

Locality Host and LAF Impact and Learning Report (2024-25)





Community Solutions

Locality Host and Locality Activity Fund - Impact and Learning Report 2024-25



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 Host Organisations



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 hosts received **£240k** split across the 6 localities with an additional **£141k** from ILI

Locality hosts received between **£45k - 60k** to allocate through their local Consortia

Local CVS organisations could apply for up to **£5k** per LAF project

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

Improving Lives Initiative

The Improving Lives Initiative (ILI) provided increased funding for 2023-24 and 2024-25 for our six Community Solutions locality hosts – complementing their existing recurrent funding and enhance their work supporting the local community. ILI also provides increased funding for LAF for 2023-24 and 2024-25. The LAF budget increased from £180,000 a year across the six localities to £300,000 a year for 2023-24 and 2024-25. The distribution of the additional ILI funding across the localities was informed by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) and population of the localities.



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Locality Activity Fund

Locality	Total Funding Awarded	Total Projects Awarded	Total Projects Delivered	Total Funding Delivered
Airdrie	19	£63,905	20	£63,278
Bellshill	14	£37,820	17	£43,340
Coatbridge	21	£79,058	20	£78,367
Motherwell	19	£45,968	19	£46,400
The North	24	£69,573	31	£88,245
Wishaw and Shotts	20	£48,354	26	£64,018
TOTAL	117	£344,678	133	£383,648

133
projects delivered

£383.6k
of funding delivered

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

*Due to funding versus reporting timeline differences, some projects who were awarded funding in 2024-25 will not report until 2025-26 as LAF projects only report to the Locality Host once their project is finalised.

In 2024-25, the LAF has...

funded delivery of
2130 sessions of
230 activities

supported
22,969 unique individuals
including **969** carers

been supported by
576 volunteers who devoted
22,725 volunteering hours

This is the same as
12.5
people working full time
every week!

*Please note, the 'Total Funding Awarded' column shows the funding **awarded** to projects in 2024-25 (between April 1st 2024 and March 31st 2025). The total **delivered** in 2024-25 is different, as some projects were awarded in 2024-25, but do not finish delivery until 2025-26 and therefore are not reported here.

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

6444 People feel more connected, included and safe

374 Carers feel more informed and aware

9679 Children and young people's health and wellbeing improved

4023 Adult's health and wellbeing improved

934 Carers' health and wellbeing improved

1171 Family relationships are strengthened

4988 People feel more informed and aware

1198 Carers are more able to have a life outside of caring

365 Children, young people, and families are more resilient

*Outcomes reported are based on unique individuals, and therefore may be different from total individuals supported



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Case Studies

African Drumming Ensemble project (Nov 2023-ongoing) was designed to build on the success of a summer wellbeing day where drumming sessions received exceptionally positive feedback.

Recognising the need for long-term access to this activity, GBT purchased a set of African drums to embed into regular programming across all age groups. The kit is housed at the Healthy Living Centre in Shotts and available for use by internal teams and external partners, promoting expressive arts as a tool for health, wellbeing, and social connection.

Staff observed increased peer engagement in carer and adult groups, children and young people showed enhanced attention and reduced behavioral issues, and people asked for follow up workshops.

180 people reported improved health and wellbeing, feeling more connected and safe

“It’s amazing how something like this brings you right into the moment. I felt calm and joyful.”

- Service user



55 carers were more able to have a life outside of caring and 65 family relationships were strengthened



“My son joined a youth session and loved it – it’s helped with his anxiety.”

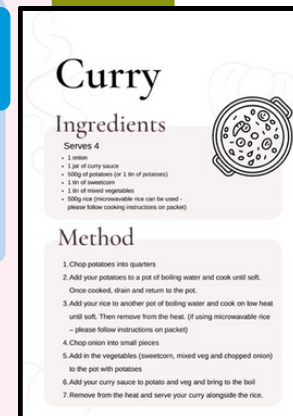
Motherwell LAF

Clyde Valley
Community
Church

A four week cooking on a budget course was delivered from Sept-Oct 2024 in the Marantha Centre Motherwell. This course was carried out in partnership with Clyde Valley Community Church (CVCC) and Motherwell Health Improvement Team, supported by a North Lanarkshire Council Nutritionist. 10 people were recruited, with 5 on a waitlist.

Wishaw LAF

Getting
Better
Together



- The aim of this project was to help people in the community to prepare and cook nutritious meals at an affordable cost
- Each week the participants made a different recipe with support from the nutritionist - two portions to allow them to take one home

Pre and post surveys showed, on a scale of 1-5...

