

City Chambers  
DUNDEE  
DD1 3BY

18th October, 2024

Dear Colleague

You are requested to attend a MEETING of the **CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE** to be held in the Council Chamber, City Chambers, City Square, Dundee and also to be held remotely on Monday, 28th October, 2024 following the meeting of the City Council called at 5.00pm.

The meeting will also be livestreamed to YouTube. Members of the Press or Public wishing to join the meeting as observers should follow this link [www.dundee.gov.uk/live](http://www.dundee.gov.uk/live) or alternatively they may attend in person.

Should you require any further information please contact Committee Services on telephone (01382) 434818 or by email at [committee.services@dundee.gov.uk](mailto:committee.services@dundee.gov.uk).

Yours faithfully

GREGORY COLGAN

Chief Executive

## **AGENDA OF BUSINESS**

### **1 DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Members are reminded that, in terms of The Councillors Code, it is their responsibility to make decisions about whether to declare an interest in any item on this agenda and whether to take part in any discussions or voting.

This will include all interests, whether or not entered on your Register of Interests, which would reasonably be regarded as so significant that they are likely to prejudice your discussion or decision-making.

### **2 CONSULTATION ON THE CLOSURE OF ST PIUS X ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY - Page 1**

(Report No 296-2024 by the Executive Director of Children and Families Service, copy attached).

### **3 WHAT MATTERS TO YOU (WM2U) PROGRESS UPDATE - Page 23**

(Report No 297-2024 by the Executive Director of Children and Families Service and Neighbourhood Services, copy attached).

**At this juncture external members of the Committee will depart.**

### **4 OUR PROMISE 2023-26 ANNUAL UPDATE - Page 33**

(Report No 298-2024 by the Executive Director of Children and Families Service, copy attached).

**5 COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND LOCALITY PLANNING - Page 41**

(Report No 281-2024 by the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services, copy attached).

**ITEM No ...2.....**

**REPORT TO:** CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE 28 OCTOBER 2024

**REPORT ON:** CONSULTATION ON THE CLOSURE OF ST PIUS X ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

**REPORT BY:** EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICE

**REPORT NO:** 296-2024

**1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the Executive Director of the Children and Families Service to formally consult on closure of St Pius X Roman Catholic Primary School and Nursery under the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

**2 RECOMMENDATION**

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee gives approval for the Executive Director of the Children and Families Service:

- a to formally consult on the proposal for the permanent closure of St Pius X Roman Catholic (RC) Primary School and Nursery at the end of academic session 2025/26 (2 July 2026).
- b to formally consult on the expansion of the St Francis Roman Catholic Primary School catchment area to accommodate the existing St Pius X Roman Catholic Primary School catchment area.
- c report the outcomes and recommendations resulting from the statutory consultations.

**3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 If the proposal to close St Pius RC Primary School and Nursery is approved, it will result in a reduction in expenditure amounting to approximately £911,800 in financial year 2027/28 onwards and a part year reduction of approximately £571,000 in financial year 2026/27. Further detail is provided in the financial template of the draft consultation document attached (Appendix 2).

3.2 There will be additional one-off capital costs associated with disposing of the property amounting to approximately £300,000.

**4 BACKGROUND**

4.1 Education Authorities have a statutory duty in terms of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 to make adequate and efficient provision of school education including early learning and childcare across their area.

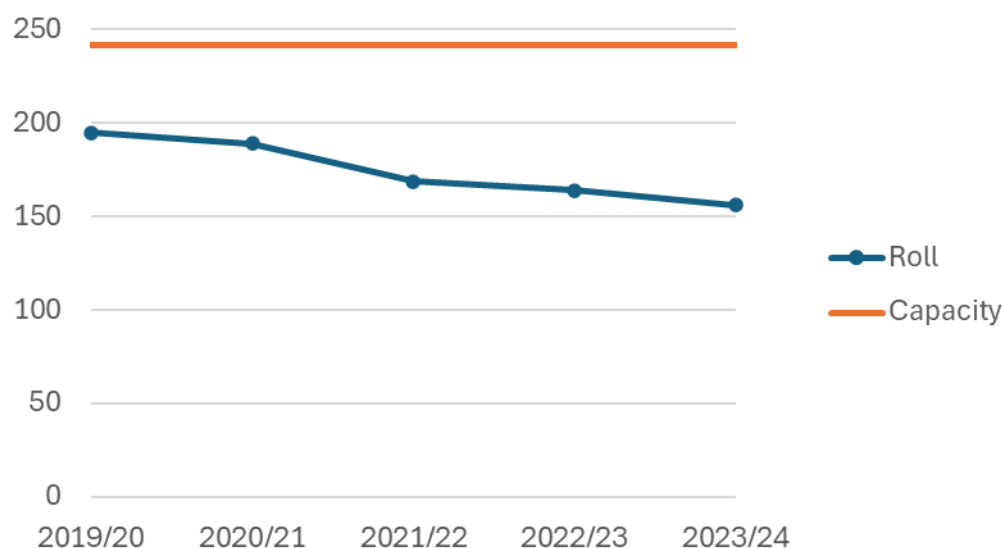
4.2 Councils have a statutory duty to secure best value in terms of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003. Most importantly, the Education Authority would wish to optimise the educational experiences for every child through provision that offers:

- a High quality.
- b Flexibility.
- c Accessibility.

4.3 To achieve best value and optimum efficiency, the organisation of the learning estate is kept under regular review.

- 4.4 In academic session 2021/22, primary pupil rolls reached their peak, and the citywide primary pupil population began a decline. National Records of Scotland (NRS) population projections suggest that this will continue. See Appendix 1 for further detail.
- 4.5 The St Pius X RC Primary School pupil roll has been in decline for several years and is not projected to increase. The fall in roll over the last 5 years may indicate that there is insufficient demand for the number of denominational primary school places available within the city. The school capacity is 242 and, as outlined in Chart 1, the school roll for academic session 2023/24 was 156.

Chart 1: St Pius X RC Primary School, roll and occupancy, 2019/20 to 2023/24



Session	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Roll	195	189	169	164	156
Occupancy	81%	78%	70%	68%	64%

- 4.6 The proposed consultations would consider the closure of St Pius X RC Primary School and nursery as well as the expansion of the St Francis RC Primary catchment area to include the current St Pius X catchment area. If St Pius X Primary closes, St Francis Primary would become the new denominational catchment school for all children living in the current St Pius X catchment area. All children already have an allocated non-denominational catchment school based on their home address. These include: Ballumbie, Claypotts Castle, Craigiebarns, Fintry, Longhaugh, Mill of Mains and Rowantree Primary Schools. Information related to the current capacity of all these schools is included in Appendix 1.
- 4.7 As no catchment areas exist for nurseries in the same way as for primary schools, families will have the choice to apply to any nursery provision across the city and not just within their local area. However, the four nurseries within the local area are Baluniefield, Claypotts, Craigiebarns and Butterflies Kingsway East. This flexibility enables families to make choices based on other factors such as their family network or work location and situation.
- 4.8 Except for the Council's Edwardian and Victorian primary schools, St Pius X RC Primary School is now one of the oldest schools (built post 1970) and the financial investment required to maintain appropriate levels of condition and suitability become greater year on year. Whilst the suitability scoring remains a B, the building condition score in May 2024 was grade C. This resulted in recent and significant investment to undertake work on the school roof which cost circa £142k. It is anticipated that the age profile and condition of the St Pius X building will result in ongoing similar financial commitments.

## **5 FORMAL CONSULTATION PROCESS AND THE PUBLICATION OF THE FORMAL PROPOSAL PAPERS**

- 5.1 If approved, the consultation will begin on 4 November 2024.
- 5.2 The draft consultation proposal is included as Appendix 1. This includes the ways in which the Council will consult key stakeholders.
- 5.3 If approved, the consultation process will end on 17 December 2024.
- 5.4 At the end of the consultation period, the Executive Director of Children and Families Service will draft a report incorporating copies of written representations and a summary of oral representations from key stakeholders.
- 5.5 The report will be sent to Education Scotland for His Majesty's Inspectors to prepare a report on the educational aspects of the proposal not later than 3 weeks after they receive the Local Authority report outlined in paragraph 5.4. In preparing their report, Education Scotland may visit the affected schools (St Pius RC Primary and St Francis RC Primary) and nursery to make any enquiries as they consider appropriate.
- 5.6 On receipt of the Education Scotland feedback report, the Executive Director of Children and Families Service, on behalf of the local authority, will prepare and publish a consultation report containing the views of Education Scotland and including an explanation of how the Council proposes to deal with any issues raised.
- 5.7 It is anticipated that the Children, Families and Communities Committee will decide to approve or reject the final proposal at its meeting on 12th May 2025.
- 5.8 In the case of a school closure, Scottish Government Ministers have the power to call in decisions. Ministers have up to 8 weeks to decide whether to issue a call-in notice. Where the Council approves a closure of a school after consultation this decision will be clearly reported on the council website and, where possible, to all those who have sent in responses to the consultation. Information will also be provided on how consultees can make further representations to Scottish Government Ministers.

**6 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 This report has been subject to the Pre-IIA Screening Tool and does not make any recommendations for change to strategy, policy, procedures, services, or funding and so has not been subject to an Integrated Impact Assessment. An appropriate Senior Manager has reviewed and agreed with this assessment.

**7 CONSULTATIONS**

- 7.1 The Council Leadership Team have been consulted in the preparation of this report and are in agreement with its content.

**8 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 8.1 None.

Audrey May  
Executive Director of Children and Families Service

OCTOBER 2024

**APPENDIX 1****DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL****Children and Families Service****DRAFT Proposal Paper**

**Closure of St Pius X Roman Catholic (RC) Primary School and Nursery at the end of academic session 2025/26 (2 July 2026). Expansion of St Francis Roman Catholic (RC) Primary School catchment area to include the existing St Pius X RC Primary School catchment area.**

**This document has been issued by Dundee City Council for consultation in terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended.**

**The Ordnance Survey map data included within this document is provided by Dundee City Council under licence from Ordnance Survey in order to fulfil its public function in relation to this public consultation. Persons viewing this mapping should contact Ordnance Survey Copyright for advice where they wish to licence Ordnance Survey mapping/data.**

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## PROPOSAL

Closure of St Pius X Roman Catholic Primary School and Nursery at the end of academic session 2025/26 (2 July 2026). Expansion of St Francis Roman Catholic Primary School catchment to include the existing St Pius X Roman Catholic Primary School catchment.

## BACKGROUND

Education Authorities have a statutory duty in terms of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 to make adequate and efficient provision of school education which includes early learning and childcare across their area.

Councils have a statutory duty to secure best value in terms of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003. Most importantly, the Education Authority would wish to optimise the educational experiences for every child through provision that offers:

- High quality
- Flexibility
- Accessibility

To achieve best value and optimum efficiency, the organisation of the learning estate is kept under regular review.

At the meeting of the Children, Families and Communities Committee on 28th October 2024 (report no. **296-2024** refers), elected members gave approval for the Executive Director of the Children and Families Service to formally consult on the closure of St Pius X RC Primary School and Nursery.

In academic session 2021/22, primary pupil roles reached their peak, and the citywide primary pupil population began a decline. National Records of Scotland (NRS) population projections suggest that this will continue.

**Table 1: NRS, 2018-based, principal population projections for Dundee children aged 5 to 11**

Year	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
5-11 yr olds	10,216	9,952	9,860	9,698	9,604	9,492

The St Pius X RC Primary School roll is in decline. In September 2019 the roll was 195. The current school roll (Provisional September 2024 census count) is 162. The school capacity is 242. This equates to a current occupancy level of 64%.

St Francis RC Primary School opened in 2017 with a pupil roll of 407. The current school roll (Provisional September 2024 census count) is 300. This fall in roll over the last five to seven years may indicate that there is insufficient demand for the number of denominational primary school places currently available within the North East and East End Wards. Across the North East and East End wards the average occupancy levels for all primary schools is 73%.

A small school roll can limit the ability to offer a full range of curricular and learning opportunities to all the children. It can also result in children at key stages having a limited age-related peer group; the size of the school roll limits the children's access to a wider range of peers' views and ideas for collaborative working and skills development which allows children to support each other's learning and learn how to challenge thinking.

A small school roll restricts opportunities for team sports and other active recreational activities. This also applies to individual sports, where the successful learning of skills can also be supported by talking about and sharing experiences. This further applies to the health and wellbeing element of the curriculum which involves discussion and debate between school children about healthy lifestyle choices.

Except for the Council's Edwardian and Victorian primary schools, St Pius X RC Primary School is now one of the oldest schools, built post-1970, and the financial implications of maintaining appropriate levels of condition and suitability become greater year on year. The current building condition has dropped to a C grading and suitability scoring is B. This resulted in recent and significant investment to undertake work on the school roof which cost circa £142k. It is anticipated that the age profile and condition of the St Pius X building will result in ongoing similar financial commitments.

The condition and suitability rating definitions are included in Table 2 below.

**Table 2: Condition and Suitability rating definitions**

		<b>Condition</b>	<b>Suitability</b>
Rating A	Good	Performing well and operating efficiently	Performing well and operating efficiently
Rating B	Satisfactory	Performing adequately but showing minor deterioration	Performing well but with minor problems
Rating C	Poor	Showing major defects and/or not operating adequately	Showing major problems and/or not operating optimally
Rating D	Bad	Life expired and/or serious risk of imminent failure	Does not support the delivery of services to children and communities

Table 3 shows the current condition and suitability ratings of primary schools within the East End and North East Wards of the city as of May 2024.

**Table 3: Condition and suitability ratings of primary schools in East End and North East Wards**

School Name	Overall Condition	Suitability of Estate
Ballumbie Primary School	A	A
Claypotts Castle Primary School	A	A
Craigiebarns Primary School	C	B
Fintry Primary School	A	A
Longhaugh Primary School	A	A
Mill of Mains Primary School	B	B
Rowantree Primary School	A	A
St Francis RC Primary School	A	A
St Pius X RC Primary School	C	B

The Council is consulting parents, school children, staff, Roman Catholic Church representatives, Trade Unions and the community on the proposal to close St Pius X RC primary school as well as the expansion of St Francis Roman Catholic Primary School catchment area to accommodate the existing St Pius X Roman Catholic Primary School catchment area.

If St Pius X Primary closes, St Francis Primary would become the new denominational catchment school for all children living in the current St Pius X catchment area. All children already have an allocated non-denominational catchment school based on their home address. These include: Ballumbie, Claypotts Castle, Craigiebarns, Fintry, Longhaugh, Mill of Mains and Rowantree Primary Schools.

Across Dundee City Council there are ten Roman Catholic Primary Schools. In comparison, Perth and Kinross Council have four and Angus Council have two.

The intended outcome of this proposal would provide more balanced and increased occupancy levels across our schools within the east of the city and deliver a higher level of school condition and suitability, reducing the financial burden of building maintenance allowing redirection of educational resources to support delivery of educational experiences within classrooms.

A meeting has been held between Council officers and Church representatives regarding the proposal to close St Pius X RC Primary School and the potential educational benefits have been discussed. Council officers and the Church representatives will continue to work together during the consultation process.

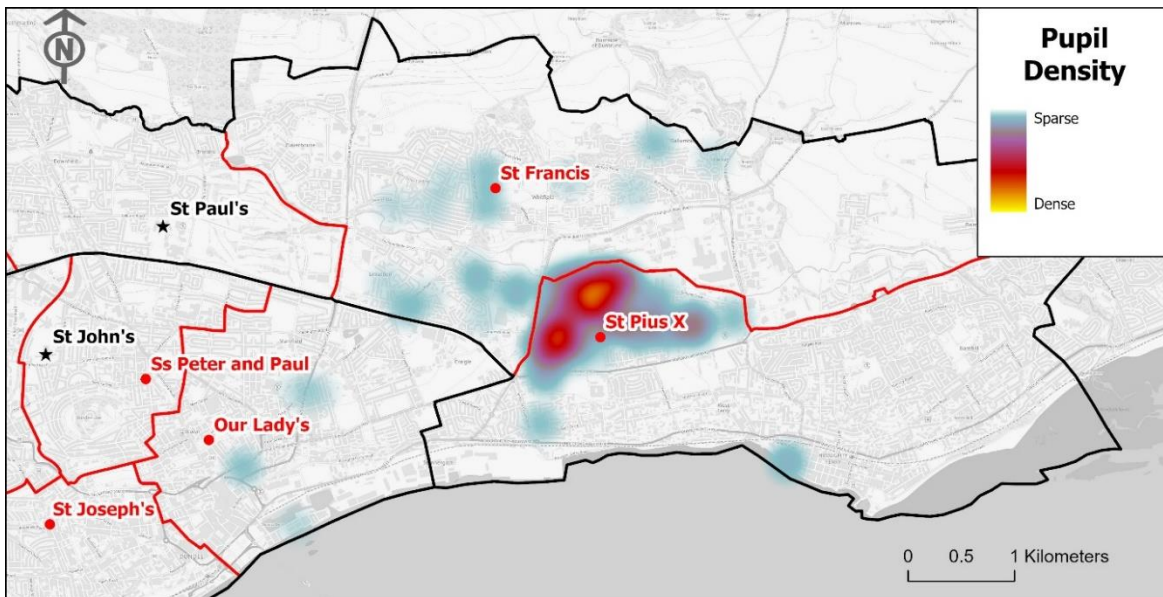
### **ST PIUS X ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY- SCHOOL ROLL**

Table 4 (extract from Review of the Service Estate committee report 26-2024) shows the capacity and school rolls for East End and North East Ward schools in session 2023/24, along with the number and proportion of children living in and outside of the catchment for the school they attend. 80% of children at St Pius X RC Primary School in session 2023/24 lived within the school's catchment (See Map 1). 75% of children at St Pius X RC Primary School in session 2023/24 lived within the non-denominational catchment for Claypotts Castle Primary School.

