

Community Solutions

Annual Impact and Learning Report 2025-26





Community Solutions

Impact and Learning Report 2025-26



University
Health & Social Care
North Lanarkshire



Contents

This report covers the following information:

- Programme Background, Governance, and Evaluation - 3
- Custodian Funds Activity and Reach - 4
- Community Solutions Outcomes - 5
- Other 2025-26 Work - Page 6
- Locality Funding Maps - 8
 - Airdrie - 9
 - Bellshill - 10
 - Coatbridge - 11
 - Motherwell - 12
 - The North - 13
 - Wishaw and Shotts - 14
 - NL-wide - 15
- Capacity Building - 16
 - Children, Young People, and Families - 16
 - Volunteering - 17
 - Community and Voluntary Sector - 18
- Priorities 2026-27 - 19
 - Custodian Fund Developments - 19
 - Capacity Building Priorities - 21
- Community Solutions Reporting 2025-26 - 25



Community Solutions

Impact and Learning Report 2025-26

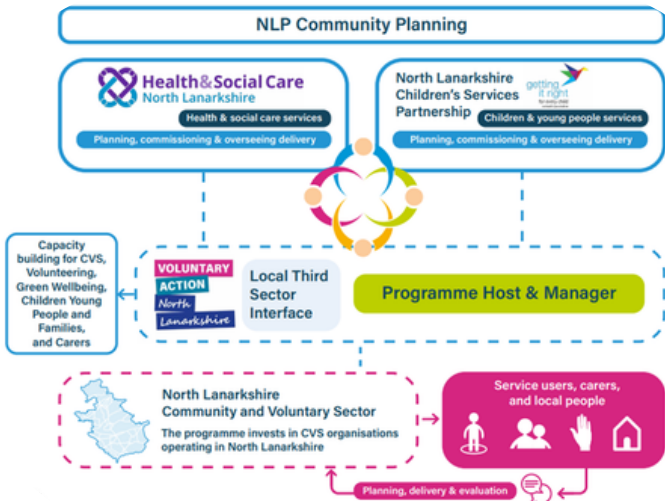


Community Solutions is...

a successful, cross-sector health and social care investment and improvement programme for North Lanarkshire. The programme – which was established in 2012 – aims to improve people’s health, wellbeing, quality of life, and equality by investing in community-led initiatives which build community, family, and individual strengths and resources, with a focus on prevention and early intervention.

Background

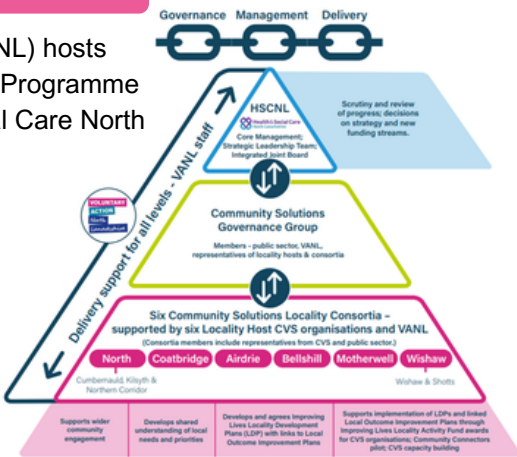
The programme is an innovative, effective, and respected partnership and collaborative initiative between statutory and community and voluntary organisations and the public, including:



Programme Governance

Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire (VANL) hosts and manages the Community Solutions Programme on behalf of University Health and Social Care North Lanarkshire (UHSCNL).

Community Solutions is governed through a ‘triple-lock’ approach and supported and managed locally and across North Lanarkshire:

