



# Dundee's Community Learning & Development (CLD) Plan Update 2025



## Foreword

I am pleased to present the first annual update on Dundee's Community Learning & Development (CLD) Plan 2024-27.

Dundee City Council has a statutory duty to ensure that CLD adequately meets the needs of Dundee's citizens. We achieve this through our own resources, in particular the teams within Dundee City Council's Communities Service, and through joint planning with our Community Planning Partners.

Oversight and co-ordination of CLD in Dundee is provided by Dundee Partnership through the Child Poverty and Income, Attainment and Health Inequalities Board.



Dundee has significant challenges in relation to inequalities and no other local authority in Scotland has the concentration of inequalities that are found in Dundee. However, in the face of these challenges, Dundee has a strong history of community activism and engagement and a proud record of communities and services working together in partnership to achieve better outcomes for our citizens.

Dundee Partnership acknowledges the scale of the difficulties facing citizens and recognises that for all partners a focus on effective partnership, early intervention and prevention is required. Through targeted locality approaches focussing on whole families and the communities they live in, Dundee Partnership will use its resources as effectively as possible to ensure the best possible outcomes for Dundee's citizens.

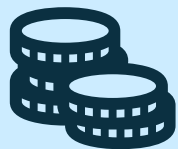
This update demonstrates how services and the people of Dundee are coming together to address challenges, transform services and structures, and to ensure that the people of Dundee can live their lives exercising choices, taking opportunities and supported by strong empowered communities.

**Councillor Kevin Cordell,  
Convener of Neighbourhood, Housing & Communities**

## Dundee Context and Unmet Needs

Dundee continues to experience high and concentrated levels of poverty and inequality. Seventy of Dundee's 188 data zones are ranked within the 20% most deprived in Scotland with around 37% of Dundee's population living in these areas. The [Dundee Poverty Profile 2025](#) shows clear inequalities in education, health and other outcomes for our citizens. The statistics given below are part of a city-wide picture and are more keenly felt in areas of higher deprivation.

Poverty informed practice continues to be a focus of this plan and CLD responses across the city. Partners continue to focus efforts on fairness initiatives and holistic family support. Locality working, an approach which seeks to break down silos and ensure our CLD responses support the whole household and wider community is an emerging area of work.



### Poverty

- Poverty is widespread in Dundee having a profound impact on both children and adults.
- **26.1%** of children (7,041) in Dundee live in poverty after housing costs, compared to 23% nationally.



### Economic Activity

- **Economically Active (16–64 years):** 75.8% (Scotland: 77%).
- **Employment:** 69.1% (Scotland: 73.2%).
- **Unemployment:** 5.1% (Scotland: 3.2%).
- **Economically Inactive:** 24.2% (23,100 people).

### Literacy

- Around 37,000 Adults in Dundee struggle to read and write.
- Approximately 1,500 of these adults face such significant barriers that they are unable to carry out everyday tasks such as managing their money, shopping or reading a bus timetable.
- 39.6% of Dundee's population aged 16 - 64 do not have qualifications at NVQ level 3 or above (equivalent to SCQF 3).
- 6.6% of Dundee's population aged 16 to 64 have no qualifications at all.



### Education

Research has shown that high levels of poverty and deprivation impact young people's education and prospects.



- **School Leavers in Positive Destinations:** 94.8% (below national average).
- Where young people progress to destinations this is often not sustained.
- Care-experienced leavers achieved **100% positive destinations**.
- Many young people do not feel safe at school, with only 58% reporting feeling safe. Bullying is a significant issue, often based on sexuality, race, learning difficulties, and where they live.

### Health Inequalities

- The number of people with a health problem that limited their day-to-day activities increased across all age groups from 2011 to 2022.
- 38,211 (25.7%) people in Dundee say that they have a health problem or disability that limited their day-to-day activities either a little or a lot, an increase of 4.8% from the last census.
- Mental health was the second most commonly reported health condition. This increased almost threefold to 14.1% in 2022 from 5.3% in 2011 and was driven by a large increase amongst younger people.



### Diversity

- Dundee is also a diverse city: the percentage of people in Dundee with a minority ethnic background increased from 10.6% in 2011 to 16.6% in 2022, much higher than the Scottish average of 12.9%.
- Supporting the integration of new migrants through ESOL classes and targeted community development support continues to be a priority in an uncertain political situation.



The following update demonstrates how CLD partners, including communities, across Dundee are working together to meet these challenges.

# Outcome 1: Reducing Poverty and Tackling Inequalities

Reducing poverty and tackling inequalities is an overarching theme across all CLD plan priority outcome areas. CLD focuses on the commitment to work together as partners, with local communities, to improve life chances for people of all ages through the specific lens of learning, personal development, and active citizenship. There is recognition given to the disproportionately high levels of poverty and inequalities which exist within communities across the city, as detailed in The City Plan, and the need for CLD to be targeted and focused on communities and individuals experiencing the negative effects of poverty and inequalities.



## Key Actions:

- 1.1 Partners will increase citizen involvement to reduce poverty and tackle inequalities
- 1.2 Partners will deliver focussed pieces of work to reduce poverty and tackle inequalities
- 1.3 Partners will ensure that at-risk individuals, groups, and communities are targeted effectively
- 1.4 Partners will use data and intelligence to identify and target communities and issues of concern
- 1.5 Partners will strengthen their collaborative approach to addressing agreed shared priorities
- 1.6 Partners will support community voice in identifying needs and designing and delivering services

## Lead Group

**Child Poverty and Income, Attainment and Health Inequalities Board**

## Progress 1st September 2024 – 31st August 2025

Dundee's CLD partners have continued to work collaboratively over the past year to reduce poverty and tackle inequalities with much of the work on the ground being carried out by Dundee City Council's Communities Service but with significant inputs from other partners.

