

# Cowdenbeath Area Tackling Poverty Actions Update 2024

## Tacking Poverty 1

### Improvement focus

Poverty work in the Cowdenbeath Area has a focus on preventative work. There's a better understanding of the reasons and impact of poverty within the area, shared across partners. This new insight supports planned interventions, which seek to prevent and/or lift people out of poverty, rather than just deliver crisis support where people are locked into poverty.

### Planned outcome

Poverty work in the Cowdenbeath Area has a focus on preventative work. There's a better understanding of the reasons and impact of poverty within the area, shared across partners. This new insight supports planned interventions, which seek to prevent and/or lift people out of poverty, rather than just deliver crisis support where people are locked into poverty.

Ref	Action	Year 1 - Updates
TP.1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meet regularlry (8 weekly) with the Poverty Action Group to share information, seek preventative work and explore opportunities to tackle poverty.</li> <li>Keep the partnership group up to date with developments from the Tackling Poverty and Preventing Crisis Board. e.g. Poverty Training, Benefit Checker.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meetings taking place regularly.</li> <li>Key outcomes from the TPPC Board highlighted at meetings.</li> <li>Key Poverty Update Newsletters shared with group.</li> </ul>
TP.1.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Poverty Action Group will provide regular feedback to the Partnership Group.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Updates provided to partnership group on the work of the Poverty Action Group. Linking areas of work between the two groups to maximise partnership opportunities and information sharing.</li> </ul>
TP.1.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deliver a programme of presentations to the CPAG from partners and other organisations to raise awareness of different projects, research and initiatives.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Foodbank presentation - March 2024.</li> <li>CARF presentation - May 2024</li> <li>New Scots presentation - May 2024</li> <li>Child Maintenance (Fife Gingerbread) presentation - Sept 2024</li> </ul>
TP.1.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CASH FIRST - Develop a cash first trial in Cowdenbeath Area to identify the impacts of a cash first approach in the community.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fife wide discussions taking place on cash first, with each of the 7 areas to undertake a trial tailored to the area.</li> <li>Meetings ongoing to develop a Cowdenbeath offering, which provides holistic support to participants and seeks to understand the broader outcomes and benefits from the pilot for participants.</li> </ul>

Ref	Action	Year 1 - Updates
TP.1.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Credit Union - Promote the Credit Union and local development work to support people to save and budget, helping to reduce the likelihood of future crisis, and helping people access safe loans at times of need.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Little presence in the area. Reached out to credit unions to explore opportunities.</li> <li>• Exploring opportunity to have a part-time officer promoting credit unions, recruiting new members, developing good savings habits and delivering budgeting advice and training.</li> <li>• Explore opportunity to deliver a savings incentive scheme in conjunction with Credit Unions.</li> <li>• Three attempts to secure funding for credit union project unsuccessful.</li> <li>• Continuing to look for opportunities to support and promote credit unions as a support mechanism for tackling poverty, building resilience and supporting Community Wealth Building.</li> </ul>

# Tacking Poverty 2

## Improvement focus

Undertake community engagement around poverty challenges, with an engagement event to take place in five venues throughout the area during 2023/24.

## Planned outcome

Welfare support across the area has had a greater reach, capturing people who previously hadn't received support. Awareness of available support has increased within the community.

Ref	Action	Year 1 - Updates
TP.2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Undertake engagement work with the community to better understand the local causes of poverty and the potential solutions for easement.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Engagement work due to take place as part of the roadshows. Lack of participation prevented consultation work. New mechanism to be considered.</li><li>Work being undertaken centrally on a refreshed Peoples Panel.</li><li>Need to capture 'lived experience' input into poverty response. This costs money to support engagement. Potential to pick this element up with Cash First and get added insight into the poverty challenges our community face.</li></ul>
TP.2.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Deliver a welfare roadshow within communities to inform people of the support available including financial, benefits, wellbeing, social.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Roadshows delivered across 8 communities. Poor participation, but good networking with professionals. Some members of the community received a high standard of support.</li></ul>
TP.2.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Lived Experience - Seek to gain increased insight through input from people with lived experience and case studies.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>NEF have recruited project officers with lived experience. Seek to understand the work and value of these roles, to develop an approach for Cowdenbeath Area which utilises lived experience in shaping services.</li><li>Support other lived experience work with partners, including Health &amp; Social Care and Housing consultation work. Help connect members of the community with consultation events, to bring local voices of experience.</li></ul>
TP.2.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Investigate opportunities to hold a Hold Knowing Me, Knowing You event (TBC)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li></li></ul>