Table 4: Capacities and rolls for primary schools in East End and Northeast Wards

School Name	Planning Capacity	Roll	Occupancy	Living in catchment	Outside catchment	% in catchment	% outside catchment
Ballumbie	676	398	59%	288	110	72%	28%
Claypotts Castle	500	348	70%	293	55	84%	16%
Craigiebarns	367	301	82%	135	166	45%	55%
Fintry	317	277	87%	189	88	68%	32%
Longhaugh	371	260	70%	128	132	49%	51%
Mill of Mains	317	277	87%	189	88	68%	32%
Rowantree	434	299	69%	230	69	77%	23%
St Francis RC	392	311	79%	246	65	79%	21%
St Pius' RC	242	162	64%	125	31	80%	20%

Map 1: Geographical distribution of children attending St Pius X RC Primary School



**ALTERNATIVE PRIMARY SCHOOL OPTIONS**

Within the East End and North East Wards of the city there are seven non-denominational primary schools: Ballumbie, Claypotts Castle, Craigiebarns, Fintry, Longhaugh, Mill of Mains and Rowantree Primary Schools (Map 4 and Map 5).

The closest denominational primary school to St Pius X RC Primary School is St Francis RC Primary School which is located within North East Campus. St Francis RC Primary School shares the North East Campus building with: Longhaugh Primary School, Quarry View Nursery and Longhaugh Support Group.

**Table 5: Projected school rolls for primary schools in East End and North East Wards**

School	Capacity	'24/25	'25/26	'26/27	'27/28	'28/29	'29/30
Ballumbie	676	388	384	372	365	350	355
Claypotts Castle	500	358	363	350	339	338	334
Craigiebarns	367	284	288	275	284	275	273
Fintry	434	359	340	335	323	317	306
Longhaugh	371	267	258	255	256	257	240
Mill Of Mains	317	281	264	250	241	224	218
Rowantree	434	282	277	263	258	252	245
St Francis RC	392	300	302	295	277	271	270
St Pius X RC	242	162	158	154	150	150	142

All primary schools within East End and North East Wards currently have capacity to accommodate additional children.

#### **ST FRANCIS ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY- SCHOOL ROLL**

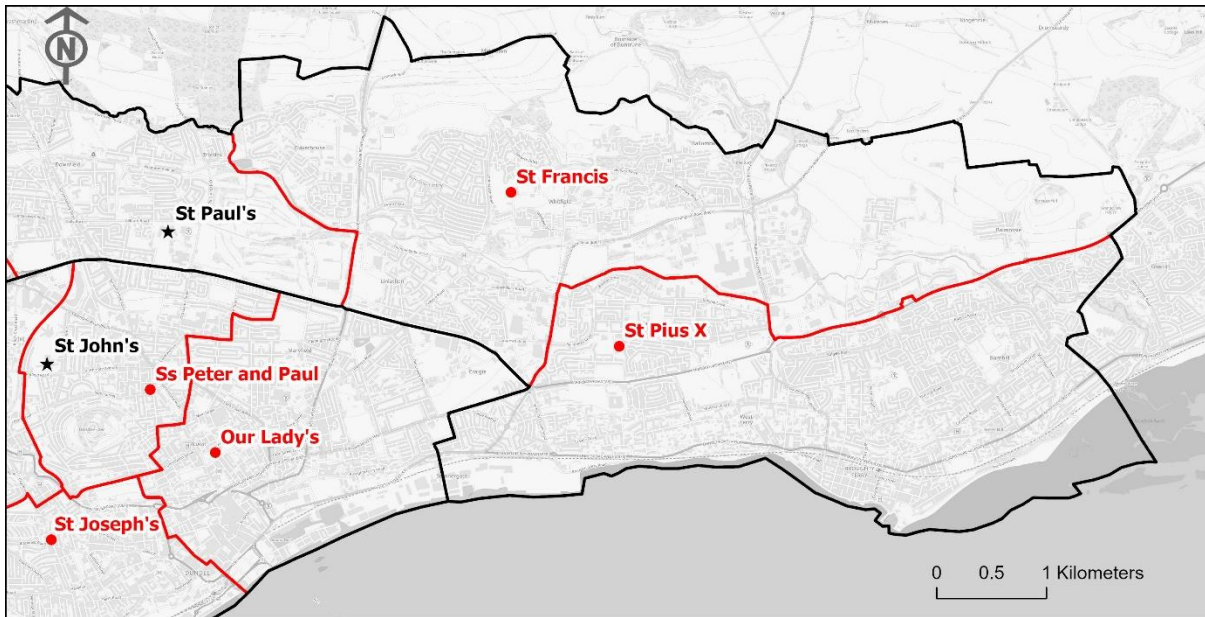
The proposed consultation would consider the closing of St Pius X RC Primary School and transition of children from this school to St Francis RC Primary School, or an alternative non-denominational primary should families wish.

St Francis RC Primary School's provisional 2024 census roll is 300; reported capacity for this school currently sits at 392. St Francis RC Primary School sits within the North East ward of the city in North East Campus (NEC), sharing accommodation with Longhaugh Primary School. Longhaugh Primary School's provisional 2024 census roll is 267, with a reported capacity of 371. However, the overall capacity of the NEC building is 907 with a total allocation of 29 classrooms available. This is larger than the reported combined capacity of St Francis RC and Longhaugh Primary Schools as the school has non-assigned additional classrooms designed to allow the building to respond to growth or changes within primary pupil populations. This capacity excludes accommodation used by Quarry View Nursery and Longhaugh Support Group.

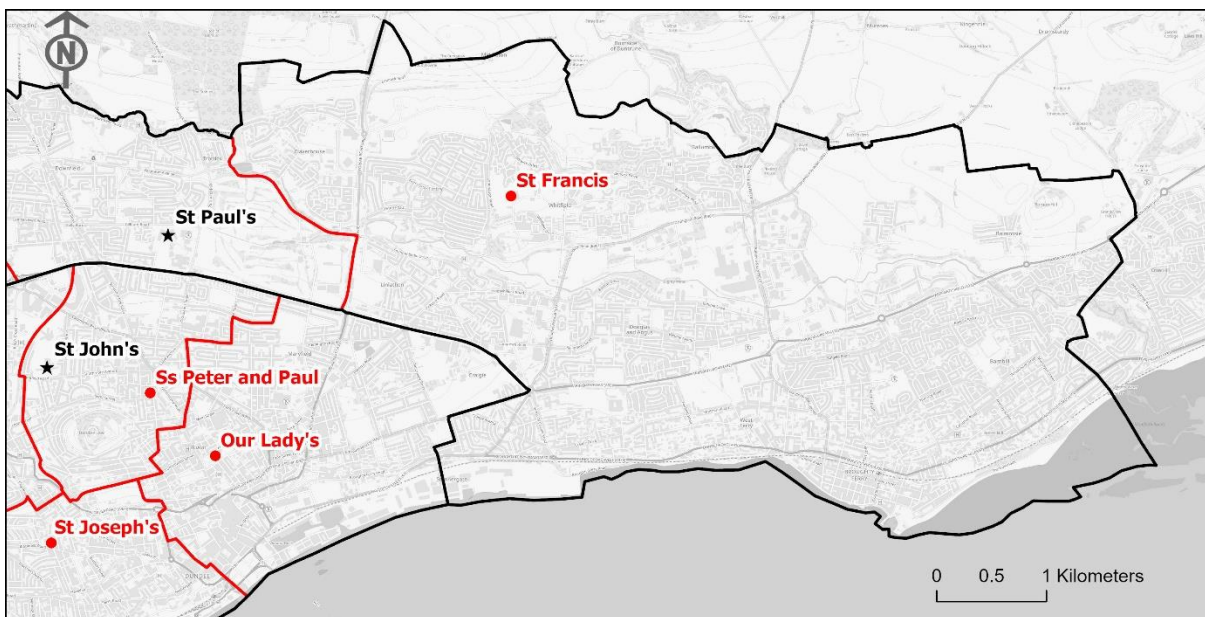
Should all children from St Pius X RC Primary School choose to transfer to St Francis RC Primary School the combined roll, based on provisional 2024 census figures, would be 462.



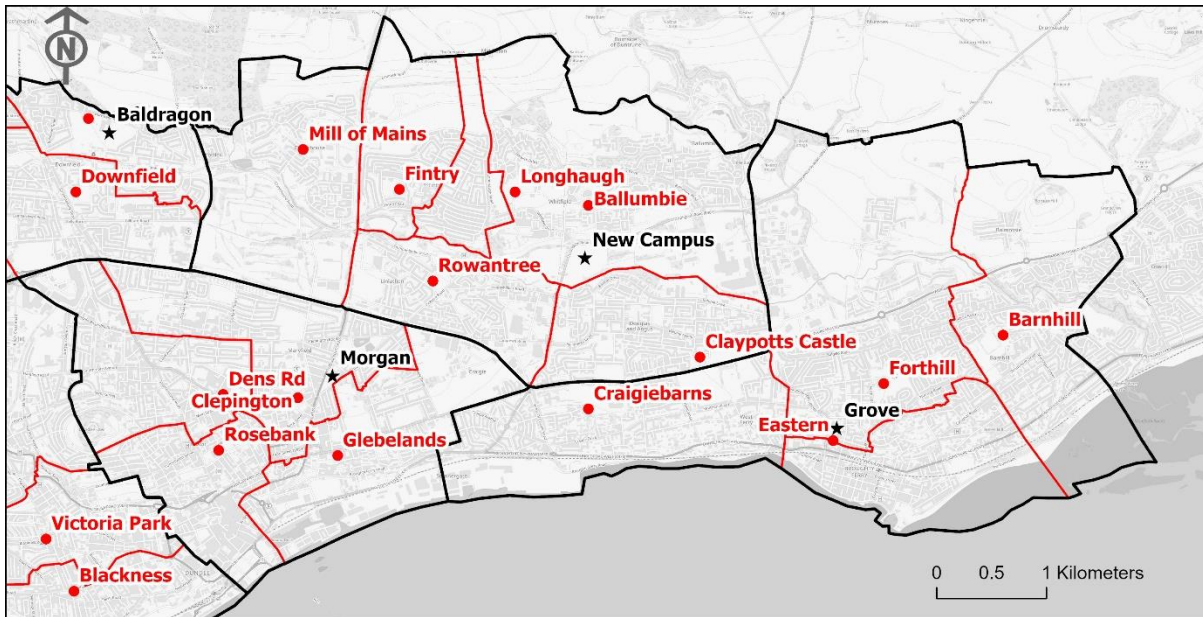
Map 2: Existing denominational schools and catchments



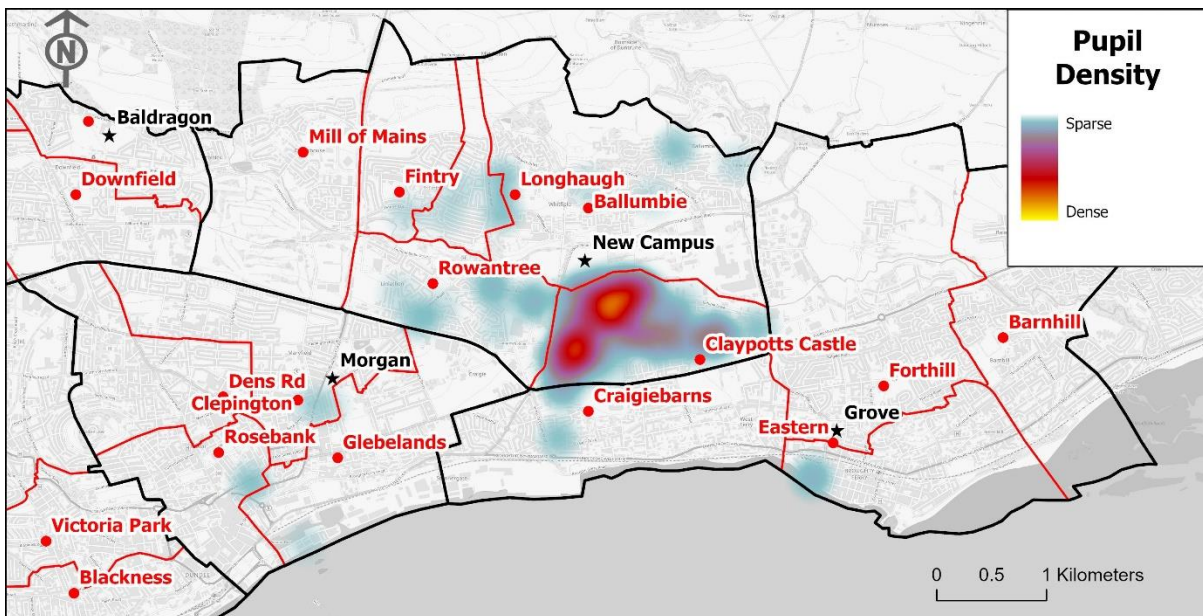
Map 3: Proposed denominational schools and catchments



Map 4: Non-denominational schools and catchments effective for August 2025



Map 5: Non-denominational schools and catchments with density map of current St Pius X RC Primary School pupils



**PROJECTED PRIMARY SCHOOL ROLLS IN THE EAST OF DUNDEE**

School projections (2024 based) indicating the projected rolls for primary schools within the North East and East End Wards of Dundee under this proposal are outlined in the table below (Table 6). The method of roll projection used takes account of where children live and which primary school they are likely to attend from that location, based on existing school populations. It is uncertain how many existing children from St Pius X RC Primary School will elect to move to St Francis RC Primary School and how many would choose to transfer to a non-denominational primary school. is based on the current projected roll of St Pius X RC Primary School being distributed equally between St Francis RC Primary School and Claypotts Castle Primary School. It is important to note that if a school approached capacity, school children can be redirected to their catchment school if applying via a placing request.

**Table 6: Projected school rolls for primary schools in the East End and Northeast Wards, based on the closure of St Pius X RC Primary School in June 2026. Based on half attending St Francis RC Primary School and half attending Claypotts Castle Primary School**

School	Capacity	'26/27	'27/28	'28/29	'29/30
Ballumbie	676	372	365	350	355
Claypotts Castle	500	427	414	413	405
Craigiebarns	367	275	284	275	273
Fintry	434	335	323	317	306
Longhaugh	371	255	256	257	240
Mill Of Mains	317	250	241	224	218
Rowantree	434	263	258	252	245
St Francis RC	392	372	352	346	341

Table 7 shows the roll for St Francis RC Primary School if all children attending St Pius X RC Primary School transferred to St Francis RC Primary School and future P1 intakes projected for St Pius X RC Primary School continued to select a Roman Catholic provision at St Francis RC Primary School. Although this scenario is considered unlikely, there is physical capacity within the Northeast Campus building to accommodate these projected rolls. Currently reported capacities of 371 and 392 for Longhaugh and St Francis RC Primary Schools respectively do not make full use of the building's 29 classrooms.

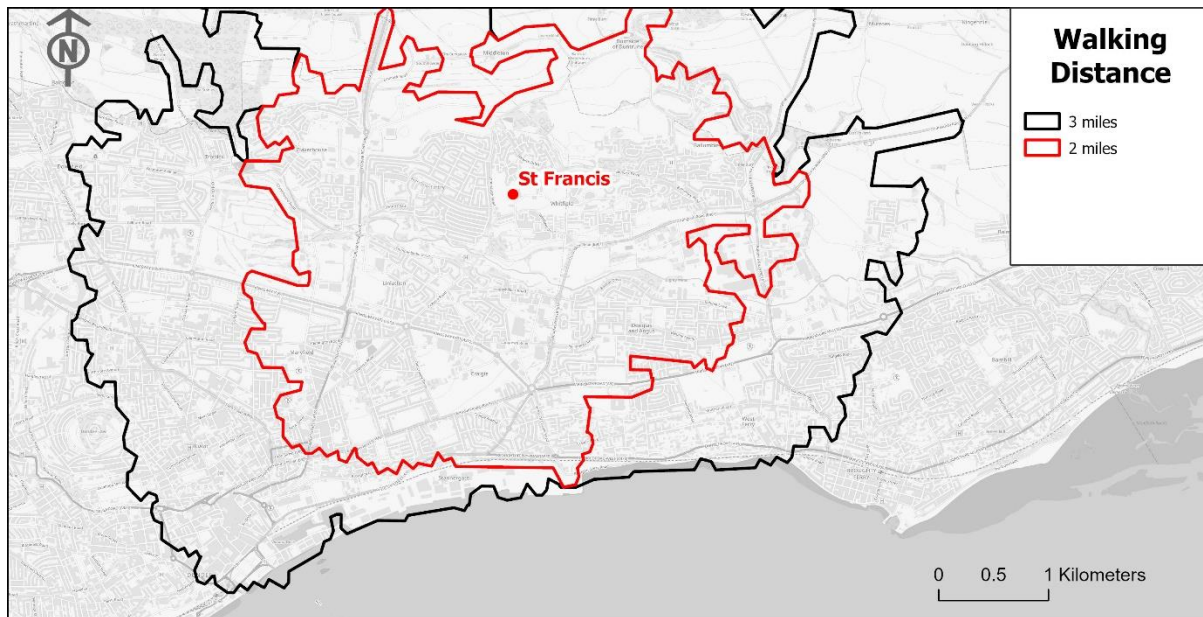
**Table 7: Projected school roll for St Francis RC Primary School if all children attending St Pius X RC Primary School transferred to St Francis AND future P1 intakes projected for St Pius X all selected St Francis**

	'26/27	'27/28	'28/29	'29/30
St Francis RC	449	427	421	412

## TRAVEL TO SCHOOL

In considering the closure of St Pius X RC Primary School the impact this will have on the travel distances from home to school for children will be a key factor. Map 6 shows the areas identified as within 2 miles and 3 miles walking distance of St Francis RC Primary School. 90% of primary children at St Pius X RC Primary School currently live within 2 miles walking distance of St Francis RC Primary School. All St Pius X RC Primary School children who live within Dundee City Council live within 2 miles of a non-denominational primary school.



