


EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

**vibrant**

COMMUNITIES

THE  
STORY  
SO FAR



PEOPLE  
ARE AT THE  
HEART OF  
EVERYTHING  
WE DO 

# Vibrant Communities... the story so far

East Ayrshire Council's Vibrant Communities Service has been up and running since April 2013 and its impact on local people and communities in that short period of time has been far-reaching.

This unique service, which brings together the skills and talents of over 100 employees, has attracted considerable national interest from other local authorities, Health and Social Care Partnerships and major funders. This is due to its innovative and often life-changing approach to service development and delivery, empowering members of our communities, young and old, to live happy, healthy, connected and fulfilling lives.

We have provided a range of keynote presentations and workshops at national conferences and events and the Vibrant Communities approach is being widely recognised as informing the Community Empowerment agenda across Scotland and the UK.

## What we do

Vibrant Communities works with all sectors of the community including children and young people, adults and older people and the wider community to develop sustainable communities and reduce inequalities through prevention and early intervention services. People are at the heart of everything we do.

**Vibrant Communities works 'with and for' local communities rather than 'doing to' them. The aim is to balance the relationship between those who design and deliver services and the people who ultimately use them.**

**Vibrant Communities has started to change culture and unlock the knowledge, skills and experience of local people and employees, to harness the enthusiasm, talent and 'can do' spirit that exists across East Ayrshire.**

# Whole council and partner approach

The Vibrant Communities service is working across all Council and partner services to ensure a consistent approach. The Vibrant Communities team has delivered over 40 presentations and workshops to employee groups and partners about asset based approaches, creativity, solution focused work and sharing positive practice.

**“Working with Vibrant Communities has helped me to develop a positive relationship with the communities of East Ayrshire. The officers I am in contact with are always very enthusiastic and positive and my role is made easier due to their contribution at the event planning stage and their partnership working.”**

Keith Stewart *Ayrshire Roads Alliance*

**Vibrant Communities are a resource to assist anyone who is identified as vulnerable or a cause of anti-social behaviour. They have also been useful for me personally in navigating the geography of a new area. I know who Vibrant Communities are and I know I can make full use of their knowledge and expertise.”**

Inspector John Cairns *Kilmarnock*

**“Psychological Services have a very effective working relationship with Vibrant Communities through a range of different partnerships. These include working together through the relationships and parenting programme on improving our health and wellbeing curriculum in secondary schools, and linking with key members of the service regarding individual young people’s additional support needs. The breadth of knowledge and experience in thinking creatively about appropriate supports that would assist and build upon the skills and interests of a young person, for themselves, their school and family, has assisted us greatly in achieving more positive outcomes.”**

Nicola Stewart *Senior Educational Psychologist*

# Our key highlights

Key highlights from Vibrant Communities since 2013 include:

**11 Community Led Action Plans published**

**Large-scale events** Playday, Queen's Baton Relay, Communities' Conference for Community Led Action Plans, Older People's 'Full of Life' event, Celebration of Learner's Achievements Award Ceremony and our Youth Conference

**114 STUDENT PLACEMENTS**

**ELEVEN PAID WORK EXPERIENCE PLACES**

**10 MODERN APPRENTICES**

**100+ supporting over 100 groups to develop legacy projects and events**



LEGACY 2014  
XX COMMONWEALTH GAMES  
SCOTLAND

**TALENTED ATHLETE PROGRAMME**  
supporting over 70 high level athletes

70+

13 **NEW**  
**VOLUNTARY**  
**SPORTS CLUBS**

**OVER £300,000**  
of legacy related  
external funding



14 **COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER**  
applications approved so far

**Developing a Council-wide Framework for volunteering**

**175** **NEW**  
**VOLUNTEERS**

19,000 **HOURS**  
OF MANAGED  
VOLUNTEERING

108

supporting 108 **community**  
and **voluntary groups**  
with application and  
funding advice

which has contributed to  
funding gains of **£4.57m**  
within East Ayrshire

**£4.57**  
**MILLION**





# Youth voice

A large part of Vibrant Communities' work involves encouraging young people to participate in positive activities and divert them from anti-social behaviour. A major success factor in doing this has been the combination of Youth Work and Sports Development within a single team which has enabled a fusion of skills and talents from across the workforces, blurring the roles and ultimately improving the outcomes for young people.