Dundee's Fairness and Local Child Poverty Action Plan 2024/25, with leadership from professionals and communities with lived experience in the Dundee Fairness Leadership Panel, sets out some of the key deliverables which partners work on collaboratively to address issues of inequality within the city

A Fairness Leadership Panel sub-group focused on mental health and social isolation produced recommendations that have been taken to relevant partners including Dundee Health and Social Care Partnership's Strategic Planning Advisory Group, Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategic Planning and Commissioning Group and the Mental Health in Primary Care Strategic Planning Group. Actions for Fair Housing have been adopted by Dundee City Council's Housing Service including commitments to publicising information on tenants' rights and advice on preventing damp and mould. The Panel's work has been recognised in research conducted by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation

The Whole Family Wellbeing Fund Holiday Programme Partnership awarded funding to 20 schools and six partner agencies to deliver activities and food to targeted children and families. Improvements were made to the One Stop Shop 'What's On' resource for families to increase awareness of what was available across Dundee during the 2024 summer holidays and this was expanded, for the first time, for Easter 2025. Focussing on benefits maximisation Dundee City Council's Connect Service is now successfully operating from 15 community venues across Dundee, providing accessible advice and support to residents in local settings. In schools, advice services are currently available through different delivery models, such as co-location at Morgan Academy and access to advice through established referral routes at Craigie and Braeview. Co-location within GP surgeries has also expanded, with services now embedded in 13 practices across the city reaching 100,000

patients. Work is ongoing to extend this model further in the coming years.

Local Fairness Initiatives, established in previous years in Linlathen and Stobswell West, continue to be the vehicle to test locality-based collaborative working to reduce inequality. The collaborative work in Linlathen was recognised at the annual COSLA Excellence Awards by winning the SOLACE Best Team award. Tangible outcomes for communities include actions to reduce poverty, benefits maximisation, employability support and housing improvements.



Local Community Planning Partnerships are the method by which our statutory locality planning duties are fulfilled. The move towards a new informal and inclusive "cafe conversation" model has seen attendance from communities increase threefold from 20 to 60 community participants, strengthening community voice.

In the West End and Stobswell Dundee's first Local Place Plans were lodged with Scottish Government, ensuring that communities needs are considered when public bodies make planning decisions in future years.

Family Empowerment continues to be developed with Dundee City Council working in partnership with What Matters to You to roll out voice led inequalities work across the city. This work has also been recognised by COSLA at their Excellence Awards, winning the Strengthening Local Democracy category. Parents are taking the lead on delivering family activities in their communities and have been supported, through

training and ongoing support, to emerge as leaders in these communities.

Dundee City Council surpassed the target of 1% of council budget being distributed via Participatory Budgeting programmes. Citizens were supported to make decisions and invest in their communities around issues such as climate change, resources and activities in schools,



environmental improvements around council housing and on small grants supporting grassroots community activity across all Dundee's neighbourhoods.

Faith in Community supported the Dundee Food Network, a collaborative of food larders and foodbanks from across the city who are tackling poverty in Dundee's communities. Their food support map and calendar supports citizens to access support when and where they need it. Dundee City Council committed to covering the rent for community food larders in Lochee and Strathmartine.

Faith in Community have also supported the Cash First approach to making sure that citizens have the money they are entitled to when presenting for other supports. Seven Cash First Community Guiders are supporting older people, families and single adults who use seven larders in five wards across the city. A further five are being trained in local food projects.

Dundee's Positive Destination Implementation Group has become fully established and is showing positive progression on work to ensure all Dundee's post 16 population are entering into a positive destination. Shared responsibility amongst partners for tracking and information sharing means we have a better picture of where our young people are, which in turn, is allowing us to offer targeted support to those young people who need it most.

## Outcome 2: Strengthening Communities

Dundee is a city with a high proportion of our citizens living in poverty and experiencing disadvantage. The vision of the CLD partnership in Dundee is that strong empowered communities are supported by services from the public, third and private sectors to reduce inequalities in localities across the city through developing initiatives which improve community life and result in better outcomes for individuals.

Citizens can expect high quality capacity building and community development support to enhance their existing skills and abilities. They can expect to be equal partners in planning and decision-making processes which affect their communities, and they can expect to be supported to lead on the initiatives which they deem to be priorities within their neighbourhoods. They can expect to be supported to access the resources that they need to meet their ambitions for themselves, their families, and neighbours.



### Key Actions:

2.1 Local Community Planning Partnerships will engage with communities to produce Local Community Plans focussed on reducing inequalities and taking a locality approach to achieving City Plan priorities.

2.2 Local Community Planning Partnerships will include empowered communities as equal partners and recognise and support the contribution of those communities to reducing inequalities in localities.

### Lead Group

**Locality Leadership Group**

## Key Actions:

- 2.3 Partners will facilitate empowered communities by supporting communities with Participation Requests, Community Asset Transfer & Participatory Budgeting
- 2.4 Through community development and capacity building partners will support a range of community groups to take action to improve lives in their communities.
- 2.5 Partners will prioritise family empowerment work as part of a whole family approach to reducing inequalities and as part of the city's wider prevention work.

