

Locality Host and LAF Impact and Learning Report (2025-26)





Community Solutions

Locality Host and Locality Activity Fund - Impact and Learning Report 2025-26



Background

Six community and voluntary sector 'anchor organisations' act as 'locality hosts' for the Community Solutions programme to support local engagement and partnership working, and a Locality Development Plan for their area. Each hosts a consortium and distributes the Locality Activity Fund (LAF) in their locality.

Locality hosts received

£240k

split evenly across the 6 localities to support delivery of the host role

Locality Activity Fund

The LAF provides small grants to support local Community and Voluntary Sector (CVS) organisations to provide local services/activities which help residents from their localities improve their health and wellbeing and promote equality and inclusion.

Locality Host Organisations



Locality hosts received

£180k

to allocate through their local Consortia, split between localities based on population and deprivation

Local CVS organisations could apply for up to

£3k

per LAF project

Each Consortium received an additional

£5k

from the NLC Community Partnership Team

Many thanks to the funded projects which provided information and to the VANL staff who prepared this report.

For a full breakdown of all funded projects, see here.



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Locality Activity Fund

Locality	Total Funding Awarded	Total Projects Awarded	Total Funding Delivered	Total Projects Delivered
Airdrie	35,320	12	41,877	11
Bellshill	28,268	12	28,959	11
Coatbridge	30,264	11	47,684	14
Motherwell	30,385	13	23,007	9
The North	58,472	20	77,630	28
Wishaw and Shotts	31,732	15	28,532	13
TOTAL	214,440	83	200,053	86

£200k
of funding delivered

86
projects delivered

*There is a difference between funding award timelines vs reporting timelines for the LAF. Therefore, some projects who were awarded funding in 2025-26 will not report until 2026-27, as LAF projects only report on their project once it is finished delivery. This report includes feedback from projects who finished delivery within the financial period 2025-26. This will include some projects which received funding in the financial period 2024-25.

In 2025-26, the LAF has...

funded delivery of **2852** sessions of **131** activities

supported **17,599** unique individuals

been supported by **1194** volunteers who devoted **11,291** hours

This is the same as **6** people working full time every week!

*Please note, the 'Total Funding Awarded' column shows the funding **awarded** to projects in 2025-26 (between April 1st 2024 and March 31st 2025). The total **delivered** in 2025-26 is different, as some projects were awarded in 2025-26, but do not finish delivery until 2026-27 and therefore are not reported here.



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Outcomes

LAF projects have supported individuals to meet Community Solutions outcomes...

4021	People feel more connected, included and safe	561	Carers feel more informed and aware	3507	Children and young people's health and wellbeing improved
4331	Adult's health and wellbeing improved	1021	Carers' health and wellbeing improved	3185	Family relationships are strengthened
4206	People feel more informed and aware	1071	Carers are more able to have a life outside of caring	3489	Children, young people, and families are more resilient

*Outcomes reported are based on unique individuals, and therefore may be different from total individuals supported. Individuals may report an outcome more than once



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Case Studies

One Parent Families - Motherwell

A is a 25-year-old young parent from North Lanarkshire. She has two young children, one of which has a medical condition which is causing A worry and stress. A has been working with her GP and seeking out counselling opportunities to improve her mental health.

A reached out to OPFS's Family Support Worker stating she would be interested in coming along to groups to combat isolation and build confidence. After an initial 1:1 meeting, A felt that she would benefit from both coming along to groups and 1:1 meetings. During the initial meeting, A informed us that they were currently homeless, so we wrote a supporting letter to the local authority.

A was offered a permanent home quickly and was stressed around how she was going to get it sorted on time before she gave birth to her daughter. An application to Glasspool was put in to source flooring to allow A to get moved in as quickly as possible. There was also an application to BBC Children in Need done for kitchen appliances.

A attended the young parents' group in Motherwell where she was able to connect with other young mums which helped her confidence and made her feel less alone, and actively took part in all discussions offering advice to others and sharing experiences. A also attended the Paediatric First Aid course and achieved her qualification.

Throughout the support process A has been consistent with engagement and has assisted with different projects across OPFS.

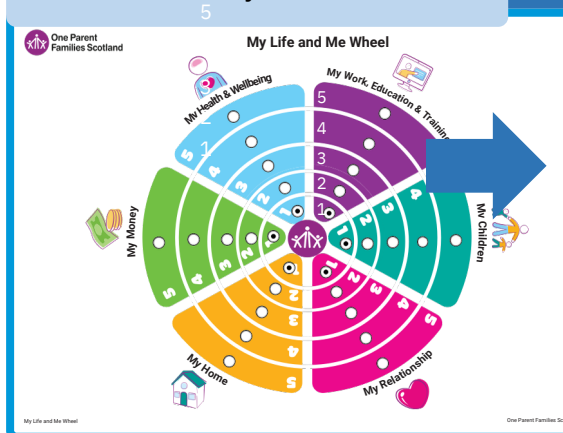
- Service User

“I wanted to highlight the importance of OPFS for me. My toddler and I joined the young parent group. This connected me with other young mums in my area that I otherwise wouldn't have met. We spoke about areas that we felt were important such as money, mental health and parenting skills to name a few. We were able to share our experiences; birth stories and I think we all realised quite quickly that we weren't alone in any challenges we faced. When you're a new, young parent reducing isolation is key. Being able to get out the house and meet others in the same situation is invaluable.”