In 2014 as part of our legacy ambitions, we led the referendum registration programme in schools and community venues resulting in over 85% of 16 and 17 year-olds in East Ayrshire registering to vote. Work will continue for future elections to support young people's active participation within civic life including voter registration. 2015 also saw East Ayrshire poll some of the highest turnouts in terms of votes cast for Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament with some polling stations registering up to 86.4%.

**18 year-old Erin Fagan is involved in keeping the legacy of Glasgow 2014 alive and she admits that her life has completely changed since getting involved in community programmes like MEND and youth activities. Once a shy and quiet person, Erin is now attending college in order to pursue her dream career in either social work or youth work. She is also one of East Ayrshire's Youth Legacy Ambassadors, has attended the Commonwealth Youth Summit with young people from all over the world, and got to meet her idol, swimmer Rebecca Addlington.**

**“YOUTH WORK DOESN'T JUST CHANGE YOUR LIFE BUT IT ALSO CHANGES YOUR PERCEPTIONS OF THE WORLD WE LIVE IN.”** Erin Fagan

We've facilitated young people's engagement in some of the most hard-hitting issues affecting society in Scotland today such as domestic violence, bullying and harassment, and issues affecting our LGBT young people, and we've encouraged the channelling of young people's positive action on these issues to improve the communities they live in. From a sample of 180 local young people who participated in the team's activities, 85.5% had further developed their skills with 90.9% growing in confidence.

We've worked extensively with our partners in the third sector to bring about equitable provision of positive youth work activities across our communities, in the knowledge that youth work improves the life chances of our young people.



# Capturing our legacy

We have enhanced the infrastructure of our local sports clubs and have rolled out Positive Coaching Scotland Workshops; work that we are very much at the forefront of in Scotland and which typifies our Sport for Development approach. At the same time, we have supported East Ayrshire's most Talented Athletes to develop within their chosen sport through a Talented Athlete Support Fund, growing the number of athletes year on year and building in a reciprocal arrangement which sees athletes regularly working in community activities where they inspire others to take up sport.

Developing sporting opportunities for young people is an integral part of the service Vibrant Communities provides and in 2014 this was more important than ever. A particular highlight involved supporting community clubs and local athletes in the run up to the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games, and leading the delivery of a very successful Queen's Baton Relay throughout East Ayrshire.

***"The success of the work we did collectively in the lead up to the Commonwealth Games, and more recently, in our combined efforts to make Kilmarnock Town Centre a better place, undoubtedly demonstrate the enthusiasm and capability of those involved in driving Vibrant Communities."***

Chief Inspector Clarke Callaghan

Through our Active Schools programme, an impressive 100% of schools have participated in five or more of our competitions and events with over 4000 primary aged children, 2000 secondary and 200 children with additional support needs taking part. All of our schools registered on the 'Game On Scotland' Educational Resource and every primary 5 class across the Council area participated in Club Golf.

In partnership with the Youth Sports Trust, the service supports young leaders to work with school and community partners to create exciting and innovative physical activity and active schools projects. 16 year-old Ross from Kilmarnock has had a very positive experience on the Connecting Communities programme which included communication and coaching workshops and an SFA Early Touches course.

Ross said: ***"I was a bit unsure about taking part but I loved the football course and it has helped me to be more confident in myself. I feel I can talk more confidently and make decisions and I love working with the children."***

Ross's personal development has provided other opportunities for him including paid employment on a sessional basis with Kilmarnock Football Club as one of its football coaches for the Mini Kickers programme.





# Unlocking potential

For younger, or more vulnerable children and their families, we deliver early interventions and prevention approaches.

Our Playday Celebration won the accolade of 'Best Have a Field Day' at the National Fields in Trust awards and, known as one of the biggest free play events in the country, prompted a visit from the Minister for Children and Young People, Aileen Campbell MSP.

**Vibrant Communities also runs a Befriending Service and someone who has particularly benefited from this is secondary school pupil Kieran. Kieran's family had relocated to East Ayrshire from England and they had no extended family. They felt socially isolated, particularly as Kieran's mum was very protective of Kieran and his sister.**

**Kieran had always done well at school, but since starting secondary had gravitated towards a peer group where he felt he had to prove himself and his behaviour started to change in a negative way. Kieran was introduced to a Befriender who had a lot in common with Kieran and who turned out to be a very positive role model for him. He helped Kieran by advising him on how to change his behaviour, and a few months later, after spending time with his Befriender and getting out and about a bit more, Kieran was awarded a merit at school.**

**Kieran's life has now greatly improved and he has even been on the radio to talk about his experiences with the Befriending Service.**

**Kieran said: *"Before, I was a bit shy and I wasn't good at communicating with people. Having a Befriender has made me brighter and given my confidence a real boost because he has taken me out to places where I haven't been before and enabled me to enjoy myself. I am not even 100% happy, I'm 101 or 102!"***

We have supported a number of children, young people and families through 1-2-1 or small groupwork interventions including Play@home, support to children and families of prisoners and specifically supporting children who are looked after and accommodated within East Ayrshire Children's Houses. Our 'MEND' child healthy weight programmes are a particular area of success with a focus on reducing childhood obesity using asset based approaches with children and their families.