## Lead Group

**Child Poverty and Income, Attainment and Health Inequalities Board**

## Progress 1st September 2024 – 31st August 2025



### Local Community Planning

Dundee City Council's Community Empowerment Team supported 166 community organisations and projects, supporting them to engage with decision-makers and collaborate with public and third sector bodies to address local issues. This enabled a variety of groups to contribute to community improvement. Additionally, 609 individuals were supported to contribute to Local Community Planning outcomes—103 more than the previous year.

### Cost of Living

In Maryfield, Boomerang and the Albert Street Community Café in Maryfield provide nutritious meals and inclusive spaces for vulnerable people. The Stobswell Connect Shop, run by Stobswell

Forum on Albert Street, serves as a multi-agency support hub with partners like Shelter, Enable, SCARF, and the Financial Inclusion Team, offering residents tailored advice on housing, disability, energy efficiency, and finances.

The East End has seen the continued delivery and expansion of multi-agency support services, with drop-in sessions at Brooksbank Centre and Douglas Community Centre supporting residents to access advice and increase their income. Employability support remains strong, with targeted assistance from the Linlathen Pathfinder team and the introduction of a weekly job club at Douglas Community Centre by One in Dundee. In addition, Dundee and Angus College have embarked on the second year of its parent-focused programme for Linlathen and Mid Craigie residents.

In the Ferry area, Ferry Fridge has opened its premises following an asset transfer. The available produce aims to assist the local community with cost-of-living challenges while also addressing food waste.



## Green Spaces

In Maryfield, Dundee City Council are collaborating with the Stobswell Forum to support residents of Stobswell West in developing the Foxglove Community Gardens. Local individuals have been allocated new growing spaces, with further assistance provided by the Community Payback Team and Allotment Officers. The initiative seeks to enhance accessibility and foster an inclusive environment that promotes broader community involvement.

Recent green space developments in North East include the completion of the Longhaugh playpark, shaped by input from local families. The Whitfield Greenspaces group secured Changemakers funding for amenities and organises bi-weekly community clean-ups to encourage volunteer participation.

In Strathmartine, the Local Community Planning Partnership are developing a substantial area of greenspace in Kirkton through a collaboration between the Kirkton Community Partnership and Dundee City Council's Environment and Community Empowerment Teams. An engagement exercise was conducted to gather the perspectives and suggestions of Kirkton residents regarding the development of the space, with participation from 210 individuals.

In the East End Over £180,000 has been invested in revitalising play areas at Pitairlie Road and Ballindean Road with accessible play equipment, following input from more than 250 residents. Friends of Linlathen and Mid Craigie community group hosted the opening of the park.

## Recovery and Wellbeing

Douglas Community Centre Local Management Group, the Community Empowerment team and Hillcrest futures have worked in partnership to deliver weekly drop-in recovery café sessions provide crisis intervention, guidance, and signposting to appropriate services. The project supported 22 individuals through 44 one-to-one sessions, resulting in significant positive changes such as increased confidence, reduced drug and alcohol use, and improved understanding of addiction triggers. The project distributed 32 naloxone kits, conducted substance awareness sessions, and provided wound care advice.

The Lochee Men's Club, hosted at the Lochee Community Hub, was established to provide a welcoming space for men in the community.

The Wild Dundee Nature Recovery project delivered eight nature-based activities, developed Nature Recovery Packs for Carseview inpatients, and created a 'wee forest' at Carseview Hospital. Additional initiatives included garden design and wildflower planting at The Friary, co-design workshops, and community events. The project engaged medical students and directly benefited 94 people, with participants reporting increased confidence, purpose, and empowerment.

In the North East funding was used to deliver drug and alcohol-free events in the community. Resolve and Evolve community group volunteers provided a safe and welcoming environment, providing the opportunity for families and individuals to take part in drug and alcohol-free events in the community.

## Capacity Building and Community Development

Capacity building support continues to encourage and strengthen community groups' abilities to effect positive change in their own local areas. Community Centre Local Management groups continue to deliver a diverse programme of free or low-cost activities designed to meet a variety of interests and needs. These efforts contribute

significantly to reducing social isolation and enhancing community cohesion.

Kirkton Community Centre SCIO is receiving support to advance a multi-million-pound initiative for the construction of a new community centre in the area. This facility will offer opportunities for leisure, education, and physical activity, while also generating revenue through the leasing of retail units and the operation of a café.

Community action groups are actively working to improve their localities. They engage with residents, collaborate on community events, and campaign to raise awareness of local issues. Some of these newly established groups include Friends of Linlathen and Mid Craigie and Dryburgh 4 Change.

Western Gateway Community Committee, with support from the Community Empowerment Team in Lochee, has registered as a Neighbourhood Representative Structure. Their goals include developing community facilities, improving safety through better infrastructure such as new paths, enhancing the environment and celebrating the community with gala days and events.



### Family Empowerment

Family empowerment initiatives in Dundee are expanding and becoming an integral part of CLD practice. People who had not engaged in community activities before are now getting involved through various volunteer roles. Additionally, more parent groups are receiving support to design and offer local opportunities, following the partnership work with What Matters to You.

Charleston Matters parents' group is now independently constituted and securing funding for its own family-focused programmes. They have also organised family trips and the Charleston Fun Day, which drew about 1,000 residents.

In February 2025, 11 parents and carers from the North East attended a two-night values-based leadership event with Columba 1400. This led to the creation of two community-led family groups. Finmill Family Fun Club now holds weekly empowerment sessions and has become an official group, successfully fundraising for future activities. Another core group of parents and carers runs weekly family sessions at the new Drumgeith Community Campus.

