could be used to best support local families. The work helped local partners think about how they might better collaborate and apply a child poverty lens to local service provision, to prevent and reduce child poverty. The approach, which is brought to life in a **short animation**, brought together participants from a wide range of local services in Inverclyde with a role to play in the lives of low income families. A range of local authority (and NHS staff) have had a short introduction, via a webinar, to the work that took place in Inverclyde. Using the tools, in collaboration with partners, local areas can increase their understanding about child poverty locally and use this insight to make data-informed decisions about how best to support families and prevent them from being locked into poverty.



Support and resources available from The National Trauma Transformation Programme

These resources will help support our collective approaches to building and facilitating nurturing relationships essential in promoting the wellbeing of children and young people. The National Trauma Transformation Programme provides a wide range of learning resources, guidance, and implementation support for all sectors of the workforce, including leaders, to up-skill staff and to embed and sustain a trauma informed model of working.

The National Trauma Transformation Programme

Scotland has paved the way in creating a vision of a trauma informed and responsive workforce and services that can recognise where people are affected by trauma and adversity, and that respond in ways that prevent further harm, support recovery, address inequalities and improve life chances. The **National Trauma Transformation Programme** (formerly known as the National Trauma Training Programme) is a major and long-term change programme, which aims to support this vision. The NTTTP provides a wide range of learning resources, guidance and implementation support for all sectors of the workforce, including leaders, to up-skill staff to the appropriate level of trauma-informed and responsive practice and, critically, to embed and sustain this model of working.

The NTTTP is delivered in partnership between the Scottish Government, COSLA, NHS Education for Scotland, Resilience Learning Partnership and the Improvement Service. The IS provides support to local authorities and their partners to raise awareness of the benefits of a trauma-informed approach and to strengthen the capacity and capability of councils and partners to implement trauma-informed practice and policy, and coordinates the network of local Trauma Champions and local trauma leads.

For more information about your local trauma champions and leads, please contact:
trauma@improvementservice.org.uk



How has the NTTP evolved since 2017?

Scotland was the first country in the world to develop a knowledge and skills framework for psychological trauma for the workforce, developed by NHS Education for Scotland (NES) in 2017.

Subsequently, the National Trauma Training Programme (NTTP) was established in 2018 with an initial investment of £1.35m over three years and a goal to deliver trauma training, based on the Knowledge and Skills Framework, to 5,000 frontline workers over three years – this target was quickly met.

Since then, the Programme has steadily grown and evolved in response to feedback. It now includes a wide range of learning resources and guidance, alongside a network of implementation co-ordinators, Leaders, Trauma Champions and Trauma Lead Officers who are driving forward progress locally and nationally.

In 2023, the NTTP was rebranded to the National Trauma Transformation Programme to reflect the need for a whole system approach towards trauma-informed culture, attitudes, policies and practice across the workforce, which requires long-term, transformational change. The NTTP has recently published the [Roadmap](#) for trauma-informed and responsive change.

Areas for National Action



In addition to the local actions to be taken forward by the CPIB, there are a number of national actions which are essential to the progress of this work. The CPIB is seeking support from the Deputy First Minister, the COSLA President and the Minister for Public Finance, Planning and Community Wealth to come up with a plan for how we can continue to work together to take this forward.

The priority areas for national action identified by the CPIB are set out below:

1. To address the fragmentation of the climate funding landscape by consolidating and aligning national budgets and funding streams.
2. To secure sustainable funding for the third sector, recognising their instrumental role in the development and delivery of early intervention offers and relationship-based alternatives to statutory service delivery, including in key areas such as whole family wellbeing approaches.
3. To give greater emphasis to the provision of flexible and multi-year funding to enable available resources to be better used in ways that reflect priorities for communities.
4. To reduce reporting requirements, including in relation to Child Poverty Action Reports.



LGHP Committee Inquiry Report into community planning **Recommendations**

CPIB members welcomed the opportunity in 2023 to share some of the learning we have accumulated in our work by feeding into the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee inquiry into community planning. Following the publication of the **Committee Report**, the CPIB expressed broad support for the majority of recommendations identified, highlighting the strong parallels with themes emerging within our own evidence base and improvement priorities. While generally welcoming the recommendations, in their response, the CPIB pointed to four themes where further emphasis would be helpful to drive forward collective improvement.

CPIB Response to the recommendations published by the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee following their inquiry into community planning.

The **Community Planning Improvement Board** (CPIB) provides leadership and improvement support for Community Planning in Scotland. CPIB membership includes senior level representation from the key statutory Community Planning partners and provides direct links with all 32 Community Planning Partnerships thus enabling connections that will be pivotal to supporting our collective improvement ambitions. The views expressed in this response reflect ongoing work by the CPIB to generate valuable evidence-based solutions to the significant challenges facing communities and local partnerships.

CPIB members welcomed the opportunity in 2023 to feed into and to provide evidence to the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee inquiry into community planning. This provided an opportunity to share the wealth of learning and insight accumulated by the CPIB in recent years, including through our wide-ranging engagement with partnerships and partner organisations.

The CPIB expressed broad support for the majority of recommendations identified by the Committee, highlighting the close alignment with themes emerging within our own evidence base and improvement priorities. The CPIB suggests that there are four broad themes from across the Committee's recommendations that require further emphasis to drive forward collective improvement.