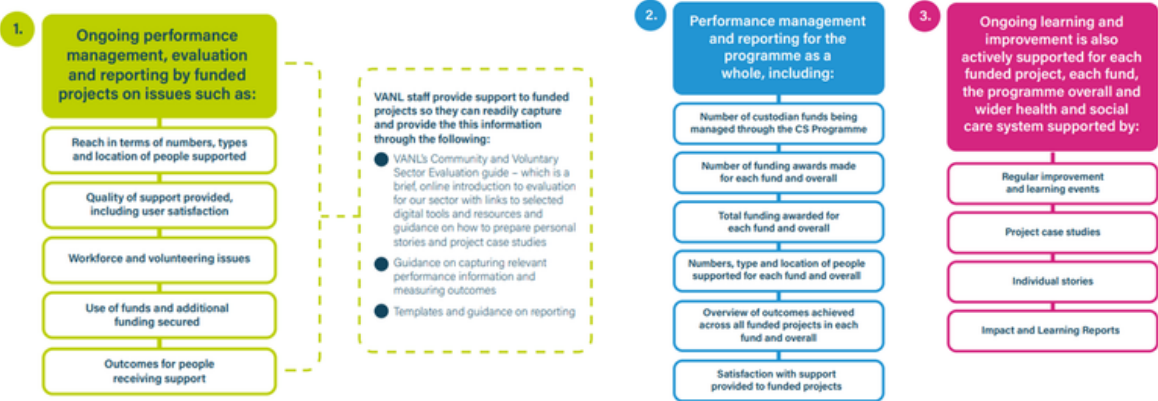


Please see the [Community Solutions website](#) for more information.

Many thanks to the funded projects and to the VANL staff who contributed to this report.

Evaluation

VANL’s support for the Community Solutions Programme is monitored through the Programme’s ‘triple-lock’ governance arrangements:





Community Solutions

Impact and Learning Report 2025-26



University
Health & Social Care
North Lanarkshire



Custodian Funds and Funding Management

During 2025-26, over **£3.3m** of funding was managed through the Community Solutions Programme by VANL on behalf of several funders including:

- University Health and Social Care North Lanarkshire
- Scottish Government
- North Lanarkshire Council (linked to NLCSP)

Funding awards were made to a total of **229** projects, delivered by **66** CVS organisations.

During the year, total expenditure amounted to £3.3m, with £269.5k carried forward.



Please see the [Supplementary Report for all income and expenditure, and all funded projects.](#)

Please see [here](#) on the [Community Solutions website](#) for more info on each fund.

Funds

The Community Solutions Programme managed the following funds in 2025-26:

- [Children, Young People, and Families' Mental Health and Wellbeing](#)
- [Community Mental Health and Wellbeing](#)
- Improving Lives Initiative (long-term condition support)
- [Improving the Cancer Journey](#)
- [Locality Hosting and the Locality Activity Fund \(LAF\)](#)
- [Thematic Fund](#)

64,470

Total unique individuals supported



*Unique individuals is different from people supported. People supported counts each person once, whereas unique individuals counts every instance of support

People Supported

6268 supported through Community Mental Health and Wellbeing

1956 supported through Children, Young People & Families

1975 supported through Improving Cancer Journey

682 supported through the Improving Lives Initiative

17,599 supported through the Locality Activity Fund

22,338 supported through the Thematic Fund



Community Solutions

Impact and Learning Report 2025-26



Community Solutions Outcomes

Community Solutions funding has supported individuals to meet the following outcomes...

17,994	Adults feel more connected, included and safe	3,479	Carers feel more informed and aware	9,086	Children and young people's health and wellbeing improved
18,791	Adult's health and wellbeing improved	3,626	Carers' health and wellbeing improved	6,669	Family relationships are strengthened
17,652	Adults feel more informed and aware	2,723	Carers are more able to have a life outside of caring	6,979	Children, young people, and families are more resilient

86,999

Community Solutions outcomes were reported



****Please note, not all funded projects or service users report on Community Solutions outcomes. However, all projects report on impact to VANL.**



Community Solutions

Impact and Learning Report 2025-26



Other 2025-26 Work

Locality Host Remodelling

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



Community Solutions

Impact and Learning Report 2025-26



University
Health & Social Care
North Lanarkshire



Other 2025-26 Work

Thematic Fund Remodelling

In 2025-26, following a review of the Community Solutions Thematic Funding, a new funding model was implemented to make the fund more dynamic and responsive to changing themes and priorities on an annual basis, including the priorities of the Community Solutions Strategy and Investment Plan, the UHSCP-NL Strategic Commissioning Plan and Programme of Work, and public health priorities. The new model is comprised of two stages:

- £196k was set aside for strategically important projects
- £316k (plus £17k underspend) was available for CVS organisations to apply for, split into 3 strands:
 - Innovation
 - Volunteering
 - North Lanarkshire- wide projects

Celebrating Community Solutions Event

On September 30th 2025, the Celebrating Community Solutions event was held in YMCA Bellshill and Mossend. The purpose of the event was to showcase the incredible work projects funded through Community Solutions have delivered. The drop-in style event displayed 80 posters of currently funded projects from all funding streams around the room, highlighting the breadth of funded activities across North Lanarkshire. The event welcomed over 110 attendees throughout the day, and received positive feedback from the sector and partners.