Parents and community members from Strathmartine, Lochee, North East, East End, Coldside, and Maryfield have actively participated in the development of the Make it Happen Fund within their respective areas. Through comprehensive training in fund administration, they successfully facilitated the allocation of £180,000 to support community projects locally.

### Community Asset Transfer and Participatory Budgeting

In 2024-25, 11,384 citizens participated in participatory budgeting activities, representing a slight increase compared to the previous year. The participatory budget expenditure was £3,989,000. This marks the second consecutive year that Dundee City Council has met its Participatory Budgeting targets. This approach effectively engaged a wide range of groups—including children, families, and individuals with lived experience—to guarantee comprehensive community representation in decision-making processes.

These included parents and pupils contributing to decisions regarding the allocation of over £1.1 million in Pupil Equity Funding, focused on narrowing educational and social outcome gaps.

Individuals with personal experience of substance use played a direct role in allocating the Dundee Alcohol & Drugs Devolved Fund—a programme that received an award nomination from the Association of Public Service Excellence Awards in recognition of its innovative contribution to participants' recovery journeys.

The introduction of the new Neighbourhood Capital Fund placed particular emphasis on youth involvement, allowing them to influence decisions regarding the use of funds to improve local assets and environments. Over 7000 residents took part in the voting process with over 2300 young people.

At present, Dundee City Council is reviewing three active Community Asset Transfer requests. Additionally, three community groups—Broughty United Youth Football Club, Kirkton Community Centre SCIO, and Ferry Fridge—have successfully secured long-term leases on council-owned assets to further enhance the benefits they offer to the community.

The Yard opened their new family support centre in 2025 following an asset transfer. After securing £1.5 Million for refurbishment of the adventure play space for children and young people with disabilities and additional needs.

The new facility provides safe and inclusive play spaces where children can play, grow and connect, while families feel supported, empowered and included. Crucially, the upgrades allowed The Yard to secure Care Inspectorate registration. This will allow the charity to expand its services to include much-needed respite care, out-of-school clubs, school holiday provision, early years support and tailored work with schools and families.



## Outcome 3: Addressing Health Inequalities

People living in our more disadvantaged communities are at higher risk of poor health, disease, and earlier death than those living in our more affluent areas and are also more likely to experience barriers to health and wellbeing and difficulties accessing services. Health inequalities are unfair and preventable difference in health outcomes between different groups of people often due to adverse social circumstances such as poverty, unemployment, poor housing, childhood experiences, and isolation. Partners will tackle these inequalities by targeting support to those who need it most, promoting self-care through prevention and early intervention, making it easier for people to get the support and information they need, and working collectively with others including communities, families, and carers. Our approach will be inclusive and empowering, with a focus on prevention, transformation and building individual and community capacity.



### Key Actions:

- 3.1 Partners will develop collective action to tackle health inequalities and their determinants
- 3.2 A health inequalities and CLD perspective will be included in local and strategic plans
- 3.3. Partners will provide appropriate health and wellbeing opportunities at a local level relevant to identified need
- 3.4 Partners will adopt an Open Door/ social prescribing approach to connect local people, patients, clients and their carers to services and support.

### Lead Group

**Dundee Health and Social Care Partnership Strategic Planning Advisory Group**

### Partners will develop collective action to tackle health inequalities and their determinants

The Child Poverty and Income, Attainment and Health Inequalities Strategic Leadership Group brings together partners from across the system to focus on reducing inequalities. A representative from the Community Health Advisory Forum, a group made up of community representatives, is a member of this group.

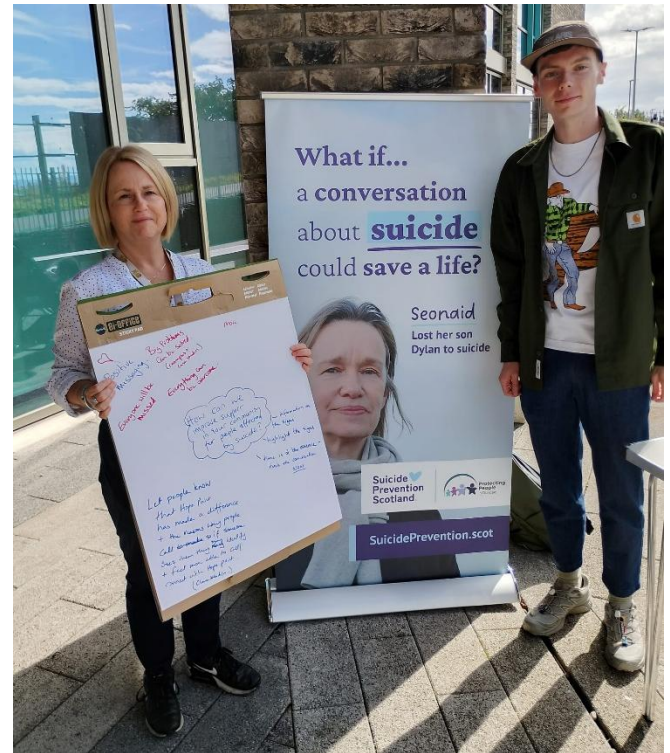
The Communities and Inequalities Workstream of the Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategic Planning Group ensures focus on mental health inequalities, early intervention, prevention and locality working. In the past year, the workstream has:

- Promoted the mental health impacts of the Cost of Living and linked with the multi-agency local Engine Room to progress a data-related developments
- Focused on improving access to information and supporting signposting
- Improved capacity through new mental health promotion training programmes
- Supported suicide prevention efforts at a local level to enhance engagement with at-risk groups and communities
- Used local profiling and data to provide a clearer picture of mental health inequalities, particularly in relation to poverty and deprivation

There is work underway involving Public Health, Primary Care, Leisure & Culture Dundee, Communities and other stakeholders to progress Community Assessment Days. These will focus on reaching people with specific health conditions or lifestyle-related issues offering health assessments and other types of support, including money advice and signposting to local lifestyle groups.