**Map 6: Areas within 2- and 3-miles walking distance from St Francis RC Primary School**

### **TRAVEL TO SCHOOL CONCLUSIONS**

Overall, children currently attending St Pius X RC Primary School have several alternative primary school options, including St Francis RC Primary School for those who choose to attend a denominational primary school.

Most children will live inside two miles safe walking distance of an alternative primary school however some children live outwith this distance for denominational primary school provision. Work will be required to consider the most appropriate travel options to support individual children access their educational provision in these circumstances. Careful consideration will be taken to promote and inform children, and their families of the walking/cycling routes and travel plans to encourage environmentally friendly attitudes and approaches to the school journey.

### **EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS OF A CATCHMENT CHANGE**

As a result of the potential proposals, the school roll will be maintained at a level which over time will mitigate any detrimental impact upon teaching and learning experiences of the children in the school.

In each of the options proposed for consideration, the changes to existing catchment areas would ensure a more equitable distribution of children across the schools that would ensure viable, sustainable pupil rolls for all, whilst retaining sufficient flexibility to support a variety of learning and teaching approaches aligned to the Curriculum for Excellence.

### **EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS OF A CLOSURE**

Dundee City Council aims to provide the best possible physical learning environment for our children, staff and families. If a decision to close St Pius X Primary School and nursery is taken, the alternative buildings available offer modern, vibrant learning environments which contribute to the effective delivery of pupil entitlements outlined within the Curriculum for Excellence and the aspirations to achieve excellence and equity outlined within our local and national school improvement frameworks.

Dundee's Council Plan (2022-2027) outlines a commitment to establishing strong and safe communities and extending community access to a range of cultural, learning, leisure, and sport services. It is envisaged that attendance to schools which have access to significantly larger playgrounds areas offering a mix of spaces, equipment and surface types will support the realisation of such aspirations.

The modern alternative school environments will likely have a positive impact on mental health and emotional wellbeing as well as motivation, behaviour, and aspirations of children, providing ideal conditions for children to learn and teachers to teach. Improved outcomes will be achieved including increased presence, participation, and progress.

Children may experience improved opportunities for inter-disciplinary learning due to the improved layout and configuration of the alternative school buildings.

Data would indicate a growing number of school children with significant and complex additional support needs within the east of Dundee. Where possible the Children and Families Service endeavours to provide where relevant, educational provision for children within a mainstream environment within their local community. Enhanced support for children who have a range of complex needs including Autism and those who are Deaf or have a Visual Impairment are offered within the alternative primary schools, increasing opportunities for children to access support more readily within their learning experiences.

St Pius X RC Primary School building presents accessibility, condition and suitability issues which presents challenges for building users including children with additional support needs. The alternative primary schools are modern, purpose-built facilities which do not present these same issues. Providing a suitable environment to assist all children within their learning is important to enable them access to appropriate educational experiences and promote accessible inclusive learning spaces which will meet the needs of all children and comply with the Council's Accessibility Strategy and the Equality Act (2010).

Carefully planned moves to the alternative schools will afford children the opportunity to widen their network of friends. The fostering of new pupil relationships will enhance children's personal and social development.

Attending a larger catchment school will provide more opportunities for team sports and other active recreational activities. This applies even to individual sports, where successful learning of skills is helped by talking and sharing experiences. It further applies to the health and wellbeing element of the curriculum which involves discussion and debate between school children regarding healthy lifestyle choices. Whilst these problems can currently be partially overcome by taking the children to participate in activities in a neighbouring school, that involves time out of school travelling there and back.

As with sports, a larger school roll would also provide a greater likelihood of children benefitting from a wider range of solo and group musical and artistic opportunities.

### **IMPACT OF THE PROPOSAL ON ST PIUS X ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Identification of the suitable alternative primary schools will be an important part of this process; intensive work will be required to facilitate and manage carefully planned transitional experiences to help minimise any adverse effects for the children moving to new school environments.

In conjunction with this children's peer relationships and friendship grouping will need careful consideration.

### **IMPACT OF THE PROPOSAL ON ST PIUS X NURSERY CLASS**

As no catchment areas exist for nurseries in the same way as primary schools, families will have the choice to apply to any nursery provision across the city and not just within their local area. This flexibility enables families to make choices based on other factors such as their family network or work location and situation.

For information, the table below shows Local Authority and Funded Provider provision currently within 2km walking distance of St Pius X Nursery.

**Table 8: Nursery provision within 2km's walk from St Pius X RC Primary School**

<b>Provision</b>	<b>Eligible age group</b>	<b>Delivery model</b>	<b>Walking distance from St Pius X Nursery</b>
Baluniefield Nursery	2-5	Mixed - Term Time/ Full Year	450 m
Butterflies, Kingsway East	2-5	Funded Provider, Term Time / Full Year	1.5 km
Claypotts Castle Nursery	2-5	Mixed - Term Time / Full Year	1.3 km
Craigiebarns Nursery	3-5	Term Time	1.7 km

### **IMPACT OF THE PROPOSALS UPON SCHOOL AND NURSERY STAFF**

Positions will be available for all staff at alternative nursery and primary provision with staff moves in line with agreed policies and procedures.

The staff will be supported by the HR Support Processes in the Council to ensure a smooth transition to a new setting or school.

### **LIKELY EFFECTS ON OTHER USERS OF THE SCHOOL FACILITIES**

Out with School and Nursery hours, the St Pius X accommodation is not used by community or for wider service delivery. There will be no detrimental impact as the building is not let by other organisations or groups.

### **LIKELY EFFECTS ON CHILDREN IN OTHER DUNDEE PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND NURSERIES**

Whilst the proposal will have no perceived adverse impact on children attending other schools in the city, the closure of St Pius X RC Primary School will reduce inefficient operating expenditure thus allowing the necessary redirection of resources to support school and nursery children across Dundee.

The children at the other schools within the cluster will benefit from the increased diversity in their schools and from the opportunity to expand both their social and educational peer group. This will allow children to access a wider range of views and ideas for collaborative working and allow the children to support each other's learning and learn how to challenge thinking.

Families will continue to have the choice to apply to the Nursery / Funded Provider of their choice. Families are asked to identify their first, second and third choice of nursery at the point of application.

On the occasion when these nursery choices cannot be accommodated, the Central team work with families on an individual basis to secure a funded place within the city. The number of children attending nursery settings across the city is continually reviewed, thus allowing where appropriate, redirection of staffing resources across Local Authority provision.

No children will be disadvantaged as there are a range of alternatives schools and nurseries and there is sufficient, flexible capacity across the City.

All staff will remain employed within Local Authority schools and nurseries. The resultant transfer of staff into other Local Authority provisions within the city spreads their exemplary practice, skills and experience and augments existing positive experiences for children across the city.

## HOW THE COUNCIL INTENDS TO MINIMISE OR AVOID POTENTIAL ADVERSE EFFECTS

### TRANSFERRING PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN

Should the proposal be accepted, children currently attending St Pius X RC Primary School will transition to attending another primary school for academic session 2026/27.

Senior managers and school staff from all establishments will work together to ensure a planned and smooth transition for all school children.

In support of any resulting staff redeployments, school leaders, supported by central officers, will deploy a range of strategies to support the smooth transition of staff to their new schools. Such measures will include, where required, pastoral support visits by link Education Officers to ensure staff wellbeing.

Teachers who are compulsorily transferred will be protected from further compulsory transfer for a period of two years.

During academic session 2025/26, work will be undertaken with children within St Pius X RC Primary school and their new primary school to provide familiarisation and transitional experiences to get to know their future peers and potential classmates.

### LIKELY EFFECT ON THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

The St Pius X school and nursery buildings are currently available for lets however the accommodation is not used by community, other organisations or groups therefore there will be no detrimental impact.

If the school and nursery are closed, the flow of traffic at key points in the day will reduce in this area as families will no longer undertake drop off/pick up of their children, positively impacting upon the availability of parking and reduce the number of vehicles.

### BENEFITS RESULTING FROM IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PROPOSAL

The benefits highlighted in the preceding paragraphs can be summarised as follows:

No children will be disadvantaged as there are a range of alternatives and flexible and sufficient capacity across the City.

All staff will remain employed within Local Authority Schools and Nurseries. The resultant transfer of staff into other Local Authority provisions within the city spreads their exemplary practice, skills and experience and augments existing positive experiences for children across the city.

Dundee City Council will make financial savings at a time when the need for these is acute.

The realisation of financial savings will facilitate the redirection of resources to support children across Dundee.

In delivering these broad benefits, the authority is confident that it is discharging its duty to secure best value through continuous improvement in the performance of its functions, as required by the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003.

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

If the proposal to close St Pius RC Primary School and Nursery is approved this will result in a reduction in expenditure amounting to approximately £911,800 from financial year 2027/28 onwards and a part year reduction of £571,000 in financial year 2026/27.

There will be additional one-off capital costs associated with disposing of the property amounting to approximately £300,000.

A financial template with full details is included as Appendix 2.

## **FORMAL CONSULTATION PROCESS AND THE PUBLICATION OF THE FORMAL PROPOSAL PAPERS**

If approved, the consultation on a proposal to close St Pius X RC Primary School and Nursery, and rezone the catchment area of St Francis RC Primary School will begin on **4<sup>th</sup> November 2024** and formal proposal papers will be:

- published in both electronic and printed form,
- available for inspection at all reasonable times and without charge
- at 5 East City Square and on the Council website,
- at any affected school and nursery or at a public library or some other suitable place within the vicinity of the school and nursery.

The consultation process will end on **17<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

Formal consultation will include:

- preparation and publication of a proposal paper on the Council's website,
- giving notice of the proposal to parents/carers and other statutory consultees,
- giving notice of the proposals to the children at the affected schools (in so far as they are considered to be of a suitable age and maturity),
- giving notice of the proposals to the staff at the affected school,
- giving notice of the proposals to Trades Unions representing staff at the affected schools,
- an announcement of the proposal in the local press, inviting any person to make written representation to the Executive Director of Children and Families Services,
- public consultation in the local area,
- consultation with staff,
- consultation with parents of the children at the affected schools,
- consultation with the parents of any children expected by the education authority to attend the affected schools within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper,
- consultation with representatives of the teacher and support staff trade unions,
- Consultation with the Scottish Hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church in respect of this proposal,
- consultation with any other education authority that the education authority considers relevant,
- meetings with other interested bodies such as the Local Community Planning Partnership,
- meetings with Staff,
- meetings with school children.

At the end of the consultation period, the Executive Director of Children and Families Service will draft a report incorporating copies of written representations and a summary of oral representations from key stakeholders.

The report will then go to Education Scotland for His Majesty's Inspectors' who will prepare their report on the educational aspects of the proposal not later than 3 weeks after they receive the Local Authority report referenced above. In preparing their report, Education Scotland may visit the affected schools and nursery to make enquiries as they consider appropriate.

On receipt of the Education Scotland feedback report, the Executive Director of Children and Families Service, on behalf of the local authority, will prepare and publish a consultation report containing the views of Education Scotland and including an explanation of how the Council proposes to deal with any issues raised.

It is anticipated that the Children, Families and Communities Committee will decide to approve or reject the final proposal at its meeting on 12th May 2025.

In the case of a school closure, Scottish Government Ministers have the power to call in decisions. Ministers have up to 8 weeks to decide whether or not to issue a call in notice. Where the Council approves a closure of a school after consultation this decision will be clearly reported on the council website and, where possible, to all those who have sent in responses to the consultation. Information will also be provided on how consultees can make further representations to Scottish Government Ministers.

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

A public meeting will be held to discuss these proposals. Anyone wishing to attend the public meeting is invited to do so. The meeting, which will be convened by the Education Authority, will be addressed by the Executive Director of Children and Families Services or other senior officers of the Council.

The meeting will be an opportunity for interested parties to:

- Hear more about the proposal
- Ask questions about the proposal
- Have their views recorded so that they can be considered as part of the consultation process.

Formal Public Consultation Meeting is arranged as follows:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Presentation and Question and answer session</b>
*W/b 25 <sup>th</sup> November 2024	St Pius X RC Primary School	6pm
*W/b 25 <sup>th</sup> November 2024	St Francis RC Primary School	6pm

*\*(Date will be confirmed if approval to consult is confirmed by Committee on 2 December 2024)*

## APPENDIX 2

## Financial Template for Proposed Closure of St Pius X RC Primary school and Nursery

Table 1

Current revenue costs for St Pius X RC Primary School and Nursery proposed for closure			
	Costs for full financial year 2023/24	Additional financial impact on receiving schools	Annual recurring savings
<b>School costs</b>			
<i>Employee costs</i>	£1,190,800	£476,300	£714,500
teaching staff	£787,000	£272,200	£514,800
support staff	£399,000	£199,500	£199,500
Other staff costs	£4,800	£4,600	£200
<i>Building costs:</i>	<b>£200,700</b>		<b>£200,700</b>
non domestic rates	£42,900		£42,900
water & sewerage charges	£5,800		£5,800
energy costs	£29,900		£29,900
cleaning	£47,700		£47,700
building repair & maintenance / Health and safety contracts	£45,700		£45,700
facilities management costs	£28,700		£28,700
other – rent			
<i>School operational costs:</i>	<b>£74,800</b>	<b>£68,200</b>	£6,600
learning materials	£12,200	£6,600	£6,600
catering (contract or inhouse)	£55,600	£55,600	
other school operational costs (e.g. licences)	£7,000	£7,000	
<i>Transport costs:</i>	0		
home to school		£10,000	(£10,000)
staff travel			
<b>SCHOOL COSTS SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>£1,466,300</b>	<b>£554,500</b>	<b>£911,800</b>
<i>Income:</i>			
Sale of meals	(£7,500)	(£7,500)	
Other	(£28,000)	(£28,000)	
<b>SCHOOL INCOME SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>(£35,500)</b>	<b>(£35,500)</b>	
<b>TOTAL COSTS MINUS INCOME FOR SCHOOL</b>	<b>£1,430,800</b>	<b>£519,000</b>	<b>£911,800</b>

<b>Capital costs</b>	<b>School proposed for closure</b>	<b>Receiving school</b>
Demolition costs	£300,000	
Capital Life Cycle Costs	N/A	N/A

**Table 3**

<b>Annual Property costs incurred (moth-balling) until disposal</b>	
property insurance	£8192.00
non domestic rates	£42,000
water & sewerage charges	£5,800
energy costs	£29,000
security costs	£40,000
<b>TOTAL ANNUAL COST UNTIL DISPOSAL</b>	<b>£</b>

**Table 4**

<b>Non-recurring revenue costs</b>	
Removal and decommissioning costs (disposal of property)	£25,000
<b>TOTAL NON-RECURRING REVENUE COSTS</b>	<b>£</b>

**Table 5**

<b>Impact on GAE</b>	
<b>GAE IMPACT</b>	



ITEM No ...3.....
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**REPORT TO:** CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE 28 OCTOBER 2024

**REPORT ON:** WHAT MATTERS TO YOU (WM2U) PROGRESS UPDATE

**REPORT BY:** EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

**REPORT NO:** 297 – 2024

## 1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Children, Families and Communities Committee with an update on the progress and achievements of Dundee City Council's partnership with What Matters to You (WM2U) and invite Committee to note the contents of the WM2U 2024-2026 Partnership Plan.

## 2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that Committee:

- a Note the progress and achievements to date of the partnership with WM2U detailed in Appendix 1.
- b Remits officers to provide an annual update on progress of the 2024-2026 plan.
- c Requests Dundee's WM2U's Oversight Board to identify local, regional, and national opportunities to share their learning and achievements with WM2U and others, in securing voice-led system change and place-based solutions.

## 3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 WM2U is funded by The Hunter Foundation and BBC Children in Need. WM2U will have invested over one million pounds in its partnership with Dundee City Council by the time the work is concluded in 2026.
- 3.2 No additional financial requirements are requested from Dundee City Council for the implementation of the 2024-2026 plan.

## 4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 WM2U is a voice-led community-based systems change approach which works alongside families and practitioners to achieve change. The aims of WM2U are aligned with Dundee City Council's aims to transform and improve services for children and families.
- 4.2 WM2U aim to support Dundee City Council to understand: What matters to families; What families need from others, including services; What families can do for themselves, given the right support.