The event also provided stalls for several funders to promote their funds and application processes, and for VANL staff to talk about the services on offer.

Funder stalls included:

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| • Alliance Scotland | • North Lanarkshire Disability Forum |
| • Corra Foundation | • Royal Bank of Scotland |
| • Creative Scotland | • SCVO |
| • LT Funding | • The Robertson Trust |
| • NL Carers Together | • TNL Community Fund |

VANL staff provided information on funding, applications and evaluation.





Community Solutions

Impact and Learning Report 2025-26

*Please note - Total Funding, CMHWB and Thematic figures include NL-wide projects



The North Locality

77 total projects - £1,108,918 allocated in total

- **Local Activity Funding** - 20 projects, £58,4712
- **Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Phase 4** - 24 projects, £580,070
- **Children, Young People and Families Phase 6** - 15 projects, £64,346
- **Thematic Funding** - 18 projects, £406,030

Airdrie Locality

62 total projects - £978,799 allocated in total

- **Local Activity Funding** - 12 projects, £35,320
- **Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Phase 4** - 24 projects, £527,125
- **Children, Young People and Families Phase 6** - 9 projects, £46,916
- **Thematic Funding** - 17 projects, £369,437

Coatbridge Locality

64 total projects - £986,927 allocated in total

- **Local Activity Funding** - 11 projects, £30,264
- **Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Phase 4** - 25 projects, £537,298
- **Children, Young People and Families Phase 6** - 11 projects, £41,633
- **Thematic Funding** - 17 projects, £377,731

Bellshill Locality

63 total projects - £984,243 allocated in total

- **Local Activity Funding** - 12 projects, £28,268
- **Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Phase 4** - 23 projects, £526,918
- **Children, Young People and Families Phase 6** - 9 projects, £32,932
- **Thematic Funding** - 19 projects, £396,124

Wishaw and Shotts Locality

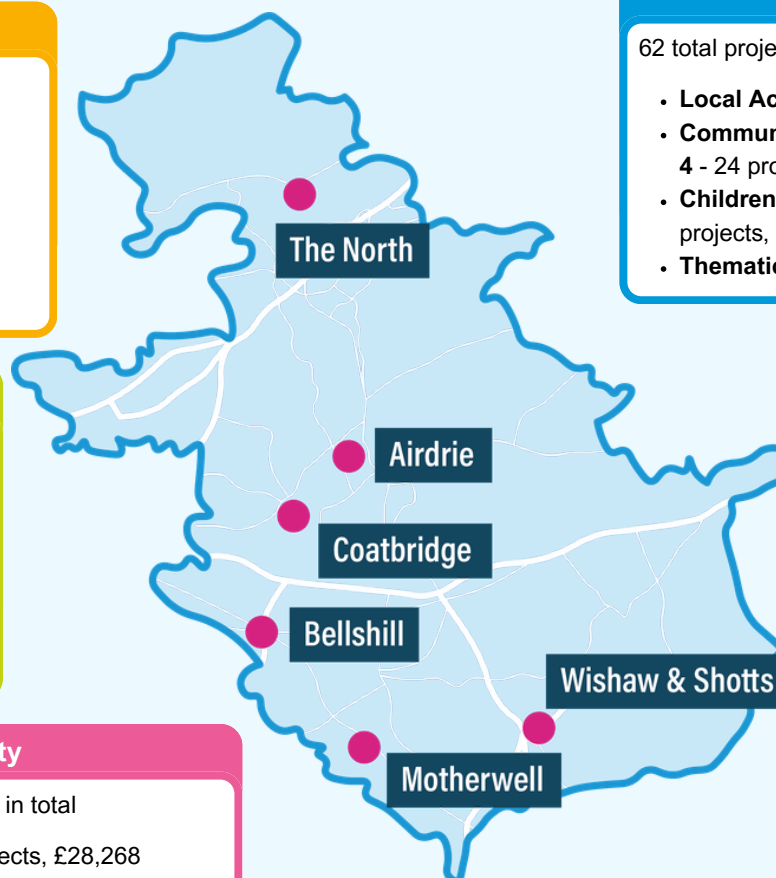
79 total projects - £1,159,977 allocated in total

- **Local Activity Funding** - 15 projects, £31,732
- **Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Phase 4** - 30 projects, £714,408
- **Children, Young People and Families Phase 6** - 18 projects, £56,639
- **Thematic Funding** - 16 projects, £357,199