### A health inequalities and CLD perspective will be included in local and strategic plans

Many strategic plans in the city recognise the health inequalities that exist due to the material circumstances of people's lives, including Dundee's City Plan, the Integrated Joint Board Plan for Excellence, Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategic and Commissioning Plan, and the Alcohol and Drugs Partnership Action Plan for



Change. CLD approaches are recognised as an effective model of working with people and places experiencing inequalities through strengthening local democracy, promoting participation, breaking down barriers to healthy living, and creating opportunities for local voices to be heard.

The Community Health Inequalities Manager ensures effective use of local intelligence and community involvement in decision-making processes to support Strategic Planning Groups to take a place-based and CLD perspective. This is demonstrated through the inclusion of health inequalities as a priority in the Integrated Joint Board Plan for Excellence and a range of other strategic plans. CLD stakeholders and local people are involved in current reviews of a range of health-related strategies.

There is evidence of additional investment in CLD/ place-based action through decentralised funding from the Alcohol and Drugs Partnership and What Matters to You helping to provide evidence that tackling inequalities through working proactively with communities is being operationalised because of its strategic priority.

Local Health and Wellbeing Networks are a key interface between strategic planning groups and communities. The Community Health Team held it's first joint Health and Wellbeing Network meeting bringing together partners from across

the city to share how local health priorities were being addressed. The meeting included a powerful input from members of the Charleston Health Issues in the Community Group on their experiences of unpaid care, disability, recovery and relationships.



The Community Health Advisory Forum brings together participants from the Community Health Team programme to take city-wide action on health inequalities and ensure that local voices influence plans and practice. Over the past year, the Community Health Advisory Forum has been actively engaged in a range of impactful initiatives:

- They organised a city-wide event to promote information and resources available to support people in response to findings of the Engage Dundee cost of living survey. Input was provided by many relevant services including money advice, home energy efficiency, suicide prevention, and Dundee Food Network.
- Two members completed Speakeasy facilitator training, enhancing capacity to support families around relationships and health.
- Contributing to the education of mental health nursing students by delivering a session on the role of community groups in promoting health and wellbeing.
- Attending the Community Health Exchange national conference and delivered a workshop to share their experiences and key pieces of work.
- Building a strong relationship with Change to Change from Drumchapel, sharing knowledge, skills and experience.
- Shaping a suicide prevention session to support parents and carers.

- Members have joined the Mental Health and Wellbeing stakeholder group to ensure community voices are represented in the development of the new strategic plan.
- Members also attended an event exploring the idea of public diners in the city.

**Partners will provide appropriate health and wellbeing opportunities at a local level relevant to identified need**

The Community Health Team strengthens partnership work by collaborating with a wide range of stakeholders such as Dundee Rep, Chest Heart & Stroke Scotland, nurses, early years practitioners, Wellbeing Works, and other Communities colleagues.

This year, the Community Health Team focused on new opportunities to promote health and wellbeing including:

- Decider Skills training and trialling short courses which are now being offered in Strathmartine.
- The first Menopause Café took place with 12 participants.
- Supporting Together to Thrive groups in the North East and East End.
- Launching the Life Hacks course and Skills and Chills with Adult Literacies colleagues aimed at improving literacy, health, and wellbeing.
- A new partnership with Dundee REP used drama as a tool with Resolve & Evolve, a recovery-based group in the North East
- Delivering cooking and family focussed groups in partnership with School and Family Development Workers.
- Roadshows in the Lochee Ward raised awareness of the effects of substance use supported by Planet Youth & Public Health.
- Men's Groups are a particular area of growth.
- A partnership with Heart Space and the NHS Tayside Charitable Trust for free yoga sessions.

Dundee Volunteer and Voluntary Action (DVVA) continues to contribute to the substance use agenda by delivering SMART Recovery Groups across the city. Mutual Aid groups are available for family members supported by Scottish Families.

DVVA continues to deliver Peer 2 Peer training to strengthen the city's approach to peer support. DVVA has reviewed its approach which is now more coordinated with an increased focus on building the capacity of other organisations to deliver *Peer 2 Peer* training and *Creating Hope Through Peer Support*.

DVVA has developed a peer support framework, co-produced with 15 individuals. Lived experience is embedded through the Peer Supporters Network, ensuring the framework reflects the realities of peer support in practice. DVVA is working alongside the Scottish Recovery Network to help shape a national framework and ensure that local and national efforts are aligned.

The *Recoverzine* magazine celebrated its 10th edition, developed in close collaboration with editorial groups at the Lochee Hub and Bella Centre. It offered an opportunity to recognise the creativity, voices, and stories shared through the magazine over time.

The Local Management Group at the Crescent, in partnership with Newfield Community Group, has offered free seated yoga.

**Partners will adopt an Open Door/ social prescribing approach to connect local people, patients, clients and their carers to services and support.**

An Open-Door approach is supported in a range of strategic plans, processes and programmes, for example, the Integrated Joint Board Plan for Excellence, the Scottish Government Child Poverty Pathfinder, and Local Fairness Initiatives.

