



Project town Dunoon – what we are hearing in our communities

As part of the Shaping Places for Wellbeing Programme's data exercise, the Community Link Leads in each town have been connecting with local communities, community organisations and practitioners working locally. This exercise aims to understand Dunoon residents' experience of the place where they live, work and relax.

A comprehensive quantitative data exercise had already indicated that some groups in Dunoon face particularly significant inequalities. Those groups are: people experiencing poverty, people affected by alcohol use, and people living in neighbourhoods experiencing deprivation.

This exercise aims to bring the above data to life, and to explore people in Dunoon's experience of the place where they live, work and play. It is intended to be used by decision-makers to influence the development of plans and strategies which impact on place and will be continually reviewed for the duration of the programme.



This infographic summarises some of the key things we've captured in Dunoon as they relate to the Place and Wellbeing Outcomes.

The principles of equality, net-zero emissions and sustainability underpin all of these themes.



Mental Health is widely seen as a key local issue where we have limited published data.

Caring responsibilities, limited childcare and fuel costs are regularly cited as factors that limit income, work opportunities and wellbeing.

The **stability of the local third sector** is affected by challenges with volunteer recruitment and retention. Short-term funding, burnout, limited capacity and an ageing population are key local issues in this.

Connectivity – people in Dunoon can be disconnected from key services and resources by its geography and transport links.

Movement

Public transport
Active travel
Traffic and parking

Limited public transport options restrict employment opportunities and impact on our economy and wellbeing. This includes challenges accessing services and activities that support mental health, and secondary care.

Rurality creates reliance on car use, though not everyone has access to a car or can afford one. Local community transport is highly valued. Active travel infrastructure needs improvement though is not a priority for everyone.

"Doing the Branching Out programme at Benmore Gardens has been amazing for my mental health and confidence. If I couldn't use Interloch Transport, there's no way I could get there."

Spaces

Streets and spaces
Natural spaces
Play and recreation

Dunoon has good access to free, open spaces. Some public spaces are underused, partly due to limited transport connectivity and scarce funding for maintenance or improvements. Local natural spaces are seen as an asset.

A perceived lack of things to do – especially in bad weather – is thought to impact on young people's mental health and behaviour.

Resources

Services and support
Work and economy
Housing and community

Mental health and caring responsibilities are significant factors linked with employment and income inequality. Fuel poverty and a shortage of private rental accommodation also contribute to in-work poverty.

There is a desire for more local and integrated health services. The third sector is crucial to delivering statutory services, but gaps in provision and risks to sustainability are concerns.

Civic

Identity and
belonging
Feeling safe

Dunoon is a place where people generally feel safe and local connections are strong. Perceptions of public safety do vary across age groups and a few specific areas were mentioned as less safe.

Some areas appear to have less engagement with local services.

A close knit community can create challenges to welcoming new members. This may be a factor in recruiting and retaining workers.



Stewardship

Care and
maintenance
Influence and
control

There is a strong culture of community-led local action and peer support, but also an appetite for increased information sharing, communication and involvement in decision making. This is wanted within the voluntary sector and also with statutory partners.

A commonly raised concern is of over-reliance on a small number of volunteer representatives. People also report feeling powerless to influence decisions by statutory partners.

"My partner needs to go back to work full time but we can only get a space at the childminder 2 days a week"

Shared learning

Across the seven Shaping Places for Wellbeing project towns, we have identified some key messages from stakeholders about ways of working:

- Communities value joint working and partnership approaches.
- Communities want strong and consistent communications between all stakeholders.
- Collective decision making by all stakeholders will strengthen partnerships.