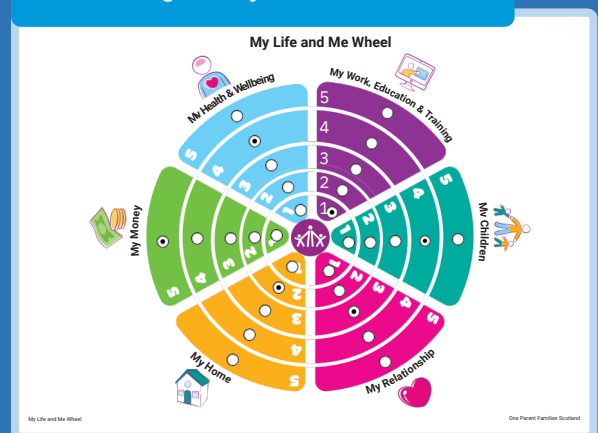
Impact on client & child/ren:

- Increased confidence and self belief
- Reduced social isolation and increased peer support
- Reduced financial anxiety
- Improved home situation
- Increased parent child bonding opportunities
- Increased progression opportunities

Initial Consultation 'My Life and Me Wheel'



Six Week Progress 'My Life and Me Wheel'





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Impact

The Safety Zone - Coatbridge

C first began attending the Safety Zone's youth groups at a time when they were struggling with confidence and often felt isolated from their peers. They tended to keep to themselves during sessions and found it difficult to engage in conversations or group activities. Like many young people, C lacked confidence in social situations and found it challenging to form new friendships.

Through regular attendance at the Safety Zone, C gradually became more involved in a range of activities, particularly our Dungeons & Dragons sessions. The welcoming and inclusive environment allowed them to participate at their own pace in a space free from judgement or pressure. Through role-playing, teamwork and creative problem-solving, C developed stronger communication skills and became more comfortable interacting with others.

Over time, C began building meaningful friendships with other young people attending the group. Their confidence increased significantly as they became more willing to contribute ideas, engage in discussions and support others during activities. Staff observed clear improvements in both their self-esteem and overall wellbeing. The social connections formed helped reduce feelings of loneliness and provided a strong sense of belonging.

C's mum shared that attending the Safety Zone gave them a massive confidence boost. They are now putting themselves forward for school shows, guitar performances and new activities.

Viewpark Family Centre - Bellshill

"Anne", a lady in her 70s, regularly attends both the Community Lunch Club on Mondays and our Social Butterflies group on Fridays. She shared that the weekends can feel very long and lonely, as she doesn't tend to see many other people unless she goes out shopping. Having the Lunch Club on Mondays and Social Butterflies on Fridays gives her two welcoming places each week where she feels part of something. Anne said that the Lunch Club has not only provided her with a hot meal but also given her company, friendship, and a reason to get out of the house. This regular routine has helped her feel more connected and less isolated.

Holy Cross Croy Ladies' Guild - The North

The following quotes from service users of Holy Cross Croy Ladies' Guild project:

- "I joined the guild in 2022 and have made both new friends and also strengthened relationships with people I already knew. It is genuinely one of my favourite nights of the week"
- "It is a very welcoming group, when I moved to Cumbernauld a few years ago, I had to make new friends and I was made very welcome when I came on my own to the group"
- "The committee ask if there are activities we would like at the beginning of each session for the next session. There are always new things to look forward to, chair yoga, sound bells, quizzes to the brain moving, handcrafts, seasoned films with hot choc, speakers on lots of subjects"
- "Our activities encourage interactions. It's good to talk and share a laugh which improves our mental and physical health"



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Locality Arrangement Going Forward

VANL reviewed the Locality Host arrangement in 2025-26, in line with the new Interim Community Solutions Strategy for 2025-27. The following changes will be implemented from 2026-27:

- To ensure more money goes to the community and voluntary sector (CVS) and to reduce administration costs, VANL will coordinate locality work in house and manage the locality consortia and LAF funding within the Community Solutions team
- The principle of having locality consortia across North Lanarkshire will remain
- Instead of six locality hosts, the consortia will be coordinated by two VANL Consortium Leads and an administrator

VANL would like to thank the organisations who have served as locality hosts, across the previous cycle and all iterations of the locality hosting model, for their hard work and contributions to the sector

The new model will:

- Increase investment in the CVS by over £100k
- Reduce cost of administering Community Solutions from 42% to 34%
- Deliver a more consistent approach to the funds delivery across North Lanarkshire
- Provide a means to enhance the ability to collaborate, work in partnership, innovate, and potentially influence service design

The new model will **not** change the role of consortium members.

The new Locality Consortium Leads (one covering Airdrie, Coatbridge, the North, and one covering Bellshill, Motherwell, and Wishaw and Shotts) will:

- Be the main point of contact for LAF and the six consortia
- Facilitate and co-ordinate Local Consortia Meetings
- Facilitate the development of and support the work towards the goals of each of the locality development plans
- Provide support to local organisations both in applying for the LAF and in becoming members of their local consortia

The Consortium Admin Team Support will provide general admin support to all six consortia