Motherwell Locality

78 total projects - £1,152,729 allocated in total

- **Local Activity Funding** - 13 projects, £30,385
- **Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Phase 4** - 28 projects, £638,276
- **Children, Young People and Families Phase 6** - 17 projects, £63,743
- **Thematic Funding** - 20 projects, £420,325



Locality Profile: Airdrie



Airdrie Locality

62 total projects - £978,799 allocated in total

- **Local Activity Funding** - 12 projects, £35,320
- **Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Phase 4** - 24 projects, £527,125
- **Children, Young People and Families Phase 6** - 9 projects, £46,916
- **Thematic Funding** - 17 projects, £369,437

Number of Beneficiaries Supported

- Local Activity Fund - 406
- Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Phase 4 - 3,199
- Children, Young People and Families Phase 6 - 401
- Thematic Funding - 13,810

Total beneficiaries supported in Airdrie - **19,504**



Community Solutions

Impact and Learning Report 2025-26



University
Health & Social Care
North Lanarkshire



Locality Profile: Bellshill



Bellshill Locality

63 total projects - £984,243 allocated in total

- **Local Activity Funding** - 12 projects, £28,268
- **Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Phase 4** - 23 projects, £526,918
- **Children, Young People and Families Phase 6** - 9 projects, £32,932
- **Thematic Funding** - 19 projects, £396,124

Number of Beneficiaries Supported

- Local Activity Fund - 2,204
- Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Phase 4 - 3,086
- Children, Young People and Families Phase 6 - 354
- Thematic Funding - 13,860

Total beneficiaries supported in Bellshill - **19,504**



Community Solutions

Impact and Learning Report 2025-26



Locality Profile: Coatbridge



Coatbridge Locality

64 total projects - £986,927 allocated in total

- **Local Activity Funding** - 11 projects, £30,264
- **Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Phase 4** - 25 projects, £537,298
- **Children, Young People and Families Phase 6** - 11 projects, £41,633
- **Thematic Funding** - 17 projects, £377,731

Number of Beneficiaries Supported

- Local Activity Fund - 3,723
- Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Phase 4 - 3,001
- Children, Young People and Families Phase 6 - 270
- Thematic Funding - 13,921

Total beneficiaries supported in Coatbridge - **20,915**



Community Solutions

Impact and Learning Report 2025-26



Locality Profile: Motherwell



Motherwell Locality

78 total projects - £1,152,729 allocated in total

- **Local Activity Funding** - 13 projects, £30,385
- **Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Phase 4** - 28 projects, £638,276
- **Children, Young People and Families Phase 6** - 17 projects, £63,743
- **Thematic Funding** - 20 projects, £420,325

Number of Beneficiaries Supported

- Local Activity Fund - 789
- Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Phase 4 - 6,843
- Children, Young People and Families Phase 6 - 297
- Thematic Funding - 13,847

Total beneficiaries supported in Motherwell - **21,776**



Community Solutions

Impact and Learning Report 2025-26



University
Health & Social Care
North Lanarkshire



Locality Profile: The North



The North Locality

77 total projects - £1,108,918 allocated in total

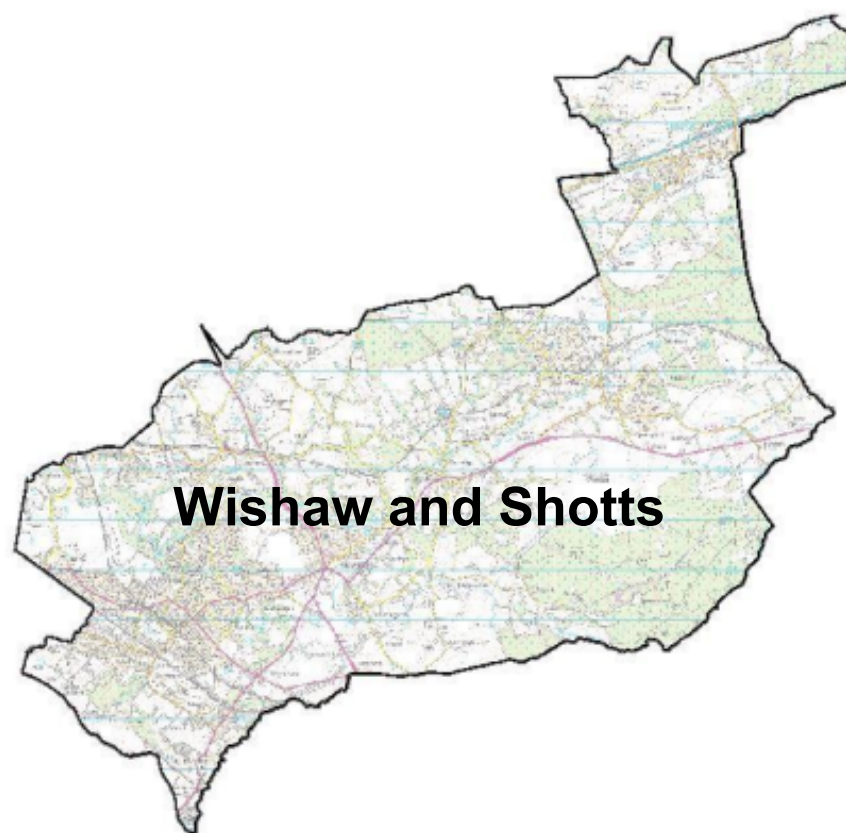
- **Local Activity Funding** - 20 projects, £58,472
- **Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Phase 4** - 24 projects, £580,070
- **Children, Young People and Families Phase 6** - 15 projects, £64,346
- **Thematic Funding** - 18 projects, £406,030