## 5.0 DEVELOPMENTS

- 5.1 **The October 2024-2026 Dundee WM2U Plan** will build on and accelerate the promising work achieved to date. The key components will be:
  - 5.1.1 The 'Make it Happen' Fund will be scaled across Dundee with an investment allocated to each Local Community Planning Partnership (LCPP) area. Decision making panels within the 8 LCPP areas will be established, and priorities agreed by the panels. The management of the Fund and the evaluation will be paid for by WM2U.

5.1.2 The Dundee WM2U data project will be extended and the Senior Officer (Information) within the Children and Families Service will be seconded to the project part-time for up to 18 months. The officer will review and identify improvement in how data and evidence collected by the Council and its partners can become more meaningful and focused to inform any shift of investment to improve community and family-based support.

5.1.3 The learning from this approach to the use of data will be shared across all local authorities in Scotland.

## 5.2 THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS ARE ALSO INCLUDED IN THE 2024-2026 PLAN:

5.2.1 Investment in the leadership of locality teams and communities through Values-Based Leadership Experiences (VBLE) run by Columba 1400 across each locality in Dundee.

5.2.2 Support for focussed alignment with the related programmes of Young People's Leadership and Head Teachers' Leadership Academies.

5.2.3 Strengthen LCPPs to be more responsiveness to local communities and identifying how Local Community Planning can be better organised to feel welcoming and inclusive for all.

5.2.4 By the end of 2024, work will begin in WM2U's fourth locality, Coldside. The detail of extending WM2U to other localities will be presented to the Oversight Board for approval by February 2025.

## 6.0 CHAMPIONING THE LEARNING AND ACHIEVEMENT OF DUNDEE AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

6.1 The long-term strategic direction and ambition of Dundee is firmly rooted in delivering the national ambitions of community regeneration and empowerment; of transforming public services as called for over ten years ago by the Christie Commission; tackling inequalities and enabling families to thrive. The November 2023 Accounts Commission report on Dundee stated: "*There is **clear leadership, a commitment to improve and action** in response to audit recommendations. A **strong vision for the future** of the city is embedded in the council's strategies and plans. The council should look to **share its approach** with other councils*".

6.2 WM2U will invest in the organisation of events and communication materials in partnership with Dundee City Council with the aim of highlighting Dundee's achievements and supporting and influencing change and improvement across Scotland's local and national government and with national partners.

## 7.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 This report has been subject to the Pre-IIA Screening Tool and does not make any recommendations for change to strategy, policy, procedures, services, or funding and so has not been subject to an Integrated Impact Assessment. An appropriate Senior Manager has reviewed and agreed with this assessment.

## 8.0 CONSULTATIONS

8.1 The Council Leadership Team have been consulted in the preparation of this report and are in agreement with its content.

## 9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1 None.

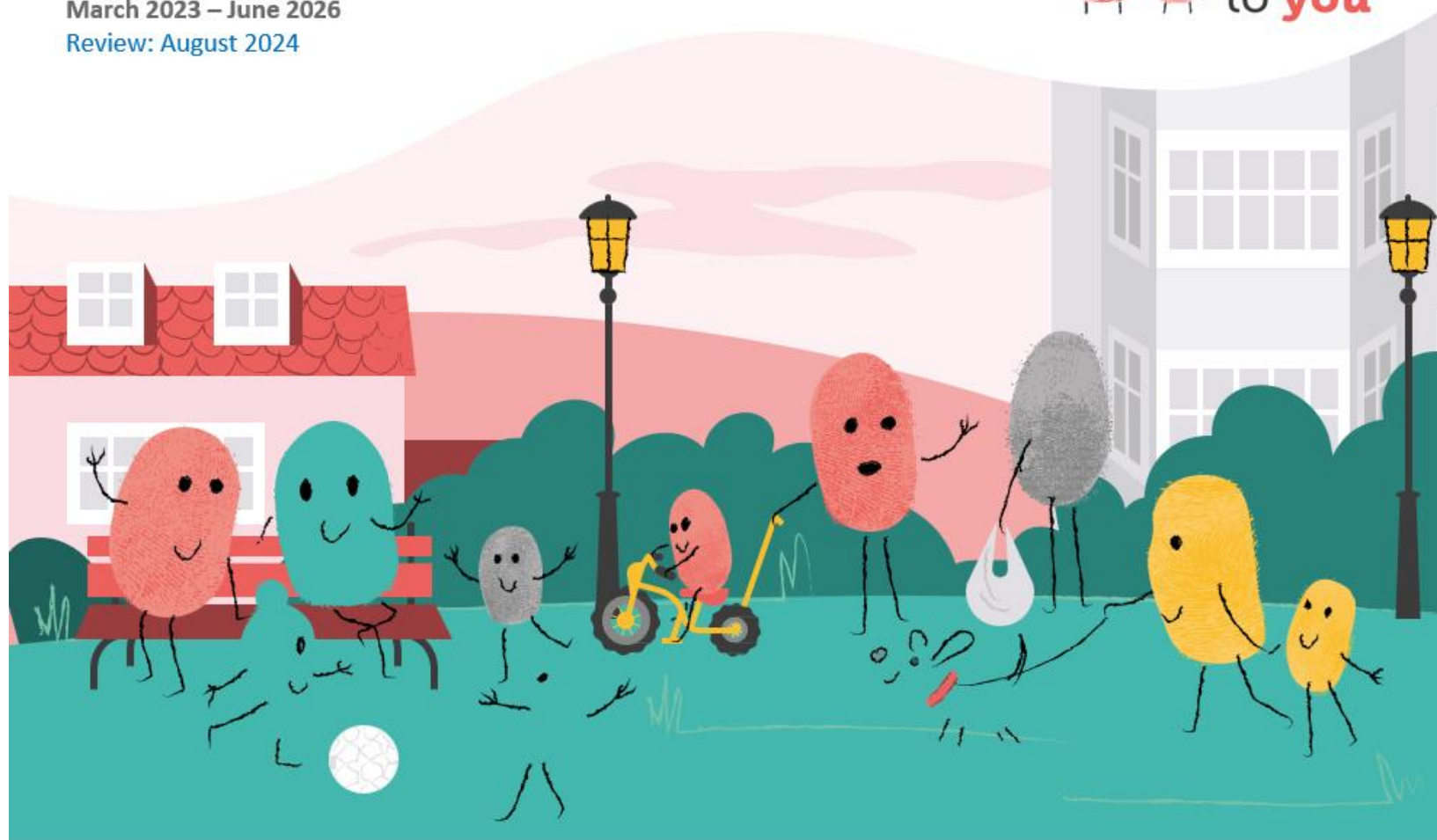
APPENDIX 1

# What Matters to You?

## Strategic Delivery Plan

March 2023 – June 2026

Review: August 2024



### Who we are

What Matters to You (WM2U) is a community-based systems change initiative working alongside families in Dundee and Clackmannanshire. WM2U focuses on shifting public resources to offer family support earlier, to enable children to flourish within their own families. WM2U adopts an equitable approach to recognise and take responsibility for working to change and remove the systemic and structural barriers that get in the way of people being able to thrive. Those most affected by inequality must be equal partners in making these changes happen and in the evaluation of impact.

### Strategic objectives for the WM2U approach 2023-2026

SO1

Create conditions and structures that sustain change by working alongside families to co-produce and embed new ways of working and accelerate existing and effective interventions.

SO2

Scale the WM2U approach deeply across Dundee and Clackmannanshire Local Authority areas.

SO3

By listening to the voices of children and families Public Services will increase investment in prevention, thus in the medium term making significant public sector savings for reinvestment and enable children to flourish within their own families.

SO4

Our influencing strategy achieves a redesign of children's services locally and contributes to how national policy is implemented and practice is shaped nationally.

### What we seek to achieve in Dundee and Clackmannanshire September 2024 – June 2026

1

Public service leaders are able to shift resources and focus to offer support earlier, enabling children to flourish within their own families.

2

Local authorities and their partners can use data to measure the shift to prevention and can identify how they reduce the number of children who are care experienced or in formal measures, such as their Child Protection Register.

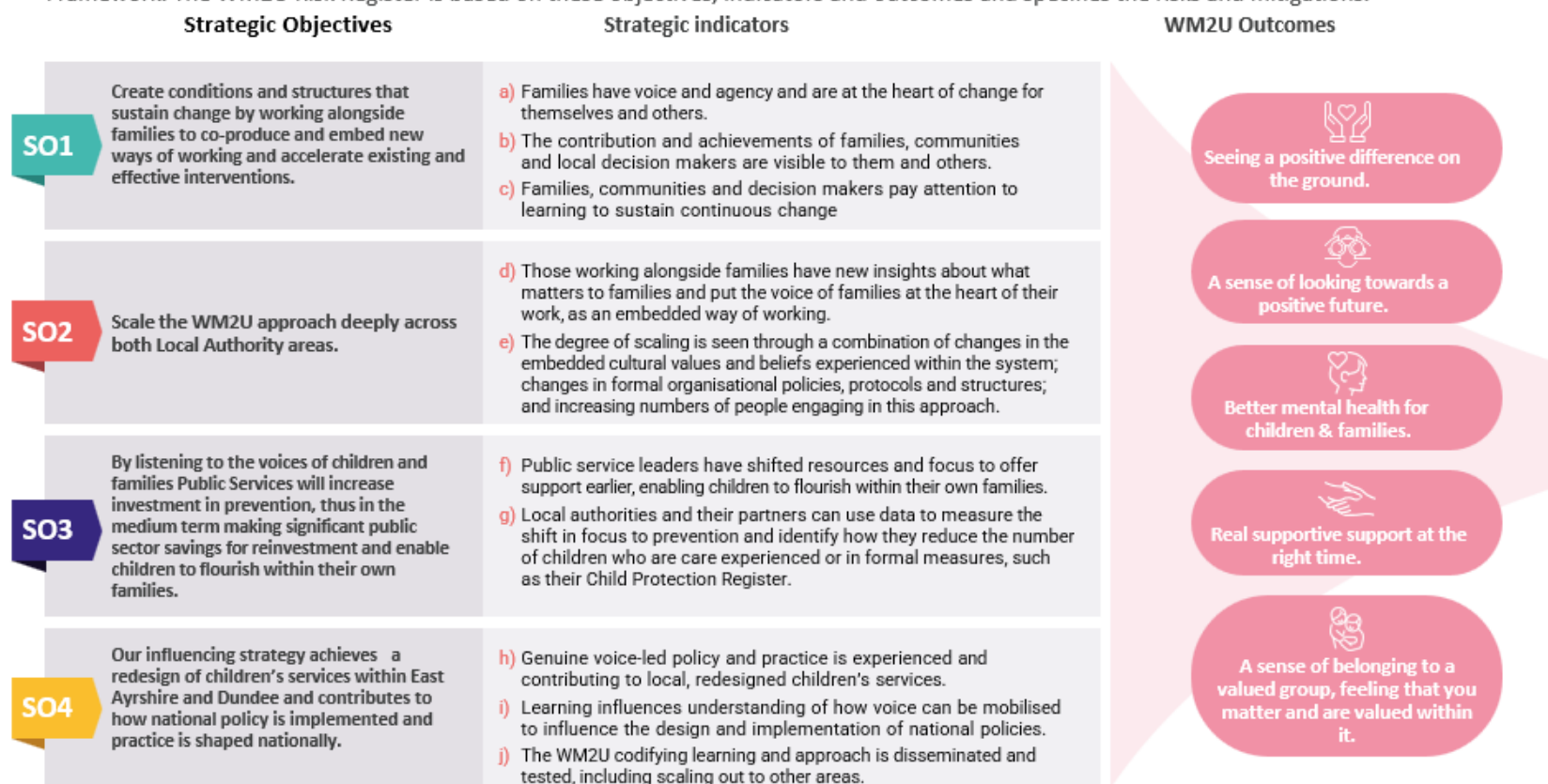
3

Genuine voice-led policy and practice is experienced by children and families and contributing to local, redesigned, children's services.

The following tables set out :  
the priority activities, success criteria and timescales between September 2024 – June 2026 to meet the Plan's four strategic objectives in Dundee; and Clackmannanshire.

## Programme board strategic objectives and indicators

This chart shows the **outcomes** we want to achieve as a result of the work to achieve **these strategic objectives** and the **strategic indicators** we will use to report on progress and achievement as part of the WM2U Learning Framework. The WM2U Risk Register is based on these objectives, indicators and outcomes and specifies the risks and mitigations.



## SO1

Create conditions and structures that sustain change by working alongside families to co-produce and embed new ways of working and accelerate existing and effective interventions.

## Impact Indicators:

- 1 Families have voice and agency and are at the heart of change for themselves and others.
- 2 The contribution and achievements of families, communities and local decision makers are visible to them and others.
- 3 Families, communities and decision makers operate as a community of people who pay attention to learning and understand their role in achieving and sustaining change.

	Owner	Success Criteria: Using quantitative and qualitative data to report progress
<p><b>SO1-A</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Families are supported to lead change in localities of Dundee and Clackmannanshire.</li> <li>• Working with partners, WM2U scaling will move across Dundee and Clackmannanshire, with specific support provided to families/local practitioners identified with VBLE and other support, such as café conversations.</li> <li>• EA completion plan met by October 2024.</li> </ul>	FB (EA) GL (DDE) SD (CLS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Descriptive profile of the families involved.</li> <li>• Qualitative information on the leadership roles which families have undertaken; the changes achieved and learning gained.</li> <li>• Ideas from families and practitioners embedding and leading to change.</li> <li>• Data project is providing evidence to support decision making structures at all levels.</li> <li>• Qualitative data describes changes to decision making structures/ purposeful inclusion of families.</li> <li>• MIHF decision-making panels (50:50, min family: practitioner) established in each Dundee locality and appropriate arrangements in place in Clacks.</li> </ul>
<p><b>SO1-B</b></p> <p>Decision making structures have changed and include families purposefully.</p>	JB/KJ/LP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluation of the delivery of VBLE, incl prep and follow-up work.</li> <li>• Learning updates are completed describing this activity.</li> <li>• Events, incl nationally and thematic record how learning has enabled a scale of change and impact.</li> </ul>
<p><b>SO1-C</b></p> <p>Learning approaches celebrate change in practice, illuminate system enablers and blockages, enable sharing, further engagement and wider learning.</p>	WM2U team	

**SO2** Scale the WM2U approach deeply across both Local Authority areas.

**Impact Indicators:**

- 1 Those working alongside families put their voice at the heart of their work, have new insights about what matters to families and express confidence in applying these in their day-to-day work.
- 2 The degree of scaling is seen through a combination of changes in the embedded cultural values and beliefs experienced within the system; changes in formal organisational policies, protocols and structures; and increasing numbers of people engaging in this approach.

Key Activity: August 2024 – June 2026	Owner	Success Criteria: Using quantitative and qualitative data to report progress
<p><b>SO2-A</b> Support/facilitation/coaching for staff and families in the WM2U approach. Ongoing engagement and tailored support based on the needs identified by families and practitioners.</p>	WM2U	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VBLEs are building confidence in identifying and leading change.</li> <li>• Bespoke approaches are emerging which are appropriate to needs of community and co-designed with them.</li> <li>• Agreeing collectively and across departments, how they support new ways of working and thinking in each local authority.</li> </ul>
<p><b>SO2-B</b> Launch values into action phase with small tests of change influenced by the voice of parents as active participants.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actions to support earlier help are identified following each VBLE/café conversation, etc.</li> <li>• Small tests of change developed and change/learning specified.</li> <li>• Parents/families/practitioners describe the learning and impact of change achieved.</li> </ul>
<p><b>SO2-C</b> Make it Happen Fund investment is supporting communities and practitioners to develop own solutions and to shift the power into the hands of families and communities.</p>	JB/GL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A small scale "soft" launch in Dundee has tested proposition and local governance arrangements.</li> <li>• "Full scale" launch plan for Dundee in place by November 2024.</li> </ul>
Strategic Delivery Plan March 2023 – June 2026		<b>4</b>



## SO3

By listening to the voices of children and families Public Services will increase investment in prevention, thus in the medium term making significant public sector savings for reinvestment and enable children to flourish within their own families.

## Impact Indicators:

- 1 Public service leaders have shifted resources to offer support earlier, enabling children to flourish within their own families.
- 2 Local authorities and their partners can use data to measure the shift to prevention and identify how they reduce the number of children who are care experienced or in formal measures, such as their Child Protection Register.

Key Activity: August 2024 – June 2026	Owner	Success Criteria: Using quantitative and qualitative data to report progress
<p><b>SO3-A</b> Parents and practitioners are working together to find solutions to things that matter within their family or community. These are becoming embedded.</p>	GL/FB/SD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In addition to activity under <b>SO2-B</b>, WM2U is supporting and aligning with other voice-led work where it might coalesce around solutions and change, for example <u>Linlathen</u> and Fairness Commission work in Dundee. HTLA/Clacks FWP/YPLA</li> </ul>
<p><b>SO3-B</b> A shared commitment to learning by doing with strategic leadership offering clarity around the scope of the work and fully supporting a change in ways of working.  Strategic/senior leadership is enabling staff at front-line to change their approach and feeling safe and confident to do</p>	JB/LP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unlocking potential of voice of families, young people and children is asking/answering different and better questions.</li> <li>Practitioners are <u>confident</u> in changing their approach in response to voice/data.</li> <li>Data incorporated into the WM2U learning framework</li> <li>identifying and demonstrating potential for increased savings and prevention spends.</li> <li>Dundee and Clacks are using this analysis to develop proposals for preventative spend.</li> <li>Families are supported in line with their needs with fewer in need of formal measures.</li> </ul>
<p>SO3- C Developing the capacity to use and engage with the System Dynamic Model, builds data skills and cultures that incorporate data into decision- making and practices, and shifting resources.</p>	LP/KJ	
Strategic Delivery Plan March 2023 – June 2026		



## SO4

Our influencing strategy supports a redesign of local children's services and contributes to how national policy is implemented and practice is shaped nationally.