All Ability Sport is high on the agenda and we have made great progress in terms of enhancing opportunities and infrastructure, with more activities and clearer pathways. Role models are also important and we have promoted the achievements of some of our most successful disabled athletes as well as young leaders.



supporting **36** active  
befrienders and respective  
befriendees



supporting volunteering  
a total of **3841** hours have been  
delivered



supporting over **2800** children  
and young people at risk of  
isolation



organising the annual **Playday**  
which attracts up to **10,000**  
children and their families



***“The Zone Initiative Limited has worked closely with Vibrant Communities over the last few years developing our services to better fit the needs of our children, young people and local community. Our staff meet regularly with Vibrant Communities staff to make sure that we are not duplicating work already happening in the area and to discuss what we can do to enhance one another’s services to the local community. We have enjoyed a good healthy working relationship with staff especially whilst securing the asset transfer for units on Main Street, Dalmellington for Doon Valley Amateur Boxing Club.”*** Elaine Stewart, The Zone Dalmellington

# Young ambassadors

Active Schools have 18 Young Ambassadors who have been trained and mentored to enable them to promote and deliver sports in our schools and communities. One Young Ambassador is 16 year-old Heather Wallace, our first female Ambassador from Park School.

Heather recently attended our Leadership Residential and participated in an inspiring and motivational weekend of team building and leadership skills development. She has used this experience to motivate and inspire the children, young people and staff at Park School and to develop sporting opportunities within the school.

Heather voluntarily gives her time to support and coach the young children at a multi-sports extracurricular club and she has been instrumental in establishing a pupil sports council and assisting with the school’s application to sportscotland’s School Sport Awards.

After Heather returned from the Leadership Residential, Park School’s Headteacher Julie Dunlop said:

***“Heather is a different girl. She loved it and the weekend has been wonderful for her in terms of making new friends, socialising, and learning new skills. Heather has returned to school enthused and focused on what she wants to achieve as our Young Ambassador.”***

# Full of life

For adults and older people, we work to provide a range of innovative and dedicated services that can help everyone live longer, healthier lives at home or in a homely setting.

So far, our work has made a very positive impact on residents' wellbeing, with over 1650 community based exercise classes being delivered over the last two years attracting over 20,000 recorded attendances. The volunteer-led walking programme has had over 2500 attendances and a further 1500 at walks for people with mental health problems.

The CHIP Van, as it travels throughout East Ayrshire, continues to be an important first contact for local people wishing to keep an eye on their health and get lifestyle advice, whilst the Activity On Prescription programme is helping people who need a bit more support to improve their wellbeing.

**Since starting the Invigor8 falls management programme, over 250 people have been assessed and the results are very encouraging. The number of reported falls from programme participants has reduced from 35% to 19% in a 12 month period with 57% showing improved balance and 75% having a reduced fear of falling.**

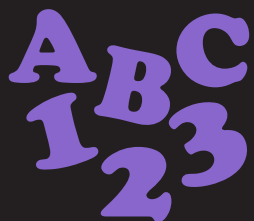
***"I was referred to Invigor8 by my physio to improve my balance. Before going along, I thought it was just going to be a keep fit class. In the first few weeks I got a shock as I didn't realise I was so unfit. After 12 weeks though, I now feel that I would miss the class if I didn't go. I enjoy the social aspect of the class. I also feel fitter now than when I started, and my mobility has improved."*** Invigor8 programme participant

Social connections are one of the major ways to wellbeing and we know that some of our older population in particular can feel isolated. Weekly social clubs, activities and outings are now available across East Ayrshire's Supported Accommodation which offers opportunities for residents and members of the surrounding community to connect, socialise, pursue hobbies and stay active. Some of the most popular have included the Golden Olympics and Golden Talent Show alongside the annual CHIPmas party which brings together over 150 older people for some festive fun. Weekly social activities range from quiz nights, tea dances, bowling and bingo to trips out on canal boats, and to Ayr races.