Number of Beneficiaries Supported

- Local Activity Fund - 2,750
- Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Phase 4 - 3,151
- Children, Young People and Families Phase 6 - 77
- Thematic Funding - 13,947

Total beneficiaries supported in the North - **19,925**

Locality Profile: Wishaw and Shotts



Wishaw and Shotts Locality

79 total projects - £1,159,977 allocated in total

- **Local Activity Funding** - 15 projects, £31,732
- **Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Phase 4** - 30 projects, £714,408
- **Children, Young People and Families Phase 6** - 18 projects, £56,639
- **Thematic Funding** - 16 projects, £357,199

Number of Beneficiaries Supported

- Local Activity Fund - 7,727
- Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Phase 4 - 5,135
- Children, Young People and Families Phase 6 - 262
- Thematic Funding - 13,798
- Total beneficiaries supported in Wishaw and Shotts - **26,922**



Community Solutions

Impact and Learning Report 2025-26



Locality Profile: NL-Wide



NL-wide

37 total projects - £826,956 allocated in total

- **Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Phase 4** - 21 projects, £469,757
- **Thematic Funding** - 16 projects, £357,199

Number of Beneficiaries Supported

- Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Phase 4 - 2,748
- Thematic Funding - 13,798

Total beneficiaries supported by NL-wide projects - **16,546**



Community Solutions

Impact and Learning Report 2025-26



University
Health & Social Care
North Lanarkshire



Capacity Building

VANL receives recurrent funding through UHSCNL to support capacity building in the following areas:

- Community and Voluntary Sector (CVS) capacity building for the sector generally and for CVS organisations to support
- Children, Young People and Families (CYP)
- Volunteering

Children, Young People and Families

Background

VANL staff support the CVS with capacity-building to strengthen the support provided to local children, young people and families to improve their health, wellbeing and inclusion. VANL does this by:

- Convening the North Lanarkshire CVS Children, Young People & Families Network to provide information-sharing; peer support; and to support CVS partnership working with the public sector through the North Lanarkshire Children's Services Partnership (CSP); UHSCNL; and North Lanarkshire Partnership (NLP)
- Supporting CVS participation in the CSP and facilitating links between the CSP, Community Solutions, UHSCNL and community planning
- Supporting the CVS to strengthen their contributions to:
 - Child protection, through provision of training by VANL staff
 - Children and young people's mental health, through distribution of the Children, Young People and Families Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund

Achievements 2025-26

In 2025-26, VANL staff supported the following children, young people and families capacity-building work:

- Convened 4 meetings of the Children, Young People & Families Network, with around 40 attending organisations
- Supported members with applications to Phase 6 of the Children, Young People & Families Mental Health & Wellbeing Fund. There was a total of 79 projects across 16 organisations and 23 clusters
- Distributed £64k of funding to the sector to support engagement in North Lanarkshire's Fairer Futures Partnership, funding 14 projects across 11 CVS organisations
- Supported organisations to get access to a bespoke GIRFEC training session for the sector, as well as Child Protection training and FASD training
- Supported organisations and chaired a third sector specific working group to facilitate engagement in Lanarkshire's Bairns Hoose
- Members of the network were involved in the writing group for the Children's Services Plan 2026-29
- Member organisations hosted engagement sessions for capturing youth voices in the Children's Services Plan 2026-29, with 107 children, young people and families participating in sessions.
- Updated the CVS Children, Young People & Families Strategy for 2026-2029 with full participation and consultation from network members, outlining the strategic objectives and priorities for the network