Ref	Action	Year 1 - Updates
TP.2.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribute to Social Policy discussions, including highlighting social policy issues so they can be considered for wider challenge and campaigning.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New mechanism established for recording social policy issues via Welfare Support Assistants in Fife (2024).</li> <li>Welfare Staff able to contribute to social policy information, which is shared with CARF.</li> <li>Social Policy issues highlighted in the area being raised through the Poverty Manager to TPPC board, CARF or other appropriate forums.</li> <li>Social policy issue highlighted during 2024 relating to maternity leave benefit impacts and challenges for people on maternity leave returning to work and gaps in benefits. This has been a challenge whereby some parents are experiencing barriers in returning to work due to the benefits system. Issue raised through CARF.</li> </ul>
TP.2.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pilot 121 sessions and engagement in partnership with Fife International Forum. This is aimed to better support immigrants, asylum seekers and minority groups engage with support and integrate locally.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pilot over September, October, November. Venues secured in Benarty, Cowdenbeath, Cardenden and Kelty. Awaiting confirmation for Lochgelly.</li> <li>These sessions will allow minority groups to seek support locally, from a specialist service, which helps remove barriers to support.</li> </ul>

# Tacking Poverty 3

## Improvement focus

Increase outreach work in local communities, connecting people most in need with welfare support and other services and offer additional support to those who experience barriers to self-service.

## Planned outcome

Greater opportunities to connect with staff locally for support around wellbeing and welfare issues.

Ref	Action	Year 1 - Updates
TP.3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Deliver a welfare roadshow within communities to inform people of the support available including financial, benefits, wellbeing, social.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>As TP.2.2.</li></ul>
TP.3.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Using additional resource provided through CRF recruit and deploy additional Welfare Staff resource to allow outreach sessions within schools and other community venues, providing welfare support to people who don't use traditional engagement methods.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Additional staff recruited from August 2023 until March 2025.</li><li>Outreach work ongoing across a number of groups and venues. Positive outcomes starting to be seen with work being recorded through Cognisoft.</li><li>310 sessions delivered over 12 months, with 371 clients receiving direct support for a number of issues. Over 500 people engaged via outreach work.</li></ul>
TP.3.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Develop parents &amp; children evening drop in sessions. Providing an opportunity for parents/carers to visit the school and speak with both school staff and other support services.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Beath have undertaken this and provided food and drink to encourage attendance. It had been well attended.</li><li>Drop in session delivered at Lochgelly High early 2024.</li><li>P7 parents night at Lochgelly High in May 2024 attended by outreach staff.</li></ul>
TP.3.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Increase outreach welfare work and connections with the Foodbanks to ensure that signposting is supported and we're connecting with foodbank users to help tackle poverty at the point of crisis.</li><li>Work with the Foodbanks to ensure that referrers are providing advice and support beyond a foodbank voucher.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Connect with local foodbanks and welfare staff to support the foodbank in providing a holistic support for the community.</li><li>Work being undertaken with Foodbank to identify any gaps where people are referred to the Foodbank without being offered broader preventative support.</li><li>Foodbank connected with alternative local support, ensuring clients can receive onward referrals.</li></ul>

Ref	Action	Year 1 - Updates
TP.3.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver benefit checker and energy advice training to CPAG members.</li> <li>• Promote training to a wider audience to include community groups and representatives, to ensure there is a wide network of support across the area to deliver this first level advice.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training delivered to CPAG members on 1/2/24.</li> <li>• Information circulated to CPAG on future training opportunities, encouraging wider uptake.</li> <li>• Promotion of training to wider community groups to help grow network of community support through online information sessions.</li> <li>• Housing staff across the area trained to provide benefit checks and basic energy advice.</li> </ul>
TP.3.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver Social Security Scotland drop in sessions to support people with ADP and CDP applications in the area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trial to take place in Maxwell Centre, linked in with Welfare Support staff.</li> <li>• Lack of resource means this is no longer viable following pilot. Continuing to support clients via Welfare Staff and Voiceability. SSS support is still available via appointment (face to face, virtual and phone) and stronger connections now made between SSS and WSAs.</li> </ul>
TP.3.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CARF Community Based workers available in the community for support. Increased links both direct with CARF staff and through direct links between welfare staff and CARF to reduce waiting times for support.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CARF staff now available across the community and Welfare Staff able to refer direct to community staff via FORT.</li> <li>• Regular meetings between CARF and Welfare Staff taking place.</li> <li>• This service is helping ensure that people who need support are able to receive this quickly and direct within their local area.</li> </ul>

# Tacking Poverty 4

## Improvement focus

Increase support for families with the cost of the school day to both support family finances and boost attendance and participation in schools.