## Impact Indicators:

- 1 Genuine voice led policy and practice is visible, experienced and contributing to local redesigned children's services.
- 2 Learning is influencing how the voice of families is being mobilised to influence the design and implementation of national policies.

Key Activity: August 2024 – June 2026	Owner	Success Criteria: Using quantitative and qualitative data to report progress
<b>SO4-A</b> WM2U'S influencing strategy with an external and internal communications plan is agreed and implemented	JB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programme agreed with targets achieved.</li> <li>• Events receive positive reviews from participants.</li> <li>• Up to 4 (2 nationally and 2 locally) collaborations held with local and national stakeholders to disseminate learning.</li> <li>• WM2U national, local, specialist (eg prof associations) and thematic briefings/events are influencing and contributing to local redesigned children's services.</li> </ul> A national policy/practice guidance piece, is identified and contribution made to its redesign.
<b>SO4-B</b> The plan implements the influencing strategy through a programme of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Briefings;</li> <li>• Website dissemination;</li> <li>• Social media activity;</li> <li>• Learning events programme locally, thematically and nationally; and</li> <li>• Collaboration with local and national stakeholders on implementing voice-led change.</li> </ul>	GL/JB	
<b>SO4-C</b> WM2U's networks access national decision makers and use stories of families/local change to contribute to redesigned national policy and practice guidance with voice at the centre.	JB	

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ITEM No ...4.....
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**REPORT TO:** CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES – 28 OCTOBER 2024

**REPORT ON:** OUR PROMISE 2023-26 ANNUAL UPDATE

**REPORT BY:** EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICE

**REPORT NO:** 298-2024

## 1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report provides the Children, Families and Communities Committee with the first annual update on the implementation of Our Promise to Care Experienced Children, Young People and Care Leavers 2023-26 (Appendix 1). The report follows Elected Member approval of Our Promise on 23 October 2023 (Article IV of the minute of the meeting and report 295-2023). It outlines key developments over the last 12 months and priorities going forwards.

## 2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that committee:
- a Note continued progress made in the implementation of Our Promise 2023-26 and improved outcomes for care experienced children, young people, and care leavers.
  - b Request the Executive Director to provide a further update on Our Promise in 12 months, including details of Whole Family Wellbeing Funding (WFWF) activities and outcomes.

## 3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The Children's Social Work Service is currently projecting a £300k overspend in 2024-25 relating to cost pressures in external residential care. It continues to implement a range of actions to enable children and young people to be cared for and nurtured in local family-based and residential settings. Regular updates will be provided to the City Governance Committee in Revenue Monitoring reports. Further details are provided in paras 5.1 and 9.2.

## 4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 requires Local Authorities to develop what it refers to as a 'Corporate Parenting Plan' to outline how it will meet the needs of 'Looked After Children'. The Independent Care Review published in February 2020 was critical of this stigmatising language and promoted a stronger collective ambition to achieve transformational improvements in the way we provide support to vulnerable families.
- 4.2 The review published 7 reports, including The Promise and Follow the Money. Each place an emphasis on prevention, keeping families together and ensuring that, where alternative care is necessary, all children and young people grow up feeling loved, safe and respected. Locally, the 5 foundations of The Promise of Voice, Family, Care, People and Scaffolding have informed a range of actions designed to improve universal, targeted and specialist support.

## 5.0 DEVELOPMENTS

- 5.1 Over the first 12 months of the current 3-year plan, the Children and Families Service has continued to co-ordinate and deliver improved support to vulnerable children and young people. Out of a total of 29 actions in the plan, work has started on 26 of them, 12 of which have already been completed and 14 have made significant progress. The other 3 are due to commence in 2024-25. Some key achievements over the period have included:
- The total number of care experienced children and young people reduced from 429 to 386
  - The balance of family based versus residential care increased from 85.7% to 90.5%
  - There was a reduction in children and young people in external residential care from 43 to 18

- No young people have been admitted to Secure Care 18 months
- There was a 17% reduction in the number of missing episodes from Young People's Houses.
- Care experienced pupils with 1+SCQF Level 4 up from 73% in 2020-21 to 78% in 2023-24.
- Care experienced pupils with 1+SCQF Level 5 up from 35% in 2020-21 to 56% in 2023-24.
- Millview House won a Scottish Social Services Award for Outstanding Care in 2023.
- Our Promise was a finalist in the UK-wide Local Government Chronicle Awards in 2024.

5.2 The key objectives of keeping vulnerable families together, increasing local family-based support and improving outcomes are therefore being increasingly realised. However, as 92% of the whole school population achieved 1+ award at SCQF Level 4 and 82% achieved 1+ award at SCQF Level 5 in 2023-24, our care experienced pupils still lag their peers. This is especially evident in with care experienced children and young people at home or in kinship settings.

5.3 There has therefore been a continued emphasis on the shared development of knowledge and skills within Social Work teams, schools and partners; providing support to build the capacity and confidence of Kinship Carers and Foster Carers; listening and more effectively responding to the voice of children, young people and families; and using data across the workforce to help further drive improvements.

## **6.0 PEOPLE**

6.1 In relation to the workforce, the service has implemented a Social Work/School cluster model to promote consistent support to pupils. Teams supporting vulnerable adolescents have completed multi-agency training on specialist risk assessments of harmful behaviour. All Young People's House teams have received training in Growth Mindset and the team at Craigie Cottage Children's House has received a range of training specific to younger children.

6.2 To evaluate and help further improve practice, peer audits of assessments, plans and chronologies have been carried out 3 times a year. When this programme started in May 2021, 58% were graded as Good or better overall. This rose to 93% in June 2023 and 94% in December 2023. The most recent audit in May 2024 focused specifically on adolescents and 83% were graded as Good or better. Targeted support continues to be provided to all teams.

6.3 In terms of capacity, in December 2023 Children's Social Work teams had a 7% vacancy rate compared with a national average of 10%. In each team, individual Social Workers support an average of 15 children and young people. This is consistent with the indicative optimum suggested by a national Setting the Bar report published in May 2022 and recruitment, support and retention continue to be key priorities to enable teams to provide effective support.

6.4 This includes support to recent graduates and Children's Social Work is currently preparing to implement a Newly Qualified Social Worker (NQSW) scheme from October 2024. This national scheme will provide additional support to new entrants to the profession and place restrictions on the number of families they work with during the first 12 months of their career to enhance development and retention.

6.5 Managers also continue to ensure that caseloads across teams are equitable and there is an appropriate division of roles and responsibilities between qualified Social Worker and para-professional staff. Some further work includes exploration of Artificial Intelligence to enable teams to more efficiently prepare formal reports. One of the WFWF services will lead a review of working hours and potential increased out of hours work.

6.6 The overall purpose is to ensure that teams have the capacity, knowledge and skills to carry out appropriately designated roles; streamline necessary bureaucracy; increase face-to-face contact with vulnerable families; and target whole family support at times of greatest need and/or risk. All teams receive regular 1:1 supervision and have access to a range of other Council supports.

- 6.7 In relation to support to carers, the service has cemented links with the Welfare Rights Service and benefits advice has been provided for all Kinship Carers. All 347 Kinship Carers have now received an assessment to help maximise their income. As an example of the positive impact, in the period April 2023 to March 2024 almost £10,000 of backdated benefits payments were received by Kinship Carers.
- 6.8 The Fostering and Adoption Teams have worked with The Lens on an 'Ideas to Action' programme to increase the number and confidence of internal Foster Carers. The programme led to a re-designed website, additional out-of-hours support and a fostering hub. It is also leading to a review of fees and allowances informed by benchmarking with neighbouring local authorities. Proposals will be submitted in 2024-25.

## **7.0 FAMILY**

- 7.1 As outlined in Article VI of the minute of meeting of the City Governance Committee of 19 August 2024 refers (221-2024). The service worked with other Children's Service Planning Partnership (CSPP) partners to co-ordinate deployment of Scottish Government Whole Family Wellbeing Funding. The deployment of this funding aligns with strategic priorities and delivery of new services is being supported by a WFWF Steering Group. Details of impact will be included in the next Our Promise Annual Report.
- 7.2 Over the next 6 months, the service will also carry out a review of all internal and commissioned resources with a focus on developing a consistent 'edge of care offer' to vulnerable families. Currently, the service provides £2.3m annual funding to 14 Third Sector organisations to deliver a range of services from supported accommodation to substance use support, parenting support, mediation, advocacy and disability.
- 7.3 This review will include a focus on the extent to which services can be re-designed to deliver recognised best practice in family support, such as Family Group Conferencing, Signs of Safety and Multi-Systemic Therapy. It would build capacity and the range of specialist support options available to families. In recognition of the importance of the first 1,000 days of a child's life, it will also include a focus on building support to vulnerable families with babies and infants.
- 7.4 In relation to early years, in the last 12 months the parents of 129 0–4-year-olds were involved in Child Protection investigations. In total, 90 of these were provided with early support but 39 were placed on the Child Protection Register (CPR) and 19 were provided with alternative care. This is why this is a key priority and developments will be informed by collaboration with The Wave Trust 70:30 campaign. Two WFWF initiatives focus on early years.
- 7.5 In relation to older young people, the service and partners completed a review of approaches towards vulnerable adolescents. It was informed by consultation with the partnership workforce and young people. Supported by WFWF funding, it will lead to a co-located multi-disciplinary team focused on young people at risk of significant harm from or to others and supported in either the Child Protection and/or Youth and Criminal Justice systems from April 2025.

## **8.0 VOICE**

- 8.1 For younger children, the service has collaborated with NHS Tayside and Dundee University to develop an Infant Pledge resource entitled 'Hello in There Wee One'. This is designed to promote active listening and positive attachments between vulnerable expectant mothers and their babies. Launched in September 2024, it will be piloted in the New Beginnings Team, which supports pregnant women who are at risk of having babies provided with alternative care.
- 8.2 For older children, the service continued to roll-out Mind of My Own (MOMO), a digital app which enables users to provide comments on the support they are receiving or would like to receive. This is then used to inform responses both on a day-to-day basis and during planning and review meetings, to place the child or young person at the centre. It provides an alternative option to 1:1 method to listen and respond more effectively.

8.3 In all 8 Secondary Schools, Champions Boards continued to be co-led by Pupil Support Workers and young people. As a result of their involvement in a Champions Board, 20 care experienced young people have now completed a Columba 1400 Leadership Academy, 17 have gained Saltire Awards and 2 have gained Emergency First Aid at Work SCQF Level 6. When asked to complete a sentence ‘If it wasn’t for the Champions Board’, some said:

- ‘I wouldn’t have completed Columba 1400’.
- ‘I wouldn’t have the confidence to join other groups.’
- ‘I wouldn’t have met other CE pupils or other schools’.
- ‘I wouldn’t have applied to join the Army and volunteered at St Andrews PS’.

8.4 The service also rolled out training on Brothers and Sisters Staying Together and Connected. This includes an emphasis on listening to the child or young person’s views to inform decisions on whether they can live with a sibling, remain in contact with them or know of their whereabouts. In the context of constraints such as complicated kinship arrangements and large sibling groups, children remaining with at least 1 brother or sister increased from 43% to 51%.

8.5 For children and young people who felt they needed additional support to be heard, the service continued to commission an advocacy service from Who Cares? Scotland. This is available to all children and young people and includes a strong presence in all 6 Children’s Houses. There is a particular focus on attendance at key decision-making meetings. Between April and June 2024, 32 young people were supported, and feedback is overwhelmingly positive, including:

- ‘My advocate was good at helping me to understand my rights’.
- ‘My advocate made me feel it was important for me to be at my meetings’.
- ‘My advocate was very good at helping me with my Hearing’.
- ‘My advocate helped me to understand my options, and this helped me to pick what I wanted’.

8.6 One of the WFWF initiatives will also carry out a review of all advocacy services across the city, with a view to raising awareness, promoting easier access, and making best use of the shared resources available to various service providers. A further initiative supports evaluation of the What Matters to You programme, which is pro-actively listening to families in their own local communities via Columba 1400 Values Based Leadership Experiences and Community Cafe Conversations.

## 9.0 CARE

9.1 A similar range of developments continued to strengthen support to children, young people and care leavers in different care settings. In Kinship Care, the new team currently provides varying types of support to over 347 carers supporting 420 children and young people across the city. In addition to the welfare rights assessments to maximise income, new supports developed over the last 12 months have included:

- Provision of a Place2B online parenting programme focused on mental health
- School holiday activity camps and targeted leisure and sports activities
- Engagement with What Matters to You to build supportive links in local communities
- Work with 2 Clinical Psychologists to enhance trauma informed skills and practice
- Joint work with Pupil Support Workers to provide extra support with school attendance

9.2 In internal Foster Care, in addition to work with The Lens the service continued to implement an Improvement Plan following a Care Inspectorate inspection published in December 2022. This included a focus on training, with Foster Carers benefitting from training in parenting, adolescence, emotional health and wellbeing and separation/loss. As can be seen below, there has been a slight increase in the number of internal Foster Carers but levels have not yet returned to those in 2022.

Foster Carer Placements	2022	2023	2024
Internal Foster Care	109	84	89
External Foster Care	98	93	93

- 9.3 In the Young Person's Houses, one house, Craigie Cottage, was inspected over the period. This new house's first inspection occurred just 2 weeks after opening in September 2023 and was followed shortly by a further inspection published in May 2024. The more recent report highlights considerable improvements in leadership within the house and growing confidence and skills of the staff team. A full report will be submitted to the Scrutiny Committee.
- 9.4 The service also contributed towards the Council-wide review of Youth Participation, which included a focus on care experienced young people. This led to a wide-ranging Delivery Plan and the Head of Children's Social Work is leading on 2 key aspects relating to mentoring provision and flexible further education, training and employment opportunities. In 2022-23, 70.6% entered a positive destination and data for 2023-24 will be available in February 2025.

## **10.0 SUMMARY AND NEXT STEPS**

- 10.1 This report describes how Our Promise continues to have a positive impact in supporting vulnerable families. The number of children and young people in care have reduced, the balance of family-based care has increased, foundational Social Work practice is improving and educational outcomes are getting better. The service was shortlisted as a finalist in a UK-wide LGC award and Millview Cottage received a Scottish Social Services excellence award.
- 10.2 However, there remains a disproportionate number of babies and infants subject to formal Child Protection processes and ultimately in care; children and young people in Kinship Care are less likely to progress well at school; Foster Care capacity has not yet returned to previous levels; and the care experienced population still lags their peers in educational attainment by some margin, with an even wider gap as the level of qualification increases to SCQF Level 6.
- 10.3 Priorities over the next 12 months therefore include implementation of all WFWF initiatives; a continued focus on early years informed by collaboration with The Wave Trust; the development of best practice models of support; targeted support to pupils in Kinship Care; a review of fees/allowances for Foster Carers; implementation of the co-located multi-disciplinary team supporting vulnerable adolescents; employability; and staff support.