Community Solutions

Impact and Learning Report 2025-26



Capacity Building

Volunteering

Background

VANL staff support volunteering developments across North Lanarkshire, working with:

- The CVS – which involves and relies on thousands of volunteers to deliver their support and services
- Public sector partners – including North Lanarkshire Council, NHS Lanarkshire, Police and Fire and Rescue, and NHS Lanarkshire– which also involve volunteers and support volunteering more widely
- Employers in all sectors, including the business sector, which contributes through employer-supported volunteering

VANL staff support volunteering strategically and operationally including:

- Setting up and convening the North Lanarkshire Volunteering Partnership to facilitate improved cross-sector support for volunteering. The Partnership developed a new North Lanarkshire Volunteering Strategy 2023-2026
- Promoting volunteering opportunities to the public and supporting matching to roles
- Supporting volunteer-involving organisations to improve their recruitment and support for volunteers, including promotion of the Volunteer Charter
- Supporting CVS organisations to join and use our free volunteer management software Team Kinetic both to promote volunteer opportunities and to manage volunteers

Volunteering Stats 2025-26

- Number of Saltire Award certificates - 1250
- Number of enquiries related to volunteering - 401
- Number of volunteer registrations (via Kinetic + Volunteer Scotland) - 239
- Number of 1-2-1 volunteer support sessions given - 87
- Number of NL Volunteer Partnership meetings facilitated - 2

Achievements 2025-26

- Number of support sessions given to CVS organisations for volunteer promotion - 49
- Number of talks and presentations given - 16
- Volunteer information stalls at events - 28
- Employer supported volunteering enquiries + matching - 9
- Volunteer management policies and procedures guidance sessions - 5
- Volunteering training sessions - 6
- Youth volunteering support meetings - 4



Community Solutions

Impact and Learning Report 2025-26



University
Health & Social Care
North Lanarkshire



Capacity Building

Community and Voluntary Sector

Background

VANL receives funding through the Community Solutions programme to provide capacity-building support to the CVS so the sector is able to effectively contribute to improved health and wellbeing of residents and local communities through:

- Provision of support and services to improve physical and mental health
- Community wealth-building to support social and economic inclusion
- Protection and improvements to our natural environment, including climate action

The capacity-building support and services provided by VANL includes the following:

- Information provision through the Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire website, digital bulletins and social media
- Organisational development guidance on issues such as:
 - Set up and governance
 - Strategic planning
 - Income generation
 - Finance
 - HR
 - Performance management and evaluation

Peer support and learning opportunities by:

- Providing or facilitating access to structured training and informal learning
- Convening and supporting the CVS Strategic Partnership Group and linked thematic networks on key issues such as befriending; mental health and wellbeing; employability; and Social Enterprise
- Organising regular events for the CVS, including locality meetings and an annual conference

Supporting the CVS to participate in our local partnerships and contribute to delivery of associated plans including:

- Our North Lanarkshire Community Planning Partnership, North Lanarkshire Partnership and its Plan for North Lanarkshire, associated North Lanarkshire- wide strategies such as the Tackling Poverty Strategy and nine linked Local Outcome Improvement Plans. (See partnership section in the diagram below)
- University Health and Social Care North Lanarkshire partnership and its Commissioning Plan and linked strategies on mental health and wellbeing, alcohol and drugs, and the Community Solutions Strategy and Investment Plan.
- The Children's Services Partnership and Plan – see the Children, Young People, and Families section below

Achievements 2025-26

- Completed 50 governance reviews
- Delivered VANL's training calendar, including 22 training and information sessions to 218 participants including topics like child protection, successful funding applications, evaluation, volunteering and more
- Published
 - 35 e-alerts on issues such as funding, training, events and consultations
 - 3 VANL Newsletters providing information on local organisations, training and support
 - 12 monthly funding and resource e-bulletins
- Provided guidance and support to 1,117 NL CVS organisations on topics like income generation, governance, start up, climate/green, signposting and more