## Planned outcomes

- Poor attendance linked to family finances is reduced.
- Opportunities to participate in all the school has to offer is available to everyone in the school community.

Ref	Action	Year 1 - Updates
TP.4.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Support development of School breakfast clubs across the area.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Some mapping undertaken. Requires further discussion with schools to develop sustainable models.</li><li>• This piece of work has been taken over by the TPPC Child Poverty Sub-Group to look at both breakfast and after school childcare provision.</li></ul>
TP.4.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Consider inclusivity of school trips and potential financial barriers to participation. Work to remove barriers.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Schools working to reduce financial barriers to participation in school trips.</li><li>• Support &amp; Connect staff working with schools to support those most in need.</li></ul>
TP.4.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Promote and encourage free school meals entitlement uptake. Develop a marketing campaign to encourage people to apply.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Initial leafleting and campaign at Lochgelly High in March '24. To be extended to other schools, linked in with Cafe Inc provision.</li><li>• Campaign launched on social media to promote uptake of Free School Meals, helping to explain the universal vs means tested provision.</li></ul>
TP.4.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Support and connect. Promotion, engagement and expansion to ensure everyone who needs support is aware of it and able to access it.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Social Security Scotland keen to work with Welfare Staff to deliver services within schools. Further discussion to take place.</li><li>• Support &amp; Connect staff working with schools across the area to support those most in need.</li></ul>
TP.4.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Eco Wardrobe - investigate and support development of Eco Wardrobes or uniform swap shops for both new and used clothes available through the school at low or no cost. Supports parents in accessing school clothing items, particularly any school branded items (ties, blazers, etc).</li></ul>	

# Tacking Poverty 5

## Improvement focus

Increased awareness of the support available to businesses in Cowdenbeath Area to thrive and adopt 'good work' principles for employees. E.g. the real living wage, work placements and training opportunities.

## Planned outcome

Businesses in Cowdenbeath Area are well connected with Council support and know where to go for information and advice.

Ref	Action	Year 1 - Updates
TP.5.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Promotion of Scotland Loves Local with businesses to increase participation in the scheme.</li><li>Consider opportunities to use SLL cards for crisis intervention, promotions, etc.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Programme was promoted at recent tourism conference (27th Feb 24), as well as various events during Fife Business Week in Nov 2023. Gift Cards purchased by Fife Council and housing associations from Apr 23 - date = £9,650</li><li>Meeting with Ec Dev on promotion of Fife Gift Card in Cowdenbeath to onboard more businesses, prior to promoting the gift card on the lead up to Christmas 2024.</li><li>The updated total gift card sales by Fife Council and Kingdom Housing Association (distributed to families in Fife): from Jan 2024 to date = £19,120 or if reporting on financial year, it is Apr 24 to date = £18,040.</li><li>One business participated in the recent business support programme from wards 7&amp;8 (Lochgelly based business).</li></ul>
TP.5.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Raise awareness of Business Gateway Fife business support services and knowledge of self employment opportunities for unemployed people.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Overlap into Community engagement to raise awareness.</li><li>Circulation of flyers and funding opportunities to promote business support services.</li><li>Reviewing Relationship Management Programme to ensure Fife wide coverage including key businesses in Cowdenbeath Area to ensure awareness of business support available to develop and grow.</li><li>The Town Centre flyer has been updated and recirculated, and Ec Dev are engaged with Area Team reviewing the businesses within Cowdenbeath High Street to determine BGFife engagement.</li><li>Town Centre Development Unit (TCDU) colleagues held a meeting with Cowdenbeath Area Team and visited some local town centre businesses.</li><li>TCDU recently attended Love Cowdenbeath business meeting therefore now established direct contact and will be working with the businesses more directly going forward. Ec Dev engaged and followed up with BGFife services and potential to engage Career Ready student to collate a Tik Tok for the Cowdenbeath High Street businesses following discussion with TCDU rep after the Love Cowdenbetah meeting. Ongoing engagement.</li></ul>