# Over the past two years



**843** people have been helped to improve and develop their literacy + numeracy skills



**186** adults with learning disabilities have been assisted to live fulfilling + independent lives



**201** parents have participated in family literacy learning



**281** adult learners were able to improve their digital skills

# Skills for life

In terms of life skills and inclusion, we support people to acquire the knowledge, skills and confidence necessary for them to play an active and productive role in their personal, community, family and working lives.

People are supported to achieve positive outcomes through planned learning experiences, which develop their literacies and learning skills for life, learning and work. Improving literacy and learning can ultimately be life changing for many people, helping them to contribute to their own personal, social and economic development.

Over the past two years, 843 people have been helped to improve and develop their literacy and numeracy skills; 186 adults with learning disabilities have been assisted to live fulfilling and independent lives and 201 parents have participated in family literacy learning.

New learning programmes have been developed which focus on financial and political literacies and these are making a very positive impact on people's lives. We have developed a financial literacies programme entitled Money MOT in conjunction with Jobcentre Plus which has been designed to help people manage their finances and make use of financial services. The programme has been well received by participants and has been highlighted as an example of good practice and joint working within Jobcentre Plus.

The impact of our work is illustrated by people like James, who recognised that he needed help with reading and writing. With support from the team, he was able to pass his driving test and has become more active in his local community. Or there's Jodie,

who was referred to the team by the Criminal Justice Service. Her improved literacy skills have had a very positive effect on her personally, her relationship with her child has improved and she has now been able to find work. There's also the 'Things Tae Dae' Social Hub, which started as an informal support group for people with learning disabilities. After receiving some assistance from the team, it now has its own committee and organises weekly activities for members.

***“Things Tae Dae lets me meet with my friends and keeps me busy. I'm involved in a lot more now and feel happy to be part of the group.”***

## Group Member

Our Local Area Co-ordinators connect disabled people, families and communities to promote social inclusion, where communities are open and welcoming to all people as equal citizens. We support people with learning disabilities and additional support needs to live full and independent lives in their community and help them to develop their skills, experience and abilities. The team also supports and co-ordinates the annual Learning Disability Awareness Week in June each year which includes a wide range of partnership workshops, events and performances across our communities.







# Our communities

Communities across East Ayrshire are embarking on an exciting journey which will reap significant rewards and long lasting benefits for local people for years to come.

## Community Led Action Plans

Vibrant Communities has been successfully helping to make connections between communities and partner agencies and over the last year, we have been seeing a real transformation in how communities are developing and engaging with each other.

Vibrant Communities focuses on empowering and building the capacity of local people and communities, and developing strong social networks. It does this more specifically through the deployment of dedicated Community Workers to support communities to identify local assets and bring together local groups, associations and communities of interest; prioritise actions through local surveys and consultation, and develop a five year community led action plan.

Work is already under way to support the development of locally led action plans in every one of East Ayrshire's communities over the next three years and so far, 11 Community Led Action Plans have been launched. This approach underpins the Council's aspiration to transform our relationship with the communities we serve, ensuring that communities are empowered to plan, prioritise and progress community led regeneration in their area. There are also clear links with our Community Planning arrangements ensuring that local people have a real voice and can influence the decisions which impact on their communities.

Communities who have developed an action plan have been involved in a wide range of activities including community events and festivals; village clean-ups; improved signage; developing local brands, products for sale and websites, and improving village appearance, path networks and traffic management.

**New Cumnock was one of the first communities in East Ayrshire to produce such a plan. In consultation with the local community and with support from the Great Steward of Scotland's Dumfries House Trust (GSSDHT) and East Ayrshire Council, the village is now set to undergo major regeneration. New Cumnock Town Hall is being completely transformed and re-developed for community use, while a £3.2m community square project will see the site of the current library, games hall and community centre being redeveloped into a creative public space. A completely new frontage and new side entrance is proposed for New Cumnock's outdoor swimming pool which will be transformed into a traditional style lido, and a new community garden, heritage centre, community cafe and adventure play park also feature in the plans.**





The Community Led Action Plan groups had the opportunity to attend the 'Inspiring, Investing, Invigorating' conference hosted at Dumfries House in August 2014. Delegates got to share their experiences, make connections with others and hear from an international speaker from the USA about community led regeneration, as well as national funders and the business sector about various funding and investment opportunities.