How much do you know about nutrition and healthy eating?

2.8 → 4.5

How much do you know about ways to cook to save on energy bills?

2.5 → 4.5

How much do you know about tips to shop on a budget?

2.8 → 4.7

“My mental health improved, as the course got me out of the house. My children have loved the recipes, we have cooked these together at home. I also got to share skills with other participants”

- Service user





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University
Health & Social Care
North Lanarkshire



Case Studies

A total of 15 weekly warm, safe and welcoming local spaces where anyone could drop in to enjoy free tea, coffee, juices and social interaction were facilitated at various locations across Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and the Northern Corridor as part of a partnership between Croy Community Hub, Cornerstone House Centre and Northern Corridor Community Volunteers. Weekly sessions ran for 10 weeks from January to March 2025.

The warm spaces were attended by 329 people over the three months. 15 organisations in total were able to benefit from funding secured.

“Weekly spaces were successful in providing financial relief for vulnerable citizens, reducing social isolation, enhancing mental health and wellbeing and strengthening local community anchor organisations.”

“The need for warm spaces during early 2025 was highlighted through numerous communications with local citizens and community leaders over a period of time. It is recognised that winter was a particularly difficult time for many local residents, with challenges such as high heating costs, disconnection and mental health concerns increased by financial pressures and a lack of accessible community hubs.”

- Claire Williams, Warm Welcomes Project Coordinator at Northern Corridor Community Volunteers

The North
LAF

Cumbernauld
and North
Partnership

Airdrie LAF

Hope for
Autism

Hope for Autism received funding to take the people with autism they support and their families/carers/support assistants to Five Sisters Zoo. The aim of the trip was to provide:

- an inclusive environment for social interaction and relationship strengthening
- community integration and peer support
- fun, enjoyment, and a new experience with new sensory experiences to build confidence and resilience

The outing was open to all staff and volunteers (15 to attend to provide the maximum support to the participants. Funding was sought from all 5 localities.

“Our recent summer trip to The Five Sisters Zoo was a rousing success with over 100 people from the HOPE Family attending. This included new members, staff, friends and family. The day allowed our young people to create new memories by meeting new friends, bonding with others and getting close to over 160 Cool species of Animals!”

- Staff member

“Thanks again for a lovely day!
The kids really enjoyed their day!
You all do a fantastic job of
planning and organising events
and activities!”

- Service
user





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Case Studies

Mosshill Credit Union provided **172** Christmas dinners for families and individuals, which included everything needed to cook the meal. They also provided **68** food parcels on the week leading up to Christmas. **Eight** volunteers spent **149** hours buying food, creating recipe cards, packing Christmas dinner ingredients and packing the food parcels. Directors and volunteers donated money they usually receive at Christmas from Mosshill Credit Union Ltd to the project.

240 people reported that the project had improved their health and wellbeing by providing nourishing food, and alleviating the worry around Christmas dinner



“At Mosshill, we understand how difficult the festive period can be for many families, especially during such a costly time of year. That’s why we are so grateful for the funding that allows us to offer this Christmas Day dinner initiative. It is more than just a meal; it’s an opportunity for families to come together, to create memories, and to feel supported by their community. Credit unions like ours are at the heart of local communities, and we are committed to providing assistance and ensuring that our members have the support they need, especially during challenging times.”

-
Julie Reddin, CEO of
Mosshill Credit Union



Bellshill LAF

Mosshill
Credit Union

Coatbridge LAF

Deaf Services
Lanarkshire

Deaf Services Lanarkshire delivered a 20-week ‘Weigh to Go’ weight management programme in British Sign Language for the Deaf community. The sessions supported the Deaf community to lead healthier, balanced lifestyles. Each session was attended by between **4** and **20** people, and involved a health and wellbeing topic and low impact exercise. The funding allowed the project to arrange a Deaf aware instructor and BSL interpreter to attend the sessions, to ensure the Deaf community had full access to visual information in their first/preferred language.

“Local people who live with significant hearing impairment may find it difficult to attend mainstream healthy lifestyle programmes for a number of reasons. Currently there are no adapted healthy lifestyle programmes in Lanarkshire which make adjustments for this need.”

Attendees reported that the session allowed them to:

- Attend an accessible service and to engage/socialise with others, boosting mental health
- Attend weekly sessions and increase physical activity levels leading to a healthier lifestyle
- Access information in their own language, providing them a greater awareness of healthy lifestyle, weight management, and knowledge of their own body/health needs
- Attend the sessions in a familiar space with friends from the community