Community Centres across the city continue to run Open Doors programmes, which were heavily promoted over the winter months and advertised on the council website and the IYN Facebook pages. Additionally, local hubs such as the Brooksbank Drop-in in Mid Craigie, the Douglas

Community Centre Wednesday Hub, the Lochee Hub, the Albert Street Food Larder Hub, and Stobswell Connect have a range of co-located services.



New wellbeing web pages were launched on the NHS Tayside website to raise awareness of health services and local organisations through a service directory and were promoted through leaflets and online sessions. Another leaflet to promote mental wellbeing and self-help and was co-produced with local people and circulated in early 2025. GP Practices, community centres, third sector organisations, and schools received copies of the leaflets, as did local food larders and food banks.

Throughout 2025, a co-production exercise has been underway to engage local people and service providers in the development of a Wellbeing Website for Dundee. This is a partnership between primary care, public health, the Community Health Team, and DVVA, with input from a wide range of partners.

## Outcome 4: Improving Life Chances for Young People

Partners will work to improve life chances and reduce inequalities. Young people will be able to access youth work support across the city, which is responsive to needs and addresses key issues affecting them including reducing the poverty related attainment gap through targeted learning opportunities. Partners will provide opportunities for young people to have their voices heard around decisions made at both local and city-wide levels and to develop skills for life and work that will support their progression towards positive destinations and successful life transitions. Partners will work alongside young people to ensure that the learning is relevant, accredited and meets the young people needs.



### Key Actions:

- 4.1 Partners will maximize targeted support to children and young people (working to ensure the right support to the right door at the right time)
- 4.2 Partners will work together to provide transition programme that support young people at key stages in their lives
- 4.3 Partners will work together to deliver school community collaborative approach to address poverty related attainment gap and attendance
- 4.4 Partners will work with young people to access opportunities leading to positive destinations
- 4.5 Partners will work with young people to support their health and wellbeing
- 4.6 Partners will deliver learning opportunities that are diversionary and support our prevention agenda and are informed by youth voice, such as Planet Youth.
- 4.7 Partners will support young people to express their views & have their voices heard

### Lead Group

**Dundee Youth Work Network (DYWN)**

**Positive destinations oversight board**

**Dundee Youth Work Network (DYWN)**

## Progress 1st September 2024 – 31st August 2025

### Community Based Youth Work in Dundee: A Responsive and Transformative Service

Youth Work in Dundee represents a dynamic, responsive, and highly impactful service that plays a vital role in supporting young people through some of life's most complex and challenging transitions. Rooted in the principles of early intervention, inclusion, and empowerment, Youth Work is both reactive to emerging needs and proactive in identifying and supporting those at risk. This narrative outlines the breadth and depth of its influence across Dundee, highlighting key interventions, measurable outcomes, and strategic partnerships that underpin its success.

### Reaching Young People Early: A Preventative Approach



Referrals to the Communities Service's Youth Work team originate from a wide spectrum of concerns, reflecting the multifaceted challenges faced by young people today. These include:

- **Relationship difficulties** with peers, family members, or school staff.
- **Poor school attendance** or disengagement from formal education.
- **Emotional wellbeing challenges**, such as anxiety, low mood, or trauma.
- **Behavioural issues** and experiences of social isolation or marginalisation.

These referrals illustrate a strategic commitment to early identification and support. By intervening before issues escalate, Youth Work ensures that young people are not left to navigate adversity in isolation. This preventative approach is central to Dundee's wider strategy for improving outcomes for children and young people, and it reflects a deep understanding of the importance of timely, person-centred support.

### Impact of Youth Work Transition Support

The contribution of Youth Work to young people's development is evident across several key domains. These include:

1. **Improved school attendance and engagement**
2. **Enhanced emotional wellbeing and behavioural regulation.**
3. **Increased participation in community life**
4. **Greater confidence and readiness for future transitions**, including education, employment, and independent living.

### Attendance Data (Session 2024/25 to 13 March):

- **Secondary Schools:** 86.2% (an increase from 85.6%)
- **Primary Schools:** 92.9% (up from 91.9%)

Improving attendance remains a strategic priority for Dundee. Youth Work supports schools by providing detailed analysis to help track and respond to patterns in absence and attendance, ensuring that interventions are both timely and targeted.

Since October 2024, Education Scotland has been working with targeted stages in five schools. Early analysis indicates notable improvements in attendance in these stages compared to the same period in 2023/24, suggesting that collaborative efforts are yielding positive results.

### Positive Destinations Framework

Dundee City Council's Employability Team is actively implementing the strategy titled *A Step Change in Positive Destinations for Young Dundonians*. This ambitious initiative includes:

- Establishing Improvement Groups in every secondary school.

- Developing offsite learning and training opportunities tailored to individual needs.
- Providing targeted support for care experienced young people.

In 2023/24, Dundee had 15 care experienced school leavers. The majority progressed to Further Education, with two entering Training or Personal Skill Development pathways. Nationally, 87% of 1,016 care experienced young people moved into positive post-school destinations, reflecting a strong national commitment to improving outcomes for this group.



Our Youth Employability Service continues to support care experienced young people across the city. Each young person referred receives bespoke 1:1 support, with an action plan tailored to their unique needs and aspirations. This includes:

- CV creation and interview preparation.
- Support with job and college applications.
- Access to training and skills development.
- Guidance on preparing for the workforce.