## Community Asset Transfer

A dedicated team within Vibrant Communities was established to support the Community Asset Transfer (CAT) process across East Ayrshire which involves the transfer of the responsibility of an asset from the Council to a community group or voluntary organisation. Our approach has attracted interest from other local councils in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

So far, 14 CAT applications have been approved including community facilities and areas of green space as well as sports facilities for football, boxing and karate. The CAT process presents local groups and communities with a unique opportunity to get involved in running facilities and delivering services – empowering them to help themselves and create a more sustainable future.

Auchinleck Community Development Initiative (ACDI) is progressing with exciting plans to create a community vegetable garden on vacant land at Quarry Knowe, Auchinleck. The ambition and scale of the development is evident from the fact that the group has already secured grants of £300,000 from Big Lottery and Score and it is clear that the project will benefit the whole community.

Stephen McCarron from the community organisation said: **“This new facility will be located in the heart of Auchinleck and will regenerate two acres of unused land into a visually attractive and fully functional community growing garden to be used by people of all ages. This initiative will not only propel ACDI into a new phase of development, but will provide social and economic benefits to the village and residents of Auchinleck, specifically in terms of over 20 new employment opportunities over a two year period.”**

Community Asset Transfer applicants are currently developing a range of exciting community led projects including a community hub with a shop , community football and sports facilities and a local heritage centre.

## Community Councils

Considerable work has also been carried out to raise the profile of Community Councils. This has included successful pilot schemes with Dalmellington Primary and James Hamilton and St Joseph's Academies to make pupils more aware of what's happening within their communities.

Community Councils have also been supported through training; an Induction Pack and Quick Reference Guide have been created and two Community Councils have been re-established. We also continue to run our annual Community Councils' Conference.



**“It has been a fantastic journey. I can’t believe we have got to where we are already and we have had terrific support from Vibrant Communities. The community has decided what we want for our community – we have ownership.”**



## Volunteer Framework

Harnessing the skills and talents of our employees and our communities through volunteering



- Sharing skills, talents, knowledge and understanding
- Supporting personal and organisational development
- Building stronger, more vibrant communities
- Recognising and valuing volunteers
- Promoting corporate social responsibility through Employer Supported Volunteering

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East Ayrshire  
COUNCIL

# Volunteering

The East Ayrshire Volunteering Framework developed by Vibrant Communities was launched in 2015. The Framework is a really exciting piece of work which brings together and expands all of our volunteering activity, ensuring a high quality and rewarding experience for everyone who is involved.

**Nicole Walker is a great example of someone who has been successful in volunteering. Nicole started volunteering with the Play and Early Intervention Team in 2012 and helped out at various sessions including Night Leagues, activities in sheltered accommodation units and holiday programmes. She also attended a range of training courses such as paediatric first aid and, along the way, she gained valuable experience and confidence.**

**The employability skills that Nicole gained gave her an advantage when we were recruiting for Modern Apprentices. She successfully applied for an apprenticeship with the Play and Early Intervention Team in 2014 and began working towards her SVQ in Social Care. Soon afterwards, Nicole was appointed to the post of Assistant Activities Worker.**

**As a result of Nicole's dedication, enthusiasm and commitment to volunteering, she was nominated as a Baton Bearer for the Commonwealth Games and proudly carried the Queen's Baton from Cumnock Rugby Club to Visions Leisure Centre in June 2014.**

A new feature of this work is the Council's Supported Volunteering Programme which allows all East Ayrshire Council employees to be granted paid special leave to volunteer in our local communities for one day per year. This opportunity represents a massive potential 6000 days of volunteering commitment in our local area and allows our employees to share their skills and talents and become better connected with the communities we serve. The Framework also recognises and further develops the many local volunteers who currently contribute their time and talents day in and day out. We hope that more Council services will be supported through the Framework and our new staff handbook to recruit and provide volunteering experiences for local people.

We will work closely with the Volunteer Centre and the Council for Voluntary Organisations (CVO) within East Ayrshire to ensure there is an effective and consistent approach to volunteer development across our area. Vibrant Communities will oversee the application of the Volunteer Framework and will provide practical support to developing volunteering across the Council, working with other services to achieve the Volunteer Friendly Award in the future.

# External funding and Community Investment

Vibrant Communities' External Funding Officers have been involved in numerous workshops and events and have helped 108 community and voluntary groups with application and funding advice which have contributed to funding gains of £4.57 million within East Ayrshire. We are also building strong relationships with major funders and national and local businesses to encourage investment in our communities.