## **11.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 The content of this report was previously considered in report (93-2021) and remains valid. The original report was not subject to an Integrated Impact Assessment. An appropriate senior manager has checked and agreed with this assessment. For follow-ups relating to initial reports agreed prior to 22/8/22 a copy of the Integrated Impact Assessment is available (where applicable) on the Council's website at [www.dundee.gov.uk/iia](http://www.dundee.gov.uk/iia)

## **12.0 CONSULTATIONS**

- 12.1 The Council Leadership Team have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

## **13.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 13.1 None.

Audrey May  
Executive Director

Glyn Lloyd  
Head of Children's and Community Justice Services  
Chief Social Work Officer

October 2024

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<b>Our Promise to Care Experienced Children, Young People and Families 2023-25 Action Plan</b>				
<b>Foundation</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Leads</b>	<b>Measuring Impact</b>	<b>Timescales</b>
<b>Voice</b>	Implement Infant Pledge for babies and toddlers in care	Service Manager	Audit of practice in test sites	¼ audits
	Coordinate Champions Boards to listen and enhance support	Education Officer	Survey Champions Boards	¼ meetings
	Review advocacy to improve access and impact	Service Manager	% offered and accessing	March 2024
	Implement findings of a survey on brother/sister care arrangements	Service Manager	Implementation of plan	March 2025
	Implement and scale What Matters to You in locality areas	Head of Service	Formal evaluation	March 2026
	Include a focus on voice in audits of practice	Service Manager	% where voice informed plans	¼ audits
<b>Family</b>	Coordinate targeted deployment of WFWF	Head of Service	Develop specific measures	Nov 2023
	Develop a clear edge of care offer to all families	Senior Manager	Numbers in care	June 2024
	Review working arrangements to provide support at time of need	Senior Manager	Family stability/disruption	June 2024
	Conduct Welfare Rights assessments with all families at risk	Practice Manager	Income maximisation	June 2024
	Implement Contextual Safeguarding for adolescents at risk	Senior Manager	Audits of Child's Plans	March 2024
	Explore and apply models of best practice in family support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Family Group Conferencing</li> <li>➤ Solihull for Kinship Carers and Foster Carers</li> <li>➤ Mockingbird model for Foster Carers</li> <li>➤ Multi Systemic Therapy</li> </ul>	Senior Manager	Develop specific measures	March 2025

<b>Care</b>	Develop and implement brothers/sisters practice guidance	Senior Manager	Measures inform by survey	June 2025
	Implement therapeutic and other supports to Kinship Carers	Service Manager	Numbers in Kinship Care	June 2025
	Target school attendance support to pupils in Kinship Care	Education Officer	Educational outcomes	March 2024
	Develop and implement new Foster Carer support strategy	Service Manager	Recruitment and satisfaction	Nov 2023
	Complete secure care self-evaluation and implement improvements	Senior Manager	Compliance with standards	June 2024
	Develop and implement new Continuing Care practice guidance	Senior Manager	Compliance with standards	June 2024
	Review Aftercare support to care leavers aged up to 26 years	Senior Manager	% supported and outcomes	June 2024
	Enhance supportive post-care housing support	Senior Manager	Homelessness	June 2024
	Implement Youth Participation action plan	Senior Manager	Positive destinations	June 2024
<b>People</b>	Implement risk assessment and defensible decision training	Service Manager	Audits of practice	¼ audits
	Implement Welfare Rights training	Service Manager	Audits of practice	¼ audits
	Implement an annual foster carer training plan	Service Manager	Attendance and satisfaction	Annual
	Ensure high quality Child's Plans for all care experienced children	Service Manager	Audits of practice	¼ audits
	Scale parenting programme training across teams	Service Manager	Audits of practice	¼ audits
<b>Scaffolding</b>	Fully implement GIRFEC Practice Profile in all sites	Education Officer	Audits of practice	Bi-annual audits
	Implement new Social Work Practice Standards	Senior Manager	Audits of practice	January 2024
	Revise all Social Work procedures to be Our Promise compatible	Service Manager	Audits and staff survey	March 2024

**ITEM No ...5.....**

**REPORT TO:** CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 28 OCTOBER 2024

**REPORT ON:** COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND LOCALITY PLANNING

**REPORT BY:** EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

**REPORT NO:** 281-2024

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To update committee on the progress of Dundee's community empowerment work and the achievements of Dundee's locality approach to Community Planning.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 It is recommended that committee:
- a) notes the progress in the implementation of Local Community Planning
  - b) notes Dundee City Council's award for Best Collaborative Working Initiative from the Association of Public Sector Excellence
  - c) notes the successes of the Alcohol & Drugs Project Fund for 2023/24
  - d) notes that Dundee City Council has exceeded the target set by COSLA for Participatory Budgeting for 2023/24

**3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 None.

**4.1 Background**

- 4.1.1 Dundee City Council has a statutory responsibility to implement Locality Planning under Part 2 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. The Act sets out that community planning partnerships must identify areas where residents are experiencing significantly poorer outcomes arising from socio-economic disadvantage.
- 4.1.2 Having identified those localities experiencing poorer outcomes, the community planning partnership must produce locality plans setting out the outcomes to be improved and the timescale by which this would be achieved. In Dundee these are our Local Community Plans overseen by the Local Community Planning Partnerships and supported by Communities Officers and the Community Empowerment Team within the Communities section.
- 4.1.3 Each year the community planning partnership must publish a report on the progress of locality planning in reducing inequalities for the period of April to March. The Local Community Planning Progress Report at Appendix 1 will form the basis of a report to go to Dundee Partnership Management Group in December for approval but is presented here as an example of locality planning activity across the city on 2023/24.
- 4.1.4 A further report on the devolved Alcohol & Drug Fund for 2023/24 is included as an example of the work being progressed through locality planning, which is contributing towards the City Plan priorities through empowering citizens to act on these strategic issues in their own community.

## 4.2 Locality Community Planning Progress

4.2.1 There is evidence that Local Community Planning is having a positive effect in Dundee's communities, empowering communities, and meeting our statutory requirement to reduce inequalities. In Education Scotland's Progress Visit in January 2024 His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education found:

- Community members and young people are active participants in decision-making processes. Their voices are heard and valued by council officers, elected members and key partners.
- The CLD partnership approach to tackling poverty and inequality in Dundee is highly effective.
- Strategic and local partners and community members collaborate very well to co-develop and co-deliver programmes and activities. Across Dundee, Local Community Planning Partnerships are active and engaged.

4.2.2 Further recognition for locality approaches was received on 12 September 2024 when the Association of Public Sector Excellence awarded Dundee City Council with Best Collaborative Working Initiative for the Linlathen Fairness Initiative. The award recognises the collaborative work between all Local Community Planning Partners, including communities, in improving lives in Linlathen through a shared objective of reducing child poverty through work focussing on employability, welfare rights, reducing household energy bills and developing local educational, social and recreational opportunities.

4.2.3 Not only are there a range of statutory and third sector organisations in local community planning but in 2023/24 there were 571 community members involved in the direct delivery of services contributing to local community plan outcomes.

4.2.4 In the past year 10,287 citizens were engaged with issues affecting them in their local area. These included large city-wide consultations such as Engage Dundee or very local engagement e.g. by community centre Local Management Groups, Neighbourhood Representative Structures and other community groups supported by the Community Empowerment Team.

4.2.5 Appendix 1 set out some case studies of good practice arising from locality planning in the past year and includes highly effective work tackling the costs of living, empowering families, supporting young people's mental wellbeing and improving the environment within communities.

## 4.3 Alcohol & Drugs Partnership Devolved Fund

4.3.1 Appendix 2 is a report on the Dundee Alcohol & Drug Partnership Devolved Fund for 23/24. The model described shows the difference that a modest investment in a locality approach to strategic priorities can make.

4.3.2 Now in its third year in 204/25, the Dundee Alcohol & Drug Partnership Devolved Fund is £80,000 shared out amongst the eight wards with £12,000 to each of the 6 wards identified as experiencing poorer outcomes owing to socio-economic disadvantage and £4000 each to the West End and The Ferry.

- 4.3.3 The money was devolved from Dundee Alcohol and Drug Project as a test to see if a locality approach to both supporting recovery and preventing substance use would be effective.
- 4.3.4 Each Local Community Planning Partnership, usually through ADP sub-groups, is able to allocate funding to projects in the community. The decision-making process involves the local community, including people with lived experience of substance use.
- 4.3.5 A range of activities are funded from prevention work being led by children in our primary schools to peer recovery initiatives supported by the Community Empowerment Team.
- 4.3.6 There is evidence that this locality approach is producing results and empowering participants. Evidence from participants indicates;
- that the structure of being able to go to things in their local community is preparing them for going to rehabilitation.
  - that service users are getting involved in, and beginning to lead on, other community initiatives and projects with no connection to substance use but which is giving them a role in their community and developing healthy alternative activities and support networks which will support their recovery.
  - Young people involved in the prevention work, who had been identified as being at risk of substance use, are growing their own skills and confidence and using that involvement as a launch pad to positive destinations.
- 4.3.7 Communities are working on a research project to further evaluate the impact of the ADP work. The results of that research project will look not only at what works in relation to substance use, but what worked about the locality approach to strategic issues. It is anticipated that this research will be able to make recommendations about how any strategic priority could be looked using a locality and community empowerment approach.

#### **4.4 Participatory Budgeting**

- 4.4.1 The COSLA target for Local Authorities is defined as 1% of 'total estimated expenditure for revenue, as per the Local Government finance circular, less assumed council tax intake. For Dundee in 2023/24 this figure was £3,658,270. The actual spend £4,321,717 marking the first time that Dundee City Council has met our Participatory Budgeting targets.
- 4.4.2 The final figure includes spend from projects such as the Community Regeneration Fund, Dundee Climate Fund and the District Centre Fund.
- 4.4.3 11,063 citizens took part in Participatory Budgeting exercises in 2023/24. Participatory Budgeting is recognised as one of the key drivers of community empowerment giving citizens the power to decide on public sector budgets.
- 4.4.4 Involving citizens in decision making around financial spend, through Participatory Budgeting, is embedded across different services and budgets in DCC. The principles of providing opportunities for citizens to express their views on how resources are spent is central to our Council's way of working and is not seen as a stand-alone activity undertaken by a central team. It is a corporate approach with the council's Leadership Team overseeing the opportunities for new budget areas in their service to be subject or identify where they are already Participatory Budgeting.

**5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 This report has been subject to the Pre-IIA Screening Tool and does not make any recommendations for change to strategy, policy, procedures, services, or funding and so has not been subject to an Integrated Impact Assessment. An appropriate Senior Manager has reviewed and agreed with this assessment.

**6. CONSULTATIONS**

- 6.1 The Council Leadership Team have been consulted on the preparation of this report and agree with its contents.

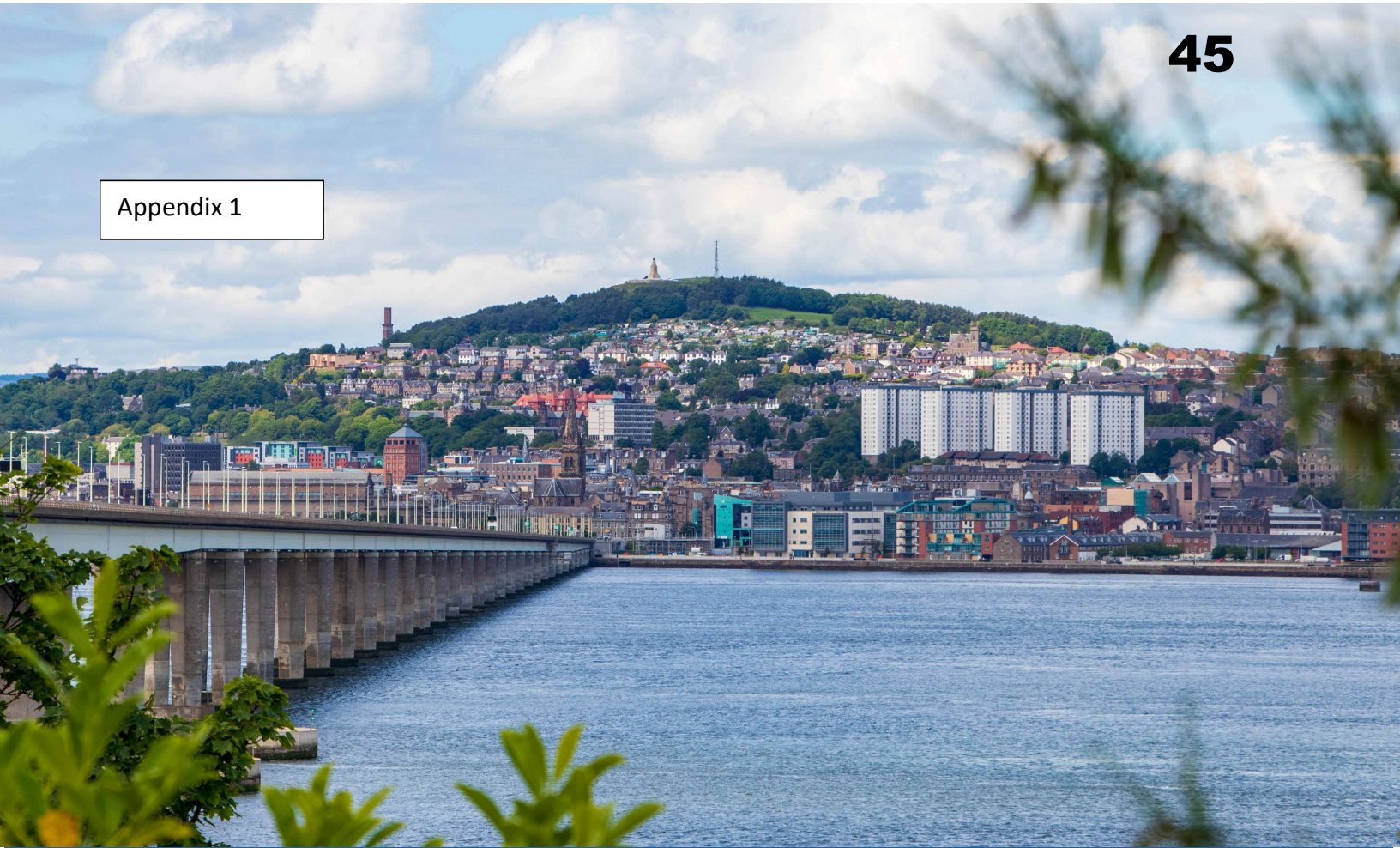
**7. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 7.1 None.

Tony Boyle  
**Executive Director Neighbourhood Services**

Tom Stirling  
**Head of Communities, Safety & Protection**

14 October 2024



# Local Community Planning Progress Reports 2023-24



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## Background

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The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 states that each Community Planning Partnership must prepare a Locality Plan for each locality which experiences poorer outcomes due to socio-economic disadvantage.

Having sub-divided the city based on Multi-Member Wards Dundee must prepare Locality Plans in Lochee, Strathmartine, Coldside, Maryfield, East End and North East. Furthermore we have also prepared Locality Plans for West End and The Ferry.

In Dundee there is a well-established system of Local Community Planning Partnerships and associated Local Community Plans predating these legislative requirements and therefore these Local Community Plans are Dundee's Locality Plans for the purposes of compliance with the Act.

### Reporting

S.12 of the Act requires the Community Planning Partnership to publish an annual progress report for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April – 31<sup>st</sup> March. This sets out the partnership's assessment of progress against each of the outcomes in the Locality Plans. For completeness West End and The Ferry are included in the progress assessments below alongside the statutory plans.

### City Plan 2022-2027

Dundee Partnership's City Plan has identified the following three priorities for the city over the 5-year life of the plan:



Each of the Local Community Plans contributes to these three strategic priorities, particularly around reducing poverty and inequalities which complies with the legislative requirement to reduce inequalities.

Dundee's locality approach to meeting our City Plan ambitions is set out in Dundee's [Locality Leadership Scheme](#)

Each Local Community Planning Partnership has a Local Community Plan. The Plan priorities were developed in using data about the locality and the Engage Dundee community engagement exercise. That information was then worked on

further by local people and local community planning partners to produce the Local Community Plan actions.

Sub-Groups then take the actions forward. These groups are made up of local people and services working in partnership. The Alcohol & Drugs Sub-Groups have a budget with £80,000 having been devolved to LCPPs to support locality work on this issue.

Increased partnership working between local authority, third sector and community groups through participation in the Local Community Planning Partnership Subgroups has supported an increase in the number of local opportunities for people to come together in their own communities.

## Key Outputs 2023/24

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- 10,287 citizens were consulted by Local Community Planning Partners on Local Community Planning issues.
- 571 citizens actively contributed towards meeting Local Community Plan outcomes
- 2345 Community Capacity Building sessions were delivered by the Community Empowerment Team to support community groups to meet Local Community Plan outcomes.
- £80,000 was devolved from Dundee Alcohol & Drugs Partnership to Local Community Planning Partnerships to invest in local projects to support prevention and recovery.
- The strength of Local Community Planning in Dundee was recognised by His Majesty's Inspectors of Education (HMIE) in their Progress Visit to Dundee through recognition of Dundee's assets based approach to tackling inequalities.

## Areas of Good Practice

Click on one of the tiles below to find out about how community planning partners have worked together to deliver on local plan priorities:



Improving Life Chances for Children and Families through family empowerment work in Lochee

Supporting Young People's Mental Health, Wellbeing and Attainment through Positive Minds in Maryfield



Tackling the Cost of Living Crisis by the Strathmartine Community Larder SCIO in Strathmartine

Tackling the Cost of Living Crisis  
through Family Empowerment in  
North East



Reducing Social Isolation through  
the Ardler Community Cafe in  
Strathmartine

Responding to the Cost of Living Crisis  
through Open Doors Provision - City  
Wide

Community Empowerment through the  
Friends of Linlathen Community Group in East  
End



## HMIE Progress Visit

A Progress Visit by Education Scotland (His Majesty's Inspectors of Education) in January 2024 concluded that:

- Community members and young people are active participants in decision-making processes. Their voices are heard and valued by council officers, elected members and key partners.
- The CLD partnership approach to tackling poverty and inequality in Dundee is highly effective.
- Strategic and local partners and community members collaborate very well to co-develop and co-deliver programmes and activities. Across Dundee, Local Community Planning Partnerships are active and engaged.



## Conclusion

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Local Community Planning Partnerships in Dundee are making progress towards reducing inequalities in Dundee and through a locality approach making a significant contribution towards Dundee moving towards achieving our City Plan priorities.

Each of the individual Local Community Planning Partnerships work in their own way according to local ambitions, resources and opportunities but each one is contributing towards reducing inequalities in Dundee and with a strong focus on the involvement of empowered active communities.

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## East End

Code & Title	Description	Latest Note	Assigned To
LCPP_EE001 Respond to the cost-of-living crisis – East End	Create a co-ordinated ward wide partnership response to the increase in cost of living including multi-agency targeted actions to address low income in Linlathen and a response to the need for dignified access to food in Douglas.	<p><u>Local Money and Energy Advice</u></p> <p>Multi agency support drop ins continue to support a significant number of East End Residents. These are delivered across the week in community facilities at Brooksbank Centre and Douglas Community Centre. Craigie High also now has a dedicated Welfare Reform Connect Worker based within the school who is supporting families with income maximisation.</p> <p><u>Employability Support</u></p> <p>A range of opportunities are available in the East End where residents can access support to engage in employment, training, and education.</p>	Alan Gunn

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Linlathen's Pathfinder team continue to offer employability support to targeted workless households in the area.

