



# Community Solutions Thematic Fund

Community Solutions funding is awarded to a range of CVS organisations to provide services on selected 'thematic' issues



## Impact and Learning Flash Report - 2024-25

### April 2024 - September 2024

### What is the Thematic Fund?

Community Solutions thematic funding is awarded to a range of CVS organisations to provide services and support to residents on selected, priority 'thematic' issues. This funding is provided by **University Health and Social Care Partnership North Lanarkshire**. The next pages will outline the outcomes and feedback for each of the themes below.

**£512k**  
of funding  
was ring-fenced  
in total

Anticipatory Care

Hospital Discharge Support

Home Visiting and Befriending

Community Transport

Carer Capacity Building

Community Food

Physical Activity

The Physical Activity theme was funded by NL Council during this reporting period, and is therefore excluded from this report

### The future of the Thematic Fund

In 2025-26, Community Solutions intends to remodel the thematic funding, in order 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. Based on learning from the initial stages from the thematic review, the Lens process, experience managing the CMHWB Fund, and a CVS consultation process, a new thematic funding model was presented.

The **last page of this report** outlines the consultation process and new funding model.



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### Anticipatory Care

Community Solutions funds local CVS organisation **Equals Advocacy** to employ advocacy workers to connect older, frail adults to services and support at an early stage, supported by a Primary Care Frailty Multidisciplinary Team and an advocacy worker, in liaison with health and social care staff

**£40k**  
of funding  
was awarded

### So far, in 2024-25 the project has

...supported  
**274**  
unique individuals

...held training  
sessions,  
information stalls  
and taken on cases

...contributed towards the following  
**outcomes**

**43**  
people feel more connected, included and safe

**43**  
adults' health and wellbeing improved

**274**  
people feel more informed and aware

**8**  
carers feel more informed and aware

**8**  
carers health and wellbeing improved

### Case studies show...

"The client referred themselves to the advocacy service following the recent bereavement of their partner. The client wished to plan for their future and secure themselves a tenancy closer to family. **The client benefited from having their views heard**, increased participation in the decision-making process and a reduction in stress and anxiety. The client also benefited from obtaining a secure tenancy and accessing appropriate services and supports."

Case study by Advocacy worker

"The client was referred to the service by their social worker, the client had expressed a wish to revoke their current POA and also wished to plan for their future should their health deteriorate. **They were able to effectively plan for their future** and experienced a reduction in stress and anxiety. The client also further benefited from having increased participation in the decision making process and increased security within their tenancy."

Case study by Advocacy worker



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### Home visiting and Befriending

This theme provides support to people who are lonely and isolated to increase their social support and connections, thus improving their quality of life and wellbeing. Since 2012, Community Solutions has provided funding to nine CVS organisations to recruit, and support trained volunteer befrienders

**£195k**  
of funding  
was awarded

- Befriend Motherwell
- Getting Better Together
- Orbiston Neighbourhood Centre
- CACE
- Glenboig Development Trust
- Volunteering Matters
- Elim Befriending
- Home-Start
- YMCA Bellshill and Mossend

### So far, in 2024-25 the projects have

...delivered  
**5040**  
sessions

...supported  
**1134**  
individuals

...been supported by  
**176 volunteers**  
contributing  
**12,375 hours**

...contributed towards the following  
**outcomes**

**383**

people feel more connected, included and safe

**446**

adults' health and wellbeing improved

**283**

people feel more informed and aware

**110**

carers' health and wellbeing improved

### Case studies show...

"The young person has Autism, undiagnosed ADHD, and has become increasingly withdrawn, especially following the COVID-19 pandemic. Since starting the 1:1 support, they have made significant **improvements in confidence and independence**. This included getting haircuts, ordering food themselves. Now, they actively participate in family outings and feels confident in social settings."

Case study by YMCA Bellshill and Mossend Youth Worker

"After a very difficult stay in hospital, E struggled with their mood and getting out of bed, which was also taking a toll on their partner's mental health. Over the course of the befriending relationship, volunteer D has seen a huge improvement in E, so much so that E is now attending one of our groups and D is taking a step back as the main goal has been achieved"

Case study by CACE

Volunteering Matters volunteer

"This experience provided insight into the challenges faced by young carers. It has been **extremely rewarding seeing my relationship with the young person grow** and see her open up. This work not only contributes to personal growth but also a sense of community and social responsibility."



