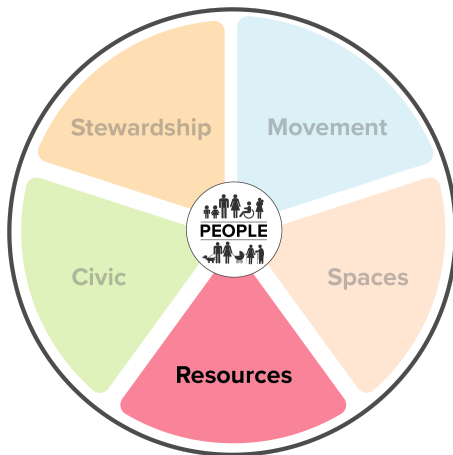


Shaping Places for Wellbeing Programme

Work and Economy: Impact on Clydebank's Community



Work and Economy can have a positive impact on people when everyone benefits equally from a local economy that provides:

- Essential goods and services produced or procured locally.
- Good quality paid and unpaid work.
- Access to assets such as wealth and capital, and the resources that enable people to participate in the economy such as good health and education.
- A balanced value ascribed across sectors such as female dominated sectors and the non-monetary economy.

This is why it is one of Scotland's Place and Wellbeing Outcomes.

The evidence tells us ¹ :



Work is beneficial for health if it is 'good' work.



'Good' work improves income, job security, does not increase employee's risk of illness or injury, or negatively impact mental health.



Low-quality work is associated with poor health and the longer someone is in low-quality work, the worse the health outcomes.



Unemployment can be harmful to health and the longer unemployed the worse the health outcomes.



Transport is a key barrier to employment for many people living in low-income neighbourhoods.



Some people find it necessary to purchase a car to access work even when they cannot afford it, which can lead to further debt.



Volunteering is associated with improved self-rated health, mental health, life satisfaction, wellbeing, decreased depression and mortality.



If a place is lively and vibrant it can provide work opportunities and will encourage people to visit the area.

1. Source: [Evidence Behind Place Standard Tool & Place and Wellbeing Outcomes](#)

Indicators for Work and Economy in West Dunbartonshire and Clydebank

Percentage of Working Age Population Classed as Employment Deprived (2020)

- Clydebank 14%
- West Dunbartonshire 13%
- Scotland 9%

Percentage of Employees Earning Less than the Real Living Wage(2021)

- West Dunbartonshire 14.6%
- Scotland 14.4%

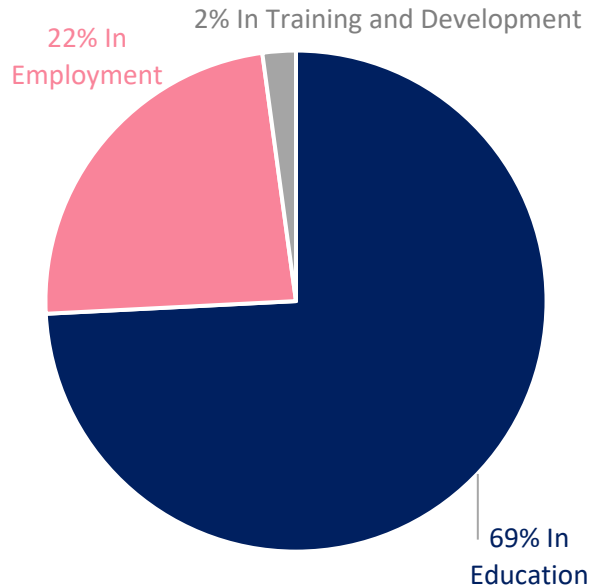
Gender Employment Gap (2022) (Percentage difference between Male and Female Employment Rates)

- West Dunbartonshire 3.2%
- Scotland 7.8%

Percentage Children in Child Poverty after Housing Costs (2021/22)

- West Dunbartonshire 27.6%
- Scotland 24.5%

In 2023, 93% of 16-19 year olds in West Dunbartonshire are Participating in Education, Training or Employment. Of this 93%:



In 2024, 34.9% of Universal Credit Claimants in West Dunbartonshire are in Employment. This is the same rate as Scotland.

What we heard from a range of communities, organisations and practitioners in Clydebank in 2023

Location of work opportunities and importance of transport

Based on local conversations, there appears to be a common view that the majority of employment opportunities in Clydebank are located in and around the town centre and that many of these are low paid posts. Recognising this, the need for affordable transport connections for people living in areas out with the town centre is considered essential, especially given the high levels of poverty across much of Clydebank.

The cost of public transport and / or running a car was highlighted as a barrier for people accessing work and employment related support.

It was also suggested that low pay levels and the limited number of professional posts available locally for those with qualifications, results in people seeking employment opportunities out with Clydebank, often in neighbouring local authorities.



Quality of work and impact on health

Local groups and organisations highlighted observing an increase in mental health issues within the community, noting poverty as a key contributory factor, with this also being visible for people in employment.

Low quality work was generally considered to be a contributory factor, particularly in relation to low pay, with the following highlighted:

- The need to work in multiple jobs to cover living costs.
- Being unable to reduce working hours to access training or education opportunities.
- An increase of in-work poverty.

Other aspects of employment related pressures were highlighted as having an impact on people's mental wellbeing:

- Job insecurity.
- Poor pay and conditions.
- Burnout for frontline workers.
- Balancing family/care responsibilities.
- Decline in work life balance.

“ I see so many women absolutely worn out, juggling multiple jobs along with all their other commitments, just to get by. (Local Charity Worker) ”



Employment related support

In local discussions, frequent reference was made to the range of support available from West Dunbartonshire Council's Working4U service and local third sector organisations for employability, welfare advice and broader services that enables people to prepare for accessing work, securing a job and remaining in employment.

The value of this support was widely noted and there was recognition that groups and organisations who have an established relationship with different population groups are often in a stronger position to provide employment related support to particular target groups. The importance of lived experience and knowledge of relevant issues was considered a key factor in providing support to a range of population groups including: people with long-term health conditions, people with disabilities, families with care responsibilities and people in recovery, amongst others.

Concern was expressed about previous and potential cuts to employability services despite the apparent growing demand. There was disappointment amongst some groups that Working4U support is no longer available from Clydebank town centre. However, it was suggested that with the cost of transport to the town centre being a barrier for many, that there is a growing need for support to be delivered within local neighbourhoods, especially in areas with high levels of unemployment and poverty.

Support to engage in volunteering opportunities was considered an important element of employment, recognising its value in overcoming social isolation, encouraging connections, providing a sense of purpose and feeling valued and ultimately improving mental wellbeing. This was noted by some groups as being a particularly important part of employability support for people in recovery.

“ Better access to employment. Rather than just being proud of our history in Clydebank we need something to look ahead to. (Community survey respondent) ”



Looking to the future

Despite concern about low levels of investment in the town centre, reference was made to potential opportunities worth exploring to develop a local economy that doesn't rely entirely on retail. This included recreation, tourism, the green economy and making use of local green and blue space, supporting local entrepreneurship, with involvement of the local community and third sector.