One in Dundee are delivering a weekly job club in Douglas Community Centre.

Dundee and Angus College have completed year one of their targeted programme for Linlathen and Mid Craigie parents and are about to enter the second year of delivery.

#### Access to Food

As part of the response to the rise in the Cost of Living, local community groups and third sector partners have been supporting the local community to access free and low cost food.

CLD have supported two community groups to deliver food larders within the East End based in the higher SIMD areas of Douglas, Mid Craigie and Linlathen.

Douglas Local Management Group delivered a £1 evening meal project targeting families in the Douglas area.

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Brooksbank Centre is providing £1 family evening meals for Mid Craigie and Linlathen residents.

CLD youth teams have addressed food insecurity concerns among young people by providing an evening meal at all evening youth provision.

#### Linlathen Pathfinder

The multi-agency approach to reducing child poverty in Linlathen continues to deliver partnership interventions in partnership with the local community. Outcomes over the previous year include–

- Benefit checks and better off calculations offered for up to 152 households, with financial gains reported over £94,000 for these participants.
  - 57 residents supported to access energy advice and/or help to pay energy bills/arrears.
  - 469 free lunches and 655 free evening meals provided to local people and families.
  - Dundee United Sports Club providing 12 Linlathen families with after school and holiday activities.
  - 27 residents took volunteering roles.
-

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- 280 residents and 230 children consulted on local issues and environmental improvements.
  - 12 parents participating in the Dundee and Angus College Programme for parents.
  - Up to 72 participants attending weekly family drop-in activity with input from other support services.
  - 65 families (78 Children) over the year have registered with School Age Childcare funded from Scottish Government Early Adopter Communities Project for funded childcare places.

<p>LCPP_EE002 Provide local opportunities to be involved in learning, social and physical activities which promote wellbeing in the East End</p>	<p>Develop a partnership approach including local authority and voluntary sector to increase local opportunities.</p>	<p>Increased partnership working between local authority, third sector and community groups through participation in the Local Community Planning Partnership Subgroups has supported an increase in the amount of local opportunities for people to come together in their own communities.</p> <p>Alan Gunn</p>
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Examples of these locally delivered opportunities are–

- Douglas Community Centre Local Management Group delivering a range weekly social and learning opportunities for children, families and residents
  - Range of wellbeing activities and learning opportunities for Mid Craigie and Linlathen residents at Brooksbank Centre
-

- New Linlathen/Mid Craigie Family events group delivering a range of community events
- Douglas Sports Centre Saturday family sessions continue on a weekly basis
- Family activity and food sessions delivered in the evenings at Rowantree Primary, Craigiebarns and Claypotts Castle primary
- Wellbeing and exercise activities delivered in partnership with Street Soccer three days per week in the East End
- Community Cafes operating at Douglas Community Centre and Brooksbank Centre
- CLD Youth Work increasing the amount of evening activities available for local young people

LCPP_EE003 Improve life chances for children and families in the East End	Embed a What Matters to You approach to transforming services for Children and families in the East End.	<p>With the aim of supporting families to be involved in developing and delivering services in the local community which meet the needs of local families, the Rowantree Family project in Linlathen/Mid Craigie continues to involve a large number of local families and the parents have taken an increased role in the planning and delivery of the sessions.</p> <p>Opportunities will be explored to replicate similar approaches to family work and engaging with parents in the Douglas area.</p>	Alan Gunn
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<p>LCPP_EE004 Provide quality green and open spaces that people can access in their own communities in the East End</p>	<p>Take collective action to develop and increase usage of green and public spaces for recreation and community growing.</p>	<p>150 local residents have been consulted with regards to the development of play areas on Pitairlie Road and Ballindean Road.</p> <p>£150,000 funding has been allocated via DCC Environment department along with £30,000 funding allocated via Community Regeneration Form for inclusive play equipment.</p> <p>Following the initial consultation, the next stage of the design plans will be shared with local residents to allow for further collaboration to ensure community needs are met.</p>	<p>Alan Gunn</p>
<p>LCPP_EE005 Provide local support for people experiencing poor mental health or who are affected by substance or alcohol use in the East End</p>	<p>Develop community based supports in the East End ward with a focus on reducing stigma in relation to mental health and addiction.</p>	<p><u>Areas of Progress</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £12,000 Alcohol and Drug Partnership funding allocated to community based programmes in the East End</li> <li>• Street Soccer working in partnership with Community Learning and Development to deliver three weekly wellbeing and physical activity sessions in the East End</li> <li>• Ancrum Outdoor Centre offering 10 hillwalking sessions to East End residents</li> <li>• 4 Dryve nights delivered at Brooksbank Centre</li> <li>• East Youth Team producing a film made by young people in relation to substance use and stigma</li> </ul>	<p>Alan Gunn</p>



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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We are With You providing food larder vouchers for residents who are in crisis</li> </ul>	
LCPP_EE006 Provide opportunities for East End residents to be involved in decisions which affect their community	Create a co-ordinated ward wide partnership response to the increase in cost of living including multi-agency targeted actions to address low income in Linlathen and a response to the need for dignified access to food in Douglas.	<p>Community representatives attended a visit to Brechin Community Campus to gain insight of the operational aspects of shared facilities between education and communities.</p> <p>Douglas Action Group and Friends of Linlathen have been consulting residents in their area on key issues such as the review of bus stops in the city.</p>	Alan Gunn
LCPP_EE007 Develop a partnership approach to addressing issues of community safety in the East End	Develop partnership responses to community safety issues through the East Community Safety Partnership	Across May and June 2024 the partnership supported a multi-agency community safety engagement programme lead by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service delivered to all Primary 7 classes in the North East and East End.	Alan Gunn

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## North East

Code & Title	Description	Latest Note	Assigned To
LCPP_NE001 Respond to the cost of living crisis – North East	Create local, support hubs across the ward where services offer financial, legal and employability advice/support and free/low-cost food. Co-ordinate and encourage access to a range of welcoming, warm spaces across the ward.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cost of living crisis subgroup formed.</li> <li>• Cost of living support pop up events hosted in Finmill November 2022 and 2023.</li> <li>• Regular advice and support sessions delivered by Connect, Social Security Scotland and Voicability in Finmill.</li> <li>• Employment/education steps programme delivered from Mill o' Mains hub, Autumn 2023.</li> <li>• Support to engage at local larders and signpost to relevant organisations.</li> <li>• Weekly family fun sessions running in Finmill, including a meal at no cost.</li> <li>• Provision of 18 bikes in partnership with Cycle UK, allowing free travel, to people experiencing financial difficulty.</li> <li>• Support to community gardens producing free food for local people.</li> </ul>	Natalie Mackland

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support for Open Doors provision across the ward and supply of warm clothing and low energy appliances 2022/2023.</li> <li>• Free family breakfast club, family picnics and family play sessions in Finmill and Mill o Mains, Easter 2024.</li> </ul>	
LCPP_NE002 Tackle social isolation and improve mental wellbeing in the North East ward.	Increase the amount of social, leisure and physical activities available locally to improve health and wellbeing and reduce isolation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NHS Keep Well team ran the Stepping Stones programme targeting those experiencing poor mental health.</li> <li>• 2 community cafes, including a recovery cafe, run in Finmill each week.</li> <li>• Free physical activity classes offered in Finmill and Mill O Mains.</li> <li>• Dramatherapy sessions and wellbeing workshops delivered in Finmill.</li> <li>• Opportunities to engage with fitness and exercise including couch to 5km with free family food.</li> <li>• Youth team provides evening activities across the ward which support the positive physical and mental health of young people.</li> </ul>	Natalie Mackland
LCPP_NE003 Improve life chances of children and families in the North East	Improve the lives of children and families by embedding the What Matters To You Approach.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Together To Thrive project, targeting families in Braeview primary cluster for appropriate comm based</li> </ul>	Natalie Mackland

		<p>training and support. Linking with comm empowerment team for venues and additional support.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What Matters To You approach developing in north east ward Spring/Summer 2024, focus on Whitfield community area.</li> <li>• Values Based Leadership Experience planned for 22–24 May 2024.</li> </ul>	
LCPP_NE004 Provide quality green and open spaces that people can access in their own communities in the North East	Take collective action to develop green spaces and playparks identified as most in need of improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greenspaces group, involving local people, established to champion local community plan action.</li> <li>• Support for and opportunities to engage in managing and maintaining green space including 2 community gardens.</li> <li>• Programme of locality walkabouts inviting relevant stakeholders to identify green space concerns and take action.</li> </ul>	Natalie Mackland
LCPP_NE005 Improve local supports for people in recovery and their families in the North East.	Develop programmes focusing on reducing stigma in relation to mental health and addiction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health, wellbeing and recovery sub group established, involves people with lived experience.</li> <li>• Over £8500 Alcohol and Drugs Partnership money allocated to support local substance misuse responses.</li> <li>• 3 family fun recovery events hosted in each of the community areas.</li> <li>• We Are With You ran a hillwalking programme targeting those impacted by substance misuse.</li> <li>• Weekly recovery cafe in Finmill.</li> </ul>	Natalie Mackland



## Coldside

Code & Title	Description	Latest Note	Assigned To
LCPP_CS001 Respond to the cost of living crisis – Coldside	Develop Partnership actions to mitigate the cost of living for residents in Coldside.	Staff in Communities are working closely with colleagues and other organisations to provide local support for people in crises. Community groups have taken more responsibility for activities in their community	Elaine Pratt
LCPP_CS002 Improve life chances for children and families in Coldside	Implement What Matters to you in Coldside.	The Community Empowerment Team have been working with schools and the Youth Team to provide opportunities for young people. This has included providing regular volunteering opportunities for P7s, in local community provision. This has enabled young people to gains skills and accreditation for their volunteering.	Elaine Pratt
LCPP_CS003 Improve local support for people in recovery and their families in Coldside	Increase local provision to support people and their families who are affected by addiction.	The Dundee Recovery Network has become well established in Hilltown Community Centre and provides a space for support, activities and peer support. The members of this group with lived experience are beginning to get involved in other activities in the Centre. The work of the Network is complimented by work carried out at the Multi's at the bottom of the Hill with members of the Full Gospel Church who have been carrying out	Elaine Pratt

		outreach with people with addictions. This work will continue in the Tulloch Court Space where a programme of drop-ins with different agencies will take place.	
LCPP_CS004	We will work with partners and third sector organisations to support young people to connect with their communities.	This project has not progressed. Recommend removing this action.	Elaine Pratt
LCPP_CS005	We will increase the quality and number of growing spaces in Coldside. We will improve on the maintenance and management of green spaces and parks in Coldside.	There has been significant progress on this action with the Environmental Action Plan updated regularly. Completed actions are removed and new actions are added based on consultation and information from residents.	Elaine Pratt
LCPP_CS006	Co-ordinate a communication strategy for coldside. We will develop a strategy for the provision of local information across the Ward. Work with Partners to ensure information about local activities and events is shared across the Ward in a variety of ways.	Coldside Community Forum along with support from CLD have taken on the responsibility for providing the quarterly newsletter for the Ward. The Communication Strategy has yet to be completed.	Elaine Pratt



## Maryfield

Code & Title	Description	Latest Note	Assigned To
LCPP_MF001 Respond to cost of living crisis in Maryfield	Establish a local working group improve financial wellbeing for those living in 'Stobswell West'	Following some progress on the action plan. Discussion has taken place about moving on to phase two of the LFI. Consolidation of the present activity / provision coupled where an understanding of how to improve engagement and the attainment of outcomes will be central to this.	Stuart Fairweather
LCPP_MF002 Action on the rights and needs of tenants in 'Stobswell West'	Establish a campaign led by local residents linked to MF001 group.	Work continues on addressing the issues at No.12 Dundonald Street – some progress. Other private sector lets in the area will now be visited.	Stuart Fairweather
LCPP_MF003 Deliver improvements to the environmental and social sustainability of the Albert Street area	Establish a group to produce an Albert street area plan.	The group continues its work. Additional consultation has place to support the Local Place Plan. Funding has been attained and more is being sought to move production of the plan forward.	Stuart Fairweather
LCPP_MF004 quality green and open spaces that people can access in their own communities in Maryfield	Explicitly link the working groups, walkabouts and Regeneration Forum to improve local spaces	A new member of staff from the Environment section has been allocated to the Ward. Work at the Malcolm Street playpark is complete. Environmental walk abouts in the area are to re-start.	Stuart Fairweather

LCPP_MF005 Improve life chances for children and families in Maryfield	Embed the What Matters to You approach to transforming services for Children and Families in Maryfield.	A sway document has been produced for parents new to the area. This has an auto-translation function. School holiday provision in the area is being employed to support on-going engagement with parents.	Stuart Fairweather
LCPP_MF006 Develop improved local supports for people in recovery and their families	Develop the existing Alcohol and Drugs Partnership sub group to become one focussed on recovery and mental wellbeing.	Events focussed on recovery and community continue to take place across the ward. Funding for projects addressing recovery has been allocated for the year 2024/2025. Input from those with 'lived experience' has been a feature of the discussion relating to allocation of funding and promotion of activity.	Stuart Fairweather

## Strathmartine

Code & Title	Description	Latest Note	Assigned To
LCPP_SM001 Respond to the cost of living crisis in the Strathmartine ward.	Establish a network of community support hubs in Ardler, St Marys and Kirkton.	Community Cafes offering low cost or free meals have been established across Strathmartine. Three of these cafes have advisors from Social Security Scotland and the Welfare Rights Team of Dundee City Council on hand to give financial advice. In the Ardler community, volunteers are supported to run a community shop and community fridge. The Strathmartine Community Larder are supported to operate five days per week through their own premises in the St Marys community and to run two pop up sessions in the community of Kirkton. The Larder was supported to obtain funding to provide support to people during the winter to access food and fuel vouchers. An Open Doors programme was developed with partners 2022 and 2023 across Strathmartine. Local partners successfully applied for funding to provide children & young people from SIMD areas 1 & 2 to take part in a programme of arts / sports activities in the evening. Three charities are supported to develop programmes and activities from Ardler, St Marys and Kirkton Community Centres (Local Management Groups). These activities have been developed to respond to local need through engagement and consultation. These activities are often free or low cost to ensure they are accessible and sustainable. These activities include provision for families during school holidays, community cafes, children's work, men's groups and support for people with protected characteristics.	Mark MacDonald

LCPP_SM002 Improve local supports for people in recovery and their families in the Strathmartine ward.	Establish a community based recovery project in St Marys.	£12,000 of Dundee Alcohol & Drugs Partnership funding has been allocated to a partnership of organisations working across Strathmartine. The funding has been used to develop a range of initiatives aimed at supporting families and young people. This has been successful in providing increased additional support and preventative approaches which are targeted to address identified need. This has seen an increase in partnership working around recovery. Initially the focus for this work was focussed on the St Marys Community. Now the focus of this work will be across the Strathmartine ward. This will be centred around prevention and support for families, children & young people.	Mark MacDonald
LCPP_SM003 We need quality green and open spaces that people can access in their own communities in Strathmartine.	Develop a network of community growing spaces and community gardens	Progress has been made to improve a large area of greenspace in the Kirkton area. However due to the ambition of the project and the timescales involved regarding capital work this will be a long term project. A Multi Use Sports Arena with floodlights has been built on this greenspace. Other improvements to the same greenspace include fitness / climbing equipment, a refurbished youth shelter and additional seating. A local neighbourhood representative structure are being supported to improve this area for the community of Kirkton. Other groups with a focus on environment and greenspace are being supported to make improvements to community gardens and encourage community growing in Ardler and St Marys. A Friends of group are supported to make improvements to a country park (Clatto) in Strathmartine and hold community engagement and community activities on a regular basis.	Mark MacDonald
LCPP_SM004 We need community spaces in Kirkton to meet the future needs of for a	Develop a community hub model in Kirkton including developing future plans for a	Dundee City Council has ambitions to adopt a 365 schools model. The community of Kirkton was chosen as a pilot area to implement a Kirkton Community Hubs Model of 365 schools open for community use. The community of Kirkton contains two secondary schools. A Kirkton community hubs governance group has been established with representation from a member of the charity (Local Management Group) who run activities from Kirkton Community Centre. The Kirkton Local Management Group also have aspirations to own and run their own community centre. They have been supported to become a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (Two-Tier). Members of the charity have recently completed a series of	Mark MacDonald

the local community	community facility.	engagement events with local people including an online consultation which was designed to identify gaps and needs in the community. This work has enabled the group to move forward with plans for a community owned facility with a focus on enterprise and community wealth building. The group have recently been supported to develop a business plan and are in discussions with Dundee City Council regarding a community asset transfer / long term lease arrangement for the land on which the current community centre sits.	
LCPP_SM005 We need to improve life chances for children and families in Strathmartine	Embed What Matters to You approach to transforming services for Children and Families in Strathmartine.	A large focus of work for the LCPP has been around working with families. In Kirkton, a group of families were engaged with through a programme of family activities. The families were identified through local partners. The parents have been supported to identify needs and gaps in their own community and to then develop interventions. Work with families has now begun in the Ardler Community with plans to expand into the St Marys area. Through supporting Local Management Groups to develop more provision for families we have seen an increase in children's work, school holiday provision, parent & toddlers groups and evening family meals.	Mark MacDonald