Importantly, once a young person enters a positive destination, they continue to receive aftercare support from their key worker to help

sustain their progress and navigate any emerging challenges.

### **Planet Youth Dundee**

A city-wide action plan is in place under the Planet Youth Dundee initiative, with activities occurring at school, community, and city levels. The overarching aim is to increase protective factors and reduce risk factors in young people's lives.

Key developments include:

- A planned survey in all seven mainstream secondary schools in September 2025.
- Funding from Alcohol and Drug Partnership to extend one Planet Youth Development Officer post until March 2026.
- Support for school-based work targeting early onset alcohol use.
- Additional funding for the Health Inequalities Team to continue community-based prevention work, supported by the Protecting People Prevention Officer and aligned with the Substance Use Prevention Framework.

These efforts reflect a holistic, evidence-based approach to prevention, with strong inter-agency collaboration and a commitment to long-term change.

### **Holiday Programme Partnership**

In 2024, the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund Holiday Programme Partnership awarded funding to:

- 20 schools
- 6 partner agencies

This enabled the delivery of activities and food to children and families from low-income priority groups and those needing support to access fun and enriching holiday experiences.

For 2025, funding has been secured to deliver an extensive programme during Easter, Summer, and October holidays. Additionally, a One Stop Shop "What's On" Resource was developed for Summer 2024 and will be expanded for Easter 2025, helping families easily access information about available activities across Dundee.

Following a Learning and Sharing Event, several service and system improvements have been

identified and implemented for the 2025 application process, ensuring that the programme continues to evolve and meet the needs of Dundee's communities.

### Evening Group Activities

Evening sessions continue to provide a safe and supportive environment for young people. These sessions are designed to:

1. Build friendships and peer networks.
2. Develop communication and teamwork skills.
3. Explore interests and talents.
4. Foster a sense of belonging and achievement.

They are a vital part of the transition journey, offering continuity and connection to the wider community. These sessions also serve as a platform for informal learning and personal growth, helping young people build resilience and self-esteem.



### Diversiory Programmes

Diversiory programmes are delivered Monday to Friday in the most deprived communities. These provide young people with positive learning opportunities each evening and aim to divert them from potential anti-social or offending behaviour. The programmes are tailored to local needs and are delivered in partnership with community organisations, ensuring relevance and impact.

### Youth Leadership: What Matters To You

A group of young people who participated in *What Matters To You* continue to meet fortnightly at Shore Terrace. They receive group support from Youth Work staff, focusing on leadership development and reflective practice linked to their delivery at the DISC project.

### Recent Highlights:

- Lochee Ward: 16 young people completed the Place-Based Leadership Academy at Piperdam and are now progressing with their action plan.
- Baldragon Academy: 16 young people completed the four-day Academy at Kingennie. .
- Braeview Academy & Craigie High: 40 young people completed the Academy at the RPC. They are now meeting weekly to develop an action plan supporting their transition to the new school.

## Outcome 5: Improving Life Chances for Adults

Adult learning makes an important contribution to our vision for Dundee, helping citizens to develop skills and confidence, leading to improved life chances, and contributing to connected and inclusive communities.

Partners will work together to secure accessible opportunities for adults living in the city to learn throughout their lives, particularly those furthest from inclusion and experiencing disadvantage. Well-designed learning opportunities developed in collaboration with community-based adult learners will respond to local needs, creating positive pathways for learners to progress and succeed.



### Key Actions:

- 5.1 Partners will collaborate to develop clear pathways to education, employment, training, and involvement within their local communities for identified groups of adults
- 5.2 Partners will contribute to the city's Humanitarian Response through the delivery of targeted adult ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) and community development support
- 5.3 Partners will develop learning opportunities and address barriers aimed at increasing literacies, including digital literacies
- 5.4 Partners will collaborate to provide a range of lifelong learning opportunities for adults

### Lead Group

**Adult Learning Network  
ESOL Partnership**

**ESOL Partnership**

**Adult Learning Network**

## Progress 1st September 2024 – 31st August 2025

Dundee Community Based Adult Learning network agreed to map and create a directory of adult learning opportunities across the city. 25 organisations have published 61 activities for adult learners across the city.

There is a wide variety of learning activities, with some recurring more frequently. The most common types of programmes include:

- **Digital support and literacy** (e.g. drop-ins, 1:1 IT help)
- **Employability and work-readiness** (e.g. King's Trust, NHS Healthcare Academy, Admin Academy)
- **Language learning including English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)** at various levels and formats
- **Community and wellbeing** (e.g. walking groups, family learning, HIV support)
- **Creative and cultural engagement** (e.g. arts, crafts, history talks)

Across Dundee there is a strong emphasis on early engagement and accessible entry points for learners, however, there are fewer upper-level learning opportunities. This indicates a gap in advanced learning programs for adults seeking higher-level qualifications. Out of 61 learning offers, only 11 offered accreditation. Consideration needs to be given to how adult learners move through the system and achieve their goals.

Community Based Adult Learning partners are working together to respond to gaps. In response, the Communities Service and Dundee & Angus College are working together to develop their partnership and explore opportunities for the community-based college outreach and collaborative delivery which supports learner mobility. An excellent example of where this works well is the Dundee & Angus ESOL Partnership who meet three times a year to agree priorities, make changes to collaborative service delivery, and carry out strategic planning for delivery.



### English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)

ESOL learners in Dundee can access a range of community-based provision.