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## Carer Capacity Building

**North Lanarkshire Carers Together** provides Carer Capacity Building by:

- Supporting the Carer Support Network, which brings carers together to share information, provide peer support and develop collective views to inform policy and practice
- Supporting development of the Carer Breather fund
- Influence carers policy and services through participation in the North Lanarkshire Carers Strategy Group and other forums

**£40k**  
of funding  
was awarded

## So far, in 2024-25 the project has

...held **2**  
quarterly **Carer Support Network**  
meetings,  
attended by  
approximately  
**30 people**

...provided **training** on  
topics including:

- Human Rights and Caring
- Carer Pathway Toolkit
- Data collection
- Carer Aware training

...created **videos** of  
the Carer Breather  
projects that were  
shared on NLCT  
social media

...held a **consultation** on  
how to improve Carer  
Breather, with a **report**  
published in September

## Feedback shows...

"We have found the CSN has provided a forum for the exchange of ideas, **mutual support**, and meaningful networking opportunities"

Feedback from  
CSN attendee

"I thought Shubhanna's presentation was really good. The **Human Rights angle** has already been discussed within team and I will send and share the info"

Feedback on the Human Rights  
and Caring training

"It's such a valuable resource for us in terms of access to wider consultation out with just our clients which will be valuable for leveraging and **evidencing need** in other funding applications."

Feedback on the Carer Breather Consultation report



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## Impact and Learning Flash Report - 2024-25 April 2024 - September 2024

### Hospital Discharge Support Service

The aim of HDSP, hosted by **Getting Better Together** is to provide helpful CVS discharge support to patients and their carers. This support can be provided both pre and post discharge and can include:

- Information and advice on CVS and wider supports
- Referrals into community supports to promote social opportunities, wellbeing and self-management
- Various practical supports to help make discharge more manageable

**£77.5k**  
of funding  
was awarded

“**HDSP continued to develop and adapt throughout this period.** The service would now like to adopt a new, more focused approach going forward that supports people but also helps the hospital flow system operate more safely. This is hoped to be achieved via a regular targeted list of patients/carers that would benefit from our service's input provided by key acute colleagues.”

Team Leader Gary Donegan on learning from the programme

### So far, in 2024-25 the project has

...supported **624** unique individuals, including **260** unpaid carers

...made the discharge process **clearer and more manageable** for patients and carers

...created a **video adopting a storytelling approach** to demonstrate how the service works

...directly supported **440** people, of which **236** on behalf of carers

...provided tailored discharge information packs to **221** patients

...provided tailored discharge information packs to **174** carers

### ...contributed towards the following **outcomes**

**289**  
patients feel more informed and aware

**196**  
carers feel more informed and aware

**231**  
people's health and wellbeing improved

**165**  
carers' health and wellbeing improved



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### Community Transport

Community Transport, delivered by **Getting Better Together**, supports vulnerable residents to travel to essential appointments and key activities, supporting their health, wellbeing and inclusion. Community Transport services are demand-responsive and therefore determined by service users' requirements

**£72k**  
of funding  
was awarded

### So far, in 2024-25 the project has

completed  
**5956**  
passenger journeys

been supported by  
**8**  
volunteer drivers

### Community Food

**Lanarkshire Community Health and Food Partnership (LCFHP)**'s role within the Community Food theme is to provide cookery classes and nutritional advice for groups within North Lanarkshire, to contribute to a positive change in eating behaviour and a healthier diet.

Since March 2021 LCFHP have been working with VANL on organisational development. The core activity of nutrition programmes were part of this organisational review and development. As of September 2024, the group have reestablished the classes.

In the April 2024 - September 2024 period, Community Solutions continued to fund LCFHP for the emergency food parcels, with funding for this service transferring to the council. They delivered community nutrition sessions that previous thematic funding helped shape, with the support of £17,770 additionally secured funding.

### So far, in 2024-25 the project has

delivered  
**1,217**  
emergency food  
parcels

delivered  
**62**  
community nutrition  
sessions

approximately  
**60**  
parcels per month  
are for children

secured  
**£17,770**  
additional funding  
for the delivery of  
nutrition sessions



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### Remodelling the Thematic Fund

Between July - September, a consultation took place to discuss the remodel of the Thematic Fund for 2025-26 onward. The new model comprises of two stages, the second stage being open to CVS applicants across North Lanarkshire. Priorities for each strand will be set annually.

### We consulted...

- The **Home Visiting and Befriending** network
- The **steering group**, including stakeholders involved in CS Governance structures and **UHSCP-NL Senior Leadership**
- **Community Solutions Locality Hosts**
- The **NL Wide Consortium**, representing the North Lanarkshire CVS organisations

### Overview of the new model

Top slice for strategically important projects

Innovation  
-  
40% of remaining funds

Volunteering/  
Befriending  
-  
40% of remaining funds

North Lanarkshire  
Wide projects  
-  
20% of remaining funds

STAGE 1

STAGE 2

More information on the application process, timelines and priorities will soon be available on the CS website

- £512k ringfenced in total
- CVS organisations can apply for £10-50k per strand

over 80 people in total

### Consultation found...

- Recognition that a **new model is necessary**
- The need for **flexibility** to be embedded in the funding model to allow for change based on learning from the first phase of funding
- Desire for **co-production** as a key element in the new model
- Need for **application support** embedded in the funding timeline