Ref	Action	Year 1 - Updates
TP.5.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate paid placements for students on college courses to alleviate issues of poverty to allow people to earn and learn.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Economic Development linking with Fife College and businesses to ensure courses are fit for purpose for skills requirements. Culture of Enterprise and DyW partnership led event at College showcasing Hospitality sector career opportunities.</li> <li>UPDATE = Ongoing engagement with Fife College. Currently mapping entrepreneurial engagement with Fife schools to signpost to Culture of Enterprise/wider enterprise agency activity and signpost to College courses/opps.</li> <li>Tourism Takeover event in partnership with Fife College - 5 Fife schools engaged – one of which was Lochgelly in the Cowdenbeath Area (x15 pupils from Lochgelly) and a collective x77 pupils across all 6 schools (Bell Baxter HS, Levenmouth HS, Lochgelly HS, Balwearie HS, Viewforth HS and Dunfermline HS)</li> <li>DYW were engaged in the tourism event through Sam Dick via Fife Chamber of Commerce DyW role who delivered a workshop as part of the day.</li> <li>In terms of Welcome to Fife support any hospitality, leisure and tourism business can link in with Welcome to Fife and the Heartlands of Fife tourism association. There are a number of Short Term Let properties in the area and of course the Fife Pilgrim touches the outskirts of Cowdenbeath and then joins in at Lochgelly. There is opportunity there for businesses to provide facilities and places to stay etc along the route.</li> <li><a href="https://industry.welcometofife.com/ta/heartlands-of-fife/">https://industry.welcometofife.com/ta/heartlands-of-fife/</a></li> <li><a href="https://www.welcometofife.com/destination/cowdenbeath">https://www.welcometofife.com/destination/cowdenbeath</a></li> </ul>
TP.5.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support businesses accessing information on how to attract, recruit and support apprentices, including business benefits associated with apprenticeships.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reviewing Relationship Management Programme to ensure Fife wide coverage including key businesses in Cowdenbeath to ensure awareness of business support available to develop and grow. Engaged with Employability colleagues to promote Scottish Apprenticeship Week.</li> <li>Revised Opportunities Fife Strategy approved. A good approach moving forward to have people at the centre to support the client journey. Colleagues currently engaged with the Employer Engagement Group. Reviewing best way forward/future representation from Ec Dev with the new – and approved – strategy to better engage with businesses on employability/apprenticeship opps.</li> <li>There is no comparison available for the whole of Employability for 2022-23. The Cowdenbeath Area 2022-23 data that was recorded shows that 9 clients supported on an employability programme gained employment with 3 being supported via a paid work placement.</li> </ul>

# Tacking Poverty 6

## Improvement focus

Increase both availability and awareness of educational opportunities, which will upskill people to improve employment prospects and personal development.

## Planned outcome

Increase in availability and awareness within the community on the educational opportunities available and how to access them.

Ref	Action	Year 1 - Updates
TP.6.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Map ABE and other training courses which provide basic skills around numeracy, literacy, technology, health, budgeting, etc. to assess any gaps.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>ABE work ongoing across the area. Further coordination of mapping and promotion to be undertaken.</li></ul>
TP.6.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Identify, support and develop training/education opportunities which support routes to work.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Grounds for Growth programme being delivered, helping local people gain skills, experience and confidence. Opportunity to lead onto a paid programme and ongoing support on routes to work in outdoor sector.</li><li>MA Youth Worker recruited in Cowdenbeath Area.</li></ul>
TP.6.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Explore and promote online courses (eg. delivering skills to apply for roles such as Education Support Assistants), online to allow lone parents etc to learn without childcare issues and seek roles which can fit around childcare commitments.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>WEA organise and deliver a range of educational opportunities for adult learners across the area. In-person and also online if appropriate.</li><li>H&amp;SC programme of courses available for free to all partners, helping development which supports the aims of the LCP. Training opportunities shared and promoted across the area.</li></ul>
TP.6.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Capture all area learning opportunities in one place, so the community can see what's on offer and find something that works for them.</li><li>Host an event with all training providers where they can promote courses and opportunities for the community to attend and get information and advice on where to start.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li></li></ul>

# Tacking Poverty 7

## Improvement focus

Investigate barriers to work, such as childcare and travel, so we can support people back into the workplace or increase working hours. Support breakfast clubs and after school provision, which offer good nutrition, socialisation and strengthen sense of community.