Community Solutions

Impact and Learning Report 2025-26



Priorities 2026-27

Custodian Fund Developments

Community Anchor Organisation Development Fund

- Following the remodelling of the Locality Host model, in order to retain the local knowledge of anchor organisations, VANL has introduced the Community Anchor Organisation Development Fund for 2026-27. VANL defines a Community Anchor Organisation as an organisation who are embedded in their local community with a focus on partnership working and being led by community needs. These organisations support their community through multiple, targeted supports including advice, providing local knowledge and feedback
- Through this fund, VANL wishes to support the development and growth of, and increase recognition of Community Anchor Organisations. The aim is to support six organisations (one per locality) through:
 - Providing £10,000 per year for three years to support daily delivery
 - Receiving support from VANL to develop and integrate the services provided into the wider health and social care landscape

Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Phase 5

- Funding for Phase 5 of the Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund was announced by the Scottish Government in Autumn 2025, with a total of £955k available to fund CVS organisations in North Lanarkshire
- To align the Fund with the Fairer Funding Charter, The Scottish Government have introduced multi-year funding from Phase 5. Applicants can now apply for one or two year funding
- A cross-sector panel involving staff from VANL, NHS Lanarkshire, and North Lanarkshire Council assessed all applications and made funding decisions in early 2025. Awards were issued at the end of March 2026 for activity to be delivered from April. Funding was awarded to 24 two-year projects and 26 one-year projects



Community Solutions

Impact and Learning Report 2025-26



University
Health & Social Care
North Lanarkshire



Priorities 2026-27

Custodian Fund Developments

Children, Young People, and Families Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Phase 7

- CIILs completed their usual needs analysis for their clusters and identified priority areas of work
- In June 2026, VANL and Education colleagues hosted a networking event for CVS organisations and CIILS (Cluster Improvement Integration Leads) to come together in person and showcase what they could offer
 - On the day CIILS and organisations were able to discuss in detail what they were looking for and tailor this to meet the need
 - CIILS were asked to make decisions prior to the end of the school year, to enable organisations to plan their staffing and resource needs accordingly

Community Solutions Thematic Funding

- In December 2025, all projects funded under the Innovation and Volunteering strands were contacted with the offer of applying for a year's extension. Applications for extension funding were assessed by a panel in the same way they were in year one, but focusing more on the progress and impact
- Once the extension projects had been awarded, open call for applications opened in February 2026. The approach to this stage of the fund has been updated based on emerging needs of the sector: the Innovation Stage will remain, supporting pilot projects, and a new strand supporting the development of projects in two areas which VANL receive a limited number of applications (The Northern Corridor area of the North Locality, and the villages surrounding Airdrie in the Airdrie Locality)

Improving Lives Initiative and Improving the Cancer Journey

- In 2026-27, the Community Connectors based within North Lanarkshire Disability Forum will continue to support long-term conditions and cancer



Community Solutions

Impact and Learning Report 2025-26



University
Health & Social Care
North Lanarkshire



Priorities 2026-27

Capacity Building Priorities

This section provides an overview of development priorities for the Community Solutions Programme during 2026-27.

Children, Young People, and Families

- The following priority areas were identified by members of the CYPF Network as key areas of interest and focus. They are reflected in the Children's Services Plan and will form part of an annual programme of work, delivered and evaluated in accordance with the GIRFEC Framework. Delivery of the strategy and work programme will facilitate improved support and services for children, young people and families in our communities and strengthen our partnerships across North Lanarkshire:
 - Mental and Physical Health
 - Additional Support Needs and Neurodivergence
 - Poverty and Whole Family Support
 - Scaffolding and Voices

Volunteering

- Supporting the creation of more volunteer opportunities for young people
- Supporting more inclusive volunteering opportunities for people with disabilities, additional support needs or long term health issues
- Employer supported volunteering – increasing the number of employers giving employees time to contribute to their communities during work time and encouraging skills based ESV to increase the value of ESV to CVS organisations. (as time is a barrier according to Volunteer Scotland research)



Community Solutions

Impact and Learning Report 2025-26



Priorities 2026-27

Capacity Building Priorities

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Network

The Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Network continues to grow and strengthen, with increased attendance, engagement, and representation from statutory, third sector, and community organisations. The network has become an established forum for collaboration, enabling partners to share learning, identify opportunities for joint working, and strengthen local mental health and wellbeing provision. Feedback from members has been consistently positive, with organisations reporting that the network has increased collaboration, improved awareness of local services, and created valuable opportunities for networking and partnership working.