***“The Big Lottery Fund has learned a lot from the approach of the Vibrant Communities team at East Ayrshire Council - from the culture within the organisation itself, to the ways in which the team are working with people in communities. Our shared commitment to putting people at the heart of everything we do has enabled flexible and honest partnership working between us.”***

Mhairi Reid, The Big Lottery Fund

As part of our commitment to providing support and assistance to community and voluntary groups, charities, businesses and social enterprises in search of external funding opportunities, we operate a free to use resource called East Ayrshire 4 Funding <http://www.open4community.info/eastayrshire1/default.aspx>

It provides a streamlined and cohesive approach to external funding and enables groups and businesses to identify the best range of funders for their particular projects and initiatives. Over the past two years, 470 groups and organisations have registered to use the East Ayrshire 4 Community site and there have been over 7,000 visits and associated searches in the same period.

**The dogs at Islay Dog Rescue benefited from £755 being raised through Crowdfunding with the support of Vibrant Communities. The rescue centre operates on a shoestring budget and the money raised enabled it to buy much-needed heaters for the dog's kennels.**

**Raising the money meant that the dogs didn't have to suffer another cold winter and a local group was supported in its important work.**





WHAT'S  
NEXT FOR

**VIBRANT**  
**COMMUNITIES**



# What's next...

Community Led Action Plans will continue to be rolled out over the next three years, so that every community that wishes to develop a Plan will be given the support to do so. Overall, we will keep on supporting, developing and enabling communities to become stronger, more resilient, supportive and inclusive. We want communities to have the chance to realise their aspirations and lead on positive change and regeneration in their local area.

We will implement the Council's Volunteer Framework which includes the Supported Volunteering Programme, allowing all East Ayrshire Council employees to be granted paid special leave to volunteer in our local communities for one day per year.

In the next year we will take forward new developments in Therapeutic Play with an initial pilot within Children's Houses. We will also look at ways to enhance our work with prisoners and their families through the provision of community pathways and support upon release.

The local play infrastructure will also be further developed to include the identification of 'Play Champions' and the roll out of our new PlaySpace toolkit will help community groups identify local spaces that can be developed as play areas which will support the priorities of Community Led Action Plans.

We will employ two new Sports Mentors from our pool of Talented Athletes, using their experiences and skills to help strengthen our sports clubs and inspire the next generation of sports people. At the same time we will implement the Council's new £250,000 Sports Legacy Fund which will allow us to maintain and build on our early legacy gains through more work with voluntary and community organisations involved in sport, with a focus on equitable participation.

We will work with our communities to introduce a new annual celebration day for East Ayrshire, inspired by the overwhelming success of the Queen's Baton Relay.

We will also establish a Youth Work Providers' Network and host our annual Youth Conference. We will work with our new members of the Scottish Youth Parliament to give young people a voice in everything we do.

Due to the increasing number of older people living in our communities, we will be gearing up our services over the next year to help prevent ill health and support self-management of illnesses that are associated with age, such as heart disease, stroke and some cancers. We will also be increasing our work to build social connections amongst older people, introducing a Befriending service and encouraging social activities and the development of new groups.

We will also continue to work with people to improve their own wellbeing and live in good health for longer with a focus on lifestyle factors such as obesity and mild/moderate mental health problems which are having a significant effect on people's health.

With the onset of welfare reform and Self Directed Support, we will have an increased role over the next twelve months in ensuring that people's literacies and learning needs are addressed to help them achieve positive outcomes.

We will further develop our work in external funding and community investment. We want to work more strategically with large funders and encourage business investment in our communities. We will also introduce timebanking.

One of our partners from East Ayrshire Churches describes our future journey together:

***‘We are at the early stages of a more collaborative approach and it takes time to build trust. Nevertheless I sense real commitment to the greater good and understanding of the value of collective goals over individual ones. A shared agenda, vision and pooling of resources of private, public and voluntary sectors will, I believe, result in an increasingly attractive and mutually beneficial way of renewing our communities to the benefit of all.’***

Rev David S Cameron, New Laigh Kirk, Kilmarnock

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**we will continue to work  
with our communities  
and partners in new and  
innovative ways to share  
knowledge, skills and talents,  
and to encourage investment  
of time and resources to  
help to make East Ayrshire's  
communities truly vibrant**







# THE STORY CONTINUES...