These four areas are:

1

Resourcing

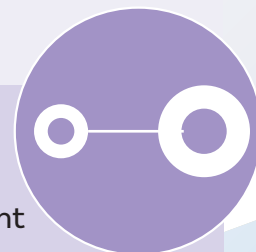
The CPIB strongly supports the recommendation that Scottish Government should explore whether it's ambitions for community planning are realistic without being backed up by direct investment and should also explore how community planning partners should best direct their own resources to underpin CPPs work (Recommendation 23).

While the breadth of community planning responsibility has increased over the years, Community Planning Partnerships do not receive direct investment to take on additional responsibilities. Consequently, the resourcing available to community planning is under increasing and unsustainable pressure. Current resourcing levels are insufficient to support the change in behaviour, culture and practice which is required to enable Partnerships to fulfil their potential in terms of strengthened partnership working and community empowerment, or to facilitate the scaling-up of good practice examples.

The CPIB requests that a review of funding should take place to ensure community planning partners deploy their existing collective resources more effectively. This review should consider the allocation of resource in terms of the appropriateness to deliver services, and to better support the targeting of our collective resource towards tackling inequalities and undertaking preventative activity.

While recognising the current financial challenges, consideration of the additional resources necessary to provide investment in the infrastructure required to support community planning would also be welcomed, particularly in light of recent pay settlements and living wage commitments.

To enable local partners to pool resources effectively and respond to local pressures and priorities, fiscal and functional empowerment are essential to the financial sustainability of Community Planning. Therefore, it is essential that any additional investment should involve the wider engagement of all core partners and be provided on the basis that it is for the Partnership to determine its use for local pressures and priorities.



2

Streamlining Accountability

The CPIB strongly supports the recommendation that Scottish Government should explore how the complex lines of accountability for community planning partners could best be streamlined. (Recommendation 25).

Complex funding models and current systems of governance and accountability do not incentivise a focus on long-term outcomes, prevention and place, and frequently inhibit partners efforts to prioritise, resource and deliver collectively. The current

financial pressures and reducing budgets overall have exacerbated these challenges, with each partner agency facing significant budget pressures which will have important impacts on their core service delivery.

With the pressure on partner resource likely only to intensify, the CPIB requests a fundamental review of accountability arrangements. Shared collective accountability across the public sector is essential if we are to support closer collaboration around common local and national priorities rather than shrinking apart as partner organisations each look to resolve the financial challenges they face individually.

A flexible funding model is required to enable the accountability structures within existing systems to resolve funding tension as budgets tighten. Greater alignment of accountability and performance frameworks of partners is needed so partners are held accountable not just for the delivery of sector-specific targets (e.g., waiting times) but shared partnership outcomes. This is essential to provide the necessary assurance that all partners are focussed on the agreed outcomes at a local level as articulated through LOIPs and that this is not contradictory to national commitments and performance frameworks. A fundamental shift is also required to ensure accountability arrangements involve our communities and ensure accountability to them, recognising that public accountability is key for designing and sustaining systemic change.

Progress in these areas is essential to support our collective commitment to placed based approaches grounded in 'local first, national by exception' principles.

3

Empowerment & Participation

The CPIB strongly supports the recommendation that Scottish Government should consider additional resourcing to help renew CPP's focus on the importance of empowerment and participation, and to help develop the professional skill set required for effective community engagement (Recommendations 26, 27 & 28).

To truly facilitate a person-centred approach, it is essential communities are fully included in the planning process, and that voices of all communities are reflected within LOIPs and Locality Plans. True empowerment and meaningful participation require ongoing relationships within our communities, and the development of an engagement infrastructure which allows continuing two-way dialogue. It is important that engagement with our communities, including communities of interest or identity is undertaken on a partnership level, within a place-based planning approach. In addition to facilitating more meaningful engagement, this also facilitates a more effective use of partner resource and helps to avoid community fatigue from multiple separate approaches.



The CPIB agrees that community engagement requires a professional skillset and needs to be appropriately resourced. While additional resourcing to support community engagement would be welcomed, it is important to recognise that all community planning partners have a joint responsibility to ensure partnerships are sufficiently resourced to engage effectively with communities. The CPIB requests that any additional resources or networks of community engagement officers therefore should be available to all statutory partners and TSI's to strengthen the capacity, experience, and expertise currently available within these organisations.

The CPIB also welcomes the recommendation to increase funding to support sharing of best practice in this area. The Improvement Service, along with other organisations and networks such as SCDC are well placed to provide support in relation to sharing of best practice and identifying opportunities to drive improvement in relation to community empowerment and participation.



4

Third Sector

The CPIB strongly supports the importance of greater involvement of TSIs and Third Sector organisations in community planning (Recommendation 21).

TSIs have a key role in ensuring the interests of local community groups and third sector organisations are represented in community planning structures. Given the role the third sector played in the pandemic response, and their closer relationships with communities, the third sector could play a critical role in helping to build the capacity of local people to become involved in co-designing and delivering services. The third sector is also instrumental in the development and delivery of early intervention offers and relationship-based alternatives to statutory service delivery, including in key areas such as whole family wellbeing approaches.

The CPIB believes that it is essential that TSI's and the third sector are adequately and sustainably resourced to play this critical role if their involvement in community planning is to be meaningful. The increasing levels of demand being pushed towards the third sector, and their capacity to contribute to community planning meeting structures while managing their important local delivery of service must be considered. The CPIB therefore requests parity of esteem for the third sector in relation to funding in order to deliver a more joined up approach to prevention and sustainability, and greater collective ownership of, and accountability for, priorities, plans and decisions.