Suicide Prevention Reference Group

The Suicide Prevention Reference Group has continued to strengthen collaborative working across sectors, bringing together statutory services and third sector organisations to improve suicide prevention efforts across North Lanarkshire. A key priority for 2026–27 has been the development of a short awareness film, co-produced with partners to promote suicide prevention, encourage open conversations, reduce stigma, and highlight the range of support available within local communities.

Staff Wellbeing and Peer Support Network

While engagement with the Staff Wellbeing and Peer Support Network has been more limited than anticipated, work is underway to review, revitalise, and redesign the network. This includes engaging with partners to better understand current workforce needs and exploring new approaches to ensure the network remains relevant, accessible, and responsive to staff wellbeing priorities across the statutory and third sectors.



Community Solutions

Impact and Learning Report 2025-26



University
Health & Social Care
North Lanarkshire



Priorities 2026-27

Capacity Building Priorities

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Training

Training and workforce development continue to be a key priority for 2026–27, supporting the growth of knowledge, confidence, and capacity across the third sector and partner organisations.

- ASK TELL suicide prevention training continues to be available to organisations and community groups across North Lanarkshire, helping to increase confidence in recognising and responding to individuals experiencing thoughts of suicide.
- In collaboration with NHS Lanarkshire, work is also underway to pilot the Wave After Wave programme in North Lanarkshire. This initiative aims to strengthen bereavement after suicide awareness, promote compassionate conversations, and enhance community resilience through a whole-community approach.
- To further build capacity within the third sector, a Train the Trainer programme in self-harm awareness and response is also being undertaken. This will enable the delivery of self-harm training directly to third sector organisations, increasing access to high-quality learning opportunities and strengthening the sector's ability to provide informed, compassionate, and timely support to individuals affected by self-harm.

Capacity Building and Organisational Development

A continued priority for 2026–27 has been building and strengthening relationships with community and voluntary organisations across North Lanarkshire. This has included visiting organisations to better understand their work, identifying opportunities for collaboration, and providing tailored support to help organisations build capacity. Practical support has included guidance throughout funding application processes, reviewing draft applications, providing constructive feedback, and signposting organisations to relevant funding and development opportunities. This relationship-based approach continues to strengthen the local mental health and wellbeing infrastructure and supports the sustainability of community-led services.



Community Solutions

Impact and Learning Report 2025-26



University
Health & Social Care
North Lanarkshire



Priorities 2026-27

Capacity Building Priorities

Community and Voluntary Sector

During 2026-27, VANL staff will continue to develop and deliver capacity-building support to the CVS.

- Community Solutions funding part funds a Community Development officer for each of the four Community Planning Partnership areas of:
 - The North Locality
 - Airdrie and Coatbridge Localities
 - Bellshill and Motherwell Localities
 - Wishaw and Shotts Locality
- The programme also contributes to the work of the Income Generation Officer, to support CS Funding applicants to seek other funding to complement funding from the programme and to become a more sustainable organisation
- VANL is committed to supporting and promoting sustainability for Community Solutions funded projects and the wider sector.
- Governance Reviews
 - VANL staff also undertake governance reviews of CVS organisations receiving funding through Community Solutions to assess whether they have appropriate governance and management arrangements in place to deliver their work effectively and support their sustainability



Community Solutions

Impact and Learning Report 2025-26



Community Solutions Reporting 2025-26

An Impact and Learning report for each Community Solutions fund in 2025-26 can be found on the [Community Solutions website](#).

- [Children, Young People, and Families Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund Phase Six](#)
- [Children, Young People, and Families Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund Phase Six Supplementary Report](#)
- [Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund Phase Four](#)
- [Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund Phase Four Supplementary Report](#)
- [Community Solutions Thematic Fund](#)
- [Community Solutions Thematic Fund Supplementary Report](#)
- [Improving Lives Initiative/Improving the Cancer Journey Quarterly Reports](#)
- [Improving the Cancer Journey Annual Report](#)
- [Locality Host and LAF Impact and Learning Report](#)
- [Locality Host and LAF Impact and Learning Report Supplementary Report](#)

Thank You!

To find out more about the work we do through the Community Solutions Programme visit www.communitysolutionsnl.org.uk/

To contact the Community Solutions team, [submit an enquiry here.](#)

[Community Solutions](#) is hosted and managed by [Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire](#)

Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire

☎ 01236 748011

@ info@VANL.co.uk

VANL (SCIO) is registered as Scottish Charity no. SC041224