The Dundee City Council ESOL team provide ESOL classes at 4 levels of proficiency (Foundation, Beginners, Elementary, Pre-Intermediate) and a range of community-based groups like conversation cafes, reading groups, a parent group and a cooking club

Learners supported by the Dundee City Council ESOL team also receive initial and ongoing 1:1 guidance leading to referrals to the Employability Service, volunteering or training opportunities, and other community activities.

Dundee & Angus college offer 9 sessions of ESOL a week during college term time at Elementary, Pre-Intermediate, Intermediate and Upper-Intermediate levels, delivered in Dundee City Council Community Centres and at Dundee International Women's Centre. The College also offers "Transitional Pathways", a 10-week part-time course for learners enabling them to try college before applying.

Funded by Dundee City Council, Dundee International Women's Centre offer five sessions each week with creche benefiting mothers and carers, who might not otherwise be able to learn English. In the last year, twelve women have been able to attend due to the offer of in-house creche. These include women who have experienced domestic violence.

Women who use the creche also receive referrals to Togs for Tots, financial support from a small support fund, food vouchers from Greens on Albert Street and referral to other agencies through the Stobswell West Fairness Initiative.

University of Dundee also provide two sessions a week of community outreach at Upper-Intermediate and Advanced learners during university term time.

The Communities Service, including the Humanitarian Protection Team continues to support refugees and asylum seekers, alongside other migrants, to help them increase their English language skills, access other learning and integration opportunities across Dundee, and build and strengthen their social connections.

Between 1st September 2024 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025, the Communities Service supported 284 refugees and asylum seekers.



“Literacies Champions” seeks to increase the city’s capacity to respond to literacy needs by recruiting and training staff and volunteers working in a range of different contexts across Dundee, not just through formal adult learning classes, but through everyday interactions and relationships.

Lead Scotland offer formal and informal learning opportunities to enable disabled adults into programmes and learning opportunities.

Dundee Reads is a literacy programme run through Children & Families. The offer includes Talk and Play Together - 6 weekly sessions for families initially, with follow-up sessions with resources and books until March 2026.

Library Work - making links with libraries in the East of the city with an interest in contacting the new Drumgeith Campus Library.

Book Distribution - to date over 4000 books have been gifted in the city.



## Supporting Adult Literacies

The Dundee City Council Literacies Team within the Communities Service facilitated learning opportunities for 303 citizens engaged in 748 targeted group literacy sessions with an additional 98 citizens supported on a 1:1 basis. The ‘Life Hacks’ partnership between the Adult Literacies Team, Community Empowerment Team, Community Health Team and Dundee Volunteer & Voluntary Action is based in the Lochee ward. This learning opportunity provides participants opportunities to gain life skills around literacy, numeracy and digital learning.

## Digital literacies

The Adult Literacy Team facilitate several Digital/I.T. Drop-In sessions throughout Dundee. These learning opportunities invite citizens to engage in learning around using digital devices to access services for everyday life such as national and local government information and services, fuel poverty and housing support and advice. In addition the the ESOL team run a weekly ESOL IT class, helping those with limited English develop both language skills and digital skills.

## Outcome 6: Developing the Workforce

It is important that CLD practitioners and volunteers across Dundee can access high quality, relevant training, and development opportunities. CLD Partners are committed to encouraging and nurturing a learning culture and we will do this with the support of the Tayside and Fife CLD Professional Learning Alliance (TFPLA), local and national partners. Between March and June 2023, engagement with the CLD workforce across the region identified six priority themes: using data to demonstrate impact, community development, digital CLD practice, mental health, working with groups and developing pathways to professional CLD qualifications.

Partners will develop opportunities for collaborative learning and training opportunities for the sector focused on these themes, supporting practitioners to achieve consistently high standards of professional practice and performance, enabling them to make significant change and contribution to the lives of families, individuals and communities.



### Key Actions:

- 6.1 Regional Partners will work together to identify shared learning needs and deliver opportunities in line with the Tayside and Fife Professional Learning Framework
- 6.2 Partners will work together to develop and deliver learning opportunities that respond to the recommendations of the Dundee Digital Strategy.
- 6.3 Partners will develop learning opportunities that embed leadership and management skills

### Lead Group

**Tayside & Fife Professional Learning Alliance**

**Communities Service**

**Leading Team Dundee  
Communities service**

## Progress 1st September 2024 – 31st August 2025

The Tayside and Fife CLD Professional Learning Alliance hosted a Governance Event which aimed to provide valuable insights into governance structures, common pitfalls, and the legal frameworks applicable to third sector organizations.

The Alliance also held a professional learning conference “*Navigating Change: Developments in CLD Practice*”. The conference sought to respond to professional learning themes identified by the workforce with workshops and keynote speeches focused on cross sectoral collaboration, young people’s mental health, demonstrating impact, digital tools, community development and career pathways.

Dundee City Council’s Communities Service joined the Digital Inclusion Network. Nine staff have registered with the network and are using the Learn My Way e-learning resource with participants. Learn My Way is a free online platform that helps people gain basic digital skills and improve their digital literacy to make the most of our online world.

In addition, staff within the Communities Service have accessed two in-house digital training courses:

- Mobile Film making Course
- Using surveys and data course (which aimed to increase confidence in digital tools which support a better understanding of the impact of CLD interventions)

Through our partnership with *What Matters to You* staff across the partnership have attended Value Based Leadership training through Columba 1400.

In addition, one CLD member of staff has been supported to complete an ILM qualification through the Dundee City Council’s Learning and Organisational Development

Communities members of staff have also been supported to attend Leading Team Dundee events.



**DUNDEE**  
PARTNERSHIP

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November 2025