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## Lochee

Code & Title	Description	Latest Note	Assigned To
LCPP_LE001 Respond to the cost of living crisis in Lochee	Develop the network of local food providers to plan out the sharing of resources, in addition to the provision of advice and food support services like cafes, larders and cooking provision	All community and voluntary sector organisations that offer a cafe or free or low cost food in the Lochee ward have met and agreed a plan of action relating to operation. Support is being provided to community organisations to ensure provision matches local need and new developments are planned to fill gaps	Mike Welsh
LCPP_LE002 Tackle social isolation and improve mental wellbeing in Lochee	Isolation needs tackled and residents mental well-being improved. Activities and initiatives will be established in community facilities that brings people together.	Programmes of activities have been established, particularly by the charities (Local Management Groups) that run Charleston and Menzieshill Community Centres. These activities are focused on meeting local need and demand to ensure they are sustainable. The Community Learning and Development (CLD) service has also organised activities based on marginalised groups such as families, women, men and older people. These activities have been successful in introducing new provision into communities of Menzieshill and Charleston utilising the community centres. Provision has also been delivered in central	Mike Welsh

		Lochee although there is no recognised community centre. Many stakeholders have a variety of usable spaces and Lochee Community Hub (Dundee Volunteer and Voluntary Action) is keen to work with CLD to maintain existing provision and start new activities in this neighbourhood.	
LCPP_LE003	Services will be provided to support resident's recovery from substance use. Create an engagement programme and activities that meet the needs of those in recovery living in the Lochee ward	Lots of activities and a programme of support have been started through the local substance misuse working group of the Lochee Community Planning Partnership(LCPP). This work has utilised available Alcohol and Drug Partnership funding and is at a very early stage in the operation. The group has prioritised family work and mental health recovery activities. Further engagement initiatives are planned over the next year, particularly in central Lochee where residents often identify issues with people who are seemingly detached from support services.	Mike Welsh
LCPP_LE004	Improve Lochee's priority green and open spaces. A network of local stakeholders will work together to improve green spaces in the Lochee ward by developing appropriate play spaces, green trails and the quality of open spaces.	Many outputs have been completed in relation to the targets identified, but by virtue of the length of time that capital works take, some projects have not yet reached the implementation phase. Significant improvements have been achieved at Beechwood park, Balgarthno Stone circle and improved facilities have been installed at play spaces around Lochee Ward. Spey Drive play area and improved play equipment & pathways planning around Atholl St/ Yeamans lane is in progress. New pathways and improvements are being planned by the Western Gateway Community group. Some actions around improved play space in Central Menzieshill and Dryburgh are a long term aspiration, but land use issues need to be clarified prior to discussion on development.	Mike Welsh



LCPP_LE005 Enhancements to the built environment around Lochee High Street	Initiatives like celebratory events, street art installations, heritage project and environmental improvements will be created through local stakeholders.	Significant work has been achieved in supporting the community to organise a Christmas celebration, heritage trail and street art installations around the High Street. A Lochee stakeholder event was held and various plans are in progress as a result of this relating to improvements to streetscape. Progress is awaited on some large funding applications which will release housing sites around the district centre, however Hillcrest Housing Association has made a start on site to the unused mill on Burnside Street and a new development is in construction on Coupar Angus Road. Discussions with housing agencies are positive at present. Some "campus" work has been undertaken to connect stakeholders in the central Lochee area in order to improve activity options for residents.	Mike Welsh
LCPP_LE006 improve life chances for children and families in Lochee	Develop activities and initiatives which provide opportunities to grow resilience and capacity in parents, and which provides fun learning activities for families.	Significant progress has been made to developing community based solutions to support family connections and service provision. The Local Management Group charities that operate programmes in community centres have a provision of play and parent & toddler groups operating. In addition, a Community Learning and Development service developed Charleston "wee night in" initiative has been successful in providing a weekly free activity and food provision for families. This is now managed by the participating parents. Similar provision is operating in Menzieshill and Lochee which will aim to become self-sustaining over the next year. Further trials and tests of change are being considered by a recently established Families working group of the Local Community Planning Partnership.	Mike Welsh
LCPP_LE007 Improve community safety in Lochee	A multi-agency group will plan out work and joint initiatives to create safer communities including diversionary	A LCPP working group has been established and includes Police, Fire and Rescue, Anti-Social Behaviour and CLD Youth team personnel. Regular meetings have been looking at key areas and young people of concern, and planned action is being trialed to divert vulnerable young people away from ASB and dangerous activities. More work is required to broaden the impact of	Mike Welsh

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programmes for young people and engagement to deter anti-social activity. this work but the community safety partnership's weekly MATAC meetings aim to keep on top of the most pressing ASB issues in the ward.

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## West End

Code & Title	Description	Latest Note	Assigned To
LCPP_WE001 Respond to the cost of living crisis in the West End	Conduct a community needs assessment and take action in those areas which experience the most disadvantage.	LCPP support for this work, individual group and organisations have been contacted to forwards plan for October – March 25  Continue to support individual groups	Christine Rea
LCPP_WE002 Improve local supports for people in recovery and their families in the West End	Increase provision for those seeking support around substance misuse and those in recovery	Developing a steering group to progress a recovery garden at City Church  Bringing together working group to identify effective use of limited ADP funds	Christine Rea
LCPP_WE003 Communities in the West End are empowered to make decisions about the community they live in	Develop a range of opportunities for communities to be better engaged and influence community matters	Following LCPP and WECC developments identify a need for audit of existing structure and membership	Christine Rea

LCPP_WE004 Improve life chances for children and families in the West End	Embed What matters to You approach to transforming services for children and families in the West End	Initial family after school sessions held in partnership with West End campus.	Christine Rea
		All families participating have expressed interest in continuing after the School Holidays	
LCPP_WE005 Provision of Community facilities in the West End	Providing opportunities for social contact and identify supports and services that would meet local needs. Support the development of a pilot community hub at Logie St John's Church.	Developing opportunities for more effective use of existing facilities including sheltered housing and church buildings	Christine Rea
LCPP_WE006 Provision of quality green and open spaces that people can access in their own communities in the West End	Develop structures which allow for community involvement in identifying, developing and taking part in greenspace enhancements.	Review of existing spaces planned for August 24	Christine Rea
		Existing project contacted to inform audit and opportunities for participation	

## The Ferry

Code & Title	Description	Latest Note	Assigned To
LCPP_BF001 Take action in the cost of living and climate change – Ferry Ward	Address low income and food waste in the Ferry.	Cost of Living Sub Group currently planning for October – March 25	Christine Rea
LCPP_BF002 Better support for people in recovery and their families in The Ferry.	Increase opportunities for those seeking support around substance misuse and those in recovery	Supporting development of new recovery project in Dawson Park Pavilion to provide holistic support to those in recovery  ADP sub group in planning stages, proving challenging due to a lack of services operating in the ward, plan for a cycling event to launch and raise awareness of support within the area.	Christine Rea
LCPP_BF003 Develop opportunities to get involved in community life in The Ferry	Develop a range of opportunities for communities to be better engaged and influence community matters.	Recent review suggests that there is a need to raise awareness of existing opportunities for community involvement.	Christine Rea

		Sub group formed to conduct an audit of existing opportunities and a strategy to ensure this is communicated to the wider community.	
LCPP_BF004 Improve life chances for children and families in The Ferry	Embed What Matters to you approach to transforming services for Children and Families in The Ferry.	Due to limited staff resource within the area, this will be progressed as part of a city wide roll out.	Christine Rea
LCPP_BF005 Development of a community facility in The Ferry	Investigate opportunities to develop a community hub to provide access to localised information, support and advice.	Sub group or community reps, church groups and community council working to identify existing facilities, capacity and cost to enable us the identify any gaps to inform future plans	Christine Rea
LCPP_BF006 Provision of quality green and open spaces that people can access in their own communities – The Ferry	Develop structures which allow for community involvement, identifying, developing and taking part in greenspace enhancements.	Community Walkabout at Gillies Park highlighted good quality play area and accessibility issues	Christine Rea



# Local Community Planning Partnerships

## Dundee Alcohol and Drug Partnership



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## Background

Dundee has eight Local Community Planning Partnerships, each of which performs a statutory duty to bring communities and public bodies together to reduce inequalities within Dundee's communities. This includes the reduction of health inequalities, one of the priorities of Dundee's City Plan.

To support the work to reduce the inequalities associated with substance use, Dundee Alcohol and Drugs Project devolved £80,000 to Dundee's eight Local Community Planning Partnerships for 2023/24.

The money was allocated consistently with other resource allocations to Local Community Planning Partnerships meaning that there was less monies devolved to West End and The Ferry.

A small amount of underspend from 2022/23 was able to be carried over into 2023/24. Further, where there was underspend in some localities this was able to be utilised to provide support in other areas which were oversubscribed.

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<b>Local Community Planning Partnership</b>	<b>Original Allocation</b>	<b>Actual Spend</b>
Lochee	12,000	13,500
Strathmartine	12,000	14,000
Coldside	12,000	23,700
Maryfield	12,000	9400
East End	12,000	13,000
North East	12,000	8500
The Ferry	6000	500
West End	6000	1300
<b>Total</b>	<b>£80,000</b>	<b>£83.900</b>

Dundee

Recovery Network, Hilltown Community Centre



## Participatory Budgeting and Lived Experience

A decision was taken that, not only should the monies support prevention, recovery and a reduction in stigma but, that the methodology for making spending decisions should do so too.

The methodology follows the internationally recognised 3 step process for Participatory Budgeting;

1. Ideas Generation
2. Ideas Filtering
3. Decision Making

with the voice of people with lived experience at the heart of that process.

Each Local Community Planning Partnership formed an ADP sub-group made up of stakeholders, including people with lived experience of substance use in their own or family life.

1. Ideas Generation – Each sub-group discussed what the priorities were around substance use in that locality.
2. Ideas Filtering – Groups were invited to submit proposals for monies to address those identified need with the sub-group checking each application met those needs
3. Decision Making – The sub-group awards grants to organisations and community projects.

Thirteen individuals with lived experience of substance use issues took part in this participatory budgeting exercise which contributes towards Dundee City Council's Participatory Budgeting return to COSLA.

Although this is a low number, this is the start of what is hoped will become an embedded process. It is anticipated that in future years these numbers will grow as the individuals taking part in the projects then become part of the decision making processes themselves.

Feedback from these processes are that people with lived experience are in the same room as other community representatives and activists who would not have shared a room previously.

As well as being a dignified and empowering process for participants there is evidence that the process is having wider benefits with participants with lived experience of substance use taking part in other community activities not associated with these funds due to the relationships being built.



## What Was Funded

<b>Coldside</b>	Vaping Awareness in Primary Schools	A 12-week creative project with P6/7s to educate and create dialogue around the issue of vaping in young people.
	Moving Forward Again, Rosebank Primary School	This funded drug and alcohol workshops for P6-7 pupils with family engagement as part of this.
	Men's Breakfast Club and Community Drop In	Creates opportunities and activities that brings men together to reduce isolation, support mental wellbeing, and encourage peer support.
	Recovery in Coldside, Dundee Recovery Network	Supports the weekly running of Dundee Recovery Network including cafe resources, exercise equipment and health and wellbeing workshops. Will also provide funding for a creative video on recovery series in the local community.
	We Are With You	This project works with families to reduce stigma and isolation and supports families to continue with the invaluable role they have.
<b>East End</b>	ABC What's it Gonna be?	A film making project with local young people. 12 young people took part in an exploration of young people's views of substance use and how it impacts themselves and the people around them in their community
	Brooksbank Dryve Nights and Newsletter	Brooksbank in partnership with Just Bee and the Community Empowerment Team to deliver 4 Just Bee Dryve night engagement sessions targeting people impacted by substance use or in recovery. The sessions were based around food and music.
	East End Wellness Project	Street Soccer were funded to deliver the physical activity and support sessions across venues in the east End Ward during the week. These took place across Douglas, Mid Craigie and Linlathen. Three participant volunteers were involved in the delivery of this project.
	We are With You, Ancrum Outdoor Centre project	We are with You were to deliver 14 outdoor hillwalking sessions in partnership with Ancrum Outdoor Centre, targeting individuals impacted by substance use or in recovery.

<b>Maryfield</b>	Training and Support	Access to space at Boomerang for one-to-one meetings, 'free' access to the community larder, Boundaries training intro to mental health, distress and crisis training and suicide intervention and prevention.
	Community Activities and Interactive Support	The facilitation of 3 focus groups through We Are With You. Community resources, what does the community hub mean to you and what can we implement to build on the hub, harm reduction leaflets.
	Recovery Showcase Events	Organising open event across the ward aimed at those in recovery and their 'supporters'. Providing support and advice, and distributing information and resources.
<b>North East</b>	We Are With You	The award was used to purchase resource boxes from D&WP which were used in open day events in the local community for professionals, volunteers, students, and local people to attend. This led to focus groups who coproduced information leaflets about harm reduction which were offered out to parents, carers, and professionals.
	North East Dry Social Events	The award was used to offer 3 dry night events for local people with a range of activities offering different entertainments, activities and refreshments including local agencies providing information relevant to recovery and opportunities.
<b>Strathmartine</b>	SidlawView, St Andrews, Ardler and Downfield Primaries	Providing a programme of sessions for targeted pupils that are living within households affected by drugs and alcohol dependency. The programme is providing information on effects of drug use, consequences of anti-social behaviour and benefits of involvement in community activities to improve mental wellbeing..
	Downfield Juniors FC	Improving existing facilities with the club that are used by community groups including drug and alcohol support group. The improved facilities will ensure people using the room will have a safe and comfortable environment where they can be supported to participate in conversations around drug and alcohol use.
	St Marys Community Centre	Local provision of a counselling service that provided 1:1 sessions for people affected by a traumatic incident in their lives that continued to affect them.



<b>Lochee</b>	Lochee & Menzieshill Family Initiatives	This project run by Community Learning & Development and Aberlour sought to engage families in a fun programme of activities aimed at creating connections, building networks and preventing substance use for local parents.
	School Family Development Workers in Lochee	SFDWs ran a programme of activities over a twenty-week. This included 14 family movie nights and six activity sessions for the school community. SFDW were able to provide their most vulnerable families with a warm, safe space enjoying quality time with a movie.
	Wellbeing Tasters and Mindfulness Courses	<p>These sessions offered practical tools and techniques which participants could use to support their wellbeing.</p> <p>Those who benefited from the original tasters programme then undertook an eight-week mindfulness course. The sessions topics covered;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waking up from autopilot</li> <li>• Awareness of our bodies</li> <li>• Choosing how we react</li> <li>• Being with what is difficult.</li> <li>• How we make meaning out of thoughts and feelings.</li> </ul>
<b>West End &amp; The Ferry</b>	Dundee Carers Centre – West End Cafe Broughty Ferry Connecting Carers Cafe	Combating an issue for carers with loneliness and isolation, which can be a contributing factor of Alcohol and Drug use.



Our Lady's Primary School Vaping Project Performance

## Impact

Impact on participants was recorded for each of the projects above. Feedback included how people valued having a place where they could find support from their peers.

*“DRN is a safe space. No matter what kind of week I have had, I know I can get it off my chest with people who understand. It is the best part of my week.”* Participant - Dundee Recovery Network

Another theme to come through was people recognising the importance of being diverted away from unhealthy choices and beginning to take part in other activities which were not funded by the ADP monies though relationships established at groups.

*“I now sit on different groups in the community such as the Community Regeneration Forum and I lead my own gardening group. I am now really busy right across the week.”* Participant - East End Wellness Project

Having things to go to was also having benefits for people’s recovery outside of the groups too.

*“My mental and physical health is improving with this group and is preparing me with structure for entering rehab”.* Participant - We Are With You at Ancrum Outdoors

Young people reported feeling empowered and more knowledgeable about the topics that the covered but also feel equipped with tools to support themselves and their families.

*“The vaping project inspired me to make changes in the world”* Participant - Our Lady's PS Vaping Project

## Future Developments

Given the number of different providers and the fact that some participants may go to more than one activity it is not possible to ascertain the number of unique individuals taking part in the funded activities. However, what is clear is that many hundreds of Dundee citizens have taken part in activities funded by these monies.

There is also a breadth of participation in the funded work. Prevention work has taken place and been led by children in primary schools to young people in secondary. Activities have been specifically targeted at families, at men and at carers. Participants have been in recovery and there have been some looking to start their recovery journey.

For a relatively small investment there has been an incredible amount of activity across the city with different cohorts and communities and there is evidence the monies are making a difference.

Whilst there real strength of the way the money has been distributed has allowed trial and innovation there should also be consideration of evaluation to understand if anything is working particularly well and is representing particularly good use of public spend.

From the point of view of Dundee City Council Communities section we are engaging with citizens we have not been able to reach previously and this is allowing to broaden our base of participation.

From the Dundee Partnership more widely there is evidence this is contributing strongly to our City Plan outcomes to reduce Health Inequalities and will be further contributing to emerging partnership priorities such as Planet Youth and What Matters 2U.

We thank Dundee Alcohol and Drugs Partnership for their faith in devolving this fund down to communities and hope there is enough evidence here to convince the Partnership that this is something worth continuing in the future.

**Nicky MacCrimmon**

**Community Learning & Development Manager, Dundee City Council**

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