## Planned outcomes

- Increased opportunities for families to take up or increase working hours, through reduced barriers, such as access to childcare and transport.
- Schools have support for breakfast clubs and after school provision, which offer good nutrition, socialisation and strengthen sense of community. This in turn supports removal of barriers to work.

Ref	Action	Year 1 - Updates
TP.7.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Work with Gingerbread to understand barriers to families undertaking work/increasing hours.</li></ul>	
TP.7.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Continue to promote and deliver job clubs in Cowdenbeath Area and increase attendance.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Revised marketing materials have been developed to better promote the CJsCs.</li><li>• Working with the Job Centre, we're able to encourage increased participation.</li><li>• Working with partners, we're aware of likely future trends and anticipate a greater need for the CJsCs to support people needing to 'do more' to meet their claimant commitments.</li><li>• Increased outreach work across the area is helping to highlight job clubs.</li></ul>
TP.7.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Investigate breakfast/after school clubs, which can support parents in securing work and support young people with socialisation opportunities. (See TP.4.1)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Breakfast club offering delivered in High Schools during 2023/24 academic year. These proved successful, but need to be better evaluated and more sustainable options developed so it can continue.</li><li>• Lochgelly &amp; Beath High Schools have developed a provision for 2024/25 following the success of the breakfast clubs the previous year.</li><li>• Patchy work with Primary Schools, many of whom already deliver free breakfast clubs - but these are a food provision and not a childcare provision.</li></ul>
TP.7.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Investigate barriers around transport which can impact access to work.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Promotion across the area of free access to public transport for under 22s.</li></ul>

# Tacking Poverty 8

## Improvement focus

Work to build capacity with community food providers to meet local needs, expand volunteering opportunities and strengthen communities. Support community food providers to become more sustainable.

## Planned outcome

Community food providers have access to information and support to allow them to operate sustainably and deliver services within the community which are dignified, support poverty prevention and encourage volunteering.

Ref	Action	Year 1 - Updates
TP.8.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Resource CCB officer to help development of Community Food providers.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>CEW started and working with a number of groups.</li><li>Great progress with a number of providers to develop more sustainable delivery models, with work continuing. Also better connections to deliver more holistic support for those attending.</li><li>Community Food Summit took place in June with another planned for late 2024. All local groups invited to participate.</li><li>£80k funding provided to support community food provision across the area for 2024/25. Stronger working relationship between area team and community food providers and funding distributed to ensure equity based on SIMD data.</li></ul>
TP.8.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Develop a Community Food Resilience Network, to bring together food providers to share information and support one another.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Local food resilience network set up, but not meeting frequently.</li><li>Fife wide food resilience network established to share information and support networking.</li><li>Capacity building with food providers via local teams. Some food providers working together to share resources.</li><li>Link with Health Promotions around both training and nutrition.</li></ul>
TP.8.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Training/awareness raising for community food providers linked to whole systems pilot work and Cash First approaches, linked in with the aims of ending the need for foodbanks.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Initial discussions complete with food providers, looking at onboarding participants for Cash First, which is aimed to deliver a dignified alternative to community food and alleviate food insecurity.</li></ul>
TP.8.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Support trials of alternative community food provision, such as meal in a bag, helping remove barriers providers may have in testing different approaches.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Meal in a bag kits distributed in April/May across the Cowdenbeath Area. This provided a high quality, fresh and nutritious meal for preparation at home. Positive feedback received with families able to try new recipes, cook together, experience ingredients they hadn't tried before and inspired and supported families cooking and eating together.</li></ul>

Ref	Action	Year 1 - Updates
TP.8.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trial community online grocery shopping group, where members of the community can get support and access to place online orders with the main supermarkets, taking advantage of the lower prices when compared to small convenience stores.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pilot project delivered in Kelty and Benarty, which supported participants in placing online shopping orders. Support provided to set up accounts, make an order and covered an element of budgeting. This allowed access to cheaper shopping, helping budgets stretch compared to relying on smaller local shops. Participants were given free shopping vouchers.</li> <li>• Poor participation, despite widespread marketing and discussions with people at community food provision. Therefore, longer term provision wasn't viable. Need to consider whether there is merit in trying again with a different recruitment strategy.</li> </ul>

# Tacking Poverty 9

## Improvement focus

Develop community growing initiatives and promotion of 'grow your own' to support household access to healthy food, community food projects, local food security and to help address climate change.

## Planned outcomes

- Communities are able to access growing initiatives which support food production, learning, socialisation and mental wellbeing.
- Growing initiatives are able to link in with community food providers, to support distribution of surplus stock within the local area.

Ref	Action	Year 1 - Updates
TP.9.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Investigate oppotunities for 'free growing boxes' within towns and villages.</li></ul>	
TP.9.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Develop of community growing spaces and allotments - potential to be linked to community food providers.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Projects initiated with support from area budgets for community growing spaces.</li></ul>
TP.9.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Develop and delvier training opportunities to support skills development around 'grow your own'.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• BRAG have started delivering this at their community garden in Crosshill. Positive feedback on initiative, which other groups and services can learn from to deliver in more locations.</li></ul>

# Tacking Poverty 10

## Improvement focus

Deliver energy support and advice to our communities ensuring they are informed, confident and efficient when using home energy helping to reduce bills, fuel poverty and tackle climate change.

## Planned outcome

Households are informed around energy conservation and use, helping them plan and manage their energy consumption to create a comfortable living environment, while reducing their impact on climate change.

Ref	Action	Year 1 - Updates
TP.10.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Look to recruit energy champions in the community who are trained to deliver first level energy advice.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Cosy Kingdom provided training to local staff in the area. Training programme continues to operate and is available through H&amp;SC training programme.</li><li>Training delivered to CPAG partners in Feb 2024.</li><li>Housing Staff trained in first level energy advice.</li></ul>
TP.10.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Support energy advice to households within the area.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>81 frontline staff across the area trained to deliver first line energy advice including welfare support staff and housing officers, charity volunteers and other partners.</li></ul>
TP.10.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Deliver a Handy Service in the area, which supports energy saving improvements to low income households.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Handy Service available via Cosy Kingdom. Funding extended into 2024/25 at cabinet Committee on 12/09.</li><li>Additional Handy Service explored to reduce waiting times and enhance support available, but funding for Cowdenbeath Area resource not supported.</li></ul>

# Tacking Poverty 11

## Improvement focus

Deliver a flexible programme of free and low-cost activities to ensure people in all of our communities have access and opportunities to participate.

## Planned outcome

Our community has access to free and low-cost activities which encourages participation and provides opportunities. Activities should be valuable in delivering on local priorities such as wellbeing, socialisation, personal development, and physical exercise.

Ref	Action	Year 1 - Updates
TP.11.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vouchers for free access to community use facilities/activities, to be distributed throughout the community. This not only helps people access free activities and be physically active, but also encourages use of our centres aiming to put them back at the heart of our communities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community Use provided vouchers to community food groups to distribute to pantry users, providing free access to activities.</li> </ul>
TP11.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OnFife offer free activities in library, exhibitions, warm spaces. - music instrument library and project. Potentially relevant related activities if fully funded.</li> </ul>	
TP.11.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide free access to Outdoor Education services/activities for low income households throughout the area.</li> <li>HSCP has provided funding for Active Options provided through FSLT to be reduced to £1 - promotion of this</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Free vouchers for hire of equipment distributed both to families and young people, allowing them to take part in activities such as kayaking and cycling at Lochore.</li> <li>Primary schools across the area were invited to participate in free 'Paddle Night Splash' activities at Lochore.</li> <li>Families took part in a programme of outdoor activities, supporting both outdoor experiences and family work. This built upon family residential activities in the summer.</li> <li>Funding provided to support additional adapted bikes and storage at Fife Cycle Park to support people with a disability participating in activities.</li> <li>Programme delivered to connect low income households with free gym memberships with FSLT.</li> </ul>
TP11.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Active Adults Programme' set up to provide cost-effective, sustainable access to physical activity  <a href="https://active.fife.scot/_data/assets/pdf_file/0028/469270/ACTIVE-Adults-Cowdenbeath-Sept23.pdf">https://active.fife.scot/_data/assets/pdf_file/0028/469270/ACTIVE-Adults-Cowdenbeath-Sept23.pdf</a> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Programme endorsed through H&amp;SCP to be promoted via health sector - initial trial at Meadows Practice, Lochgelly.</li> <li>WEA provided Arts &amp; Crafts and similar activities in the area, including activities connected with Warm Welcome over the winter period.</li> </ul>



