

# Airdrie Cluster – Removing Barriers



## “Standing Together We Are Great”

Our cluster vision statement was created in partnership with all of our associated primary schools and an excellent example of pupils leading change in our school community. Pupils from Devonview FLC, Chapelside, Golfhill, Tollbrae, Victoria, New Monklands, Greengairs and Rochsolloch primaries worked with Airdrie Academy pupils to determine our shared cluster vision.

We work collaboratively to provide the best opportunities and outcomes for all of the pupils that we serve. Our vision shows that we put our young people and our community at the heart of everything we do. From age 3-18 we aim to ensure that all pupils are achieving their full potential in school and develop the skills to live a happy, healthy and successful life.

We achieve this through;

1. Success and resilience: Work your hardest to achieve your goals, never give up.
2. Community: Feel included and include everyone. Have a positive impact on yourself and others.
3. Active: Be active in lessons, at clubs, at home and in the community to achieve a healthy body and mind.
4. Skills for work: Enquire, explore and problem solve. Find or create your dream job.

By developing this position statement our cluster strives to remove the poverty barriers to education to ensure that all members feel included in our community in order to be successful.

The policy was developed as part of the empowering clusters model and was developed using “The Cost of the School Day Toolkit”

# Poverty Proofing Position Statement.

## Maximising Income

North Lanarkshire Council is committed to tackling and reducing poverty.

School leaders identify families who are living in poverty and refer them to the Financial Inclusion Team on the first instance, provided they have consented to share their information. The Financial Inclusion Team will advise families which options are available to them based on their personal circumstances. Any advice provided by the Financial Inclusion Team is confidential, free and impartial.

The Financial Inclusion Team can offer advice, representation and advocacy in a number of fields including:

- disability living allowance
- attendance allowance
- tax credits
- employment and support allowance
- income support
- jobseeker's allowance
- carer's allowance
- child benefit
- universal credit
- personal independence payment

Contact Details for Financial Support	
Financial Inclusion Team	By telephone on 01698 332551 By email <a href="mailto:Fit@northlan.gov.uk">Fit@northlan.gov.uk</a>
Citizens Advice Scotland	By telephone on 01236 754109 By email <a href="mailto:bureau@airdriecab.casonline.org.uk">bureau@airdriecab.casonline.org.uk</a>

The Financial Inclusion Team also offer debt and money advice.

- Rent/mortgage arrears
- Council tax arrears
- Pay day loans
- Personal loans
- Store/credit cards
- Gas/electricity arrear
- Budgeting guidance

In particular times of crisis, schools can make one off referrals to Airdrie Foodbank. This can be done via the CIIL.

This should be on the basis that families are then referred to the Financial Inclusion Team to work on more long term support.

Centres will also work with agencies around the school to promote their services supporting families living with the effects of poverty for long term support.



## School Uniform

All schools within the cluster encourage young people to wear school uniform and be ready to work. All welcomed irrespective of their attire and are supported to make sure they are not prejudiced. All school uniforms are available to purchase from school and local supermarkets. Schools actively promote applications for clothing grants. Schools keep a stock of uniforms which can be used to support in times of urgent need.

Additional offer. Airdrie cluster is successfully supported by Airdrie Community school Uniform bank. The uniform bank operated an anonymous telephone service to request uniforms to those in need. The service is actively promoted in the community via social media and in school bulletins. In addition to this the uniform bank is supported by Airdrie Action Partnership who donate money for vouchers to be used by families in 'Scotcrest' uniform shops.

Airdrie Community School  
Uniform Bank: 07895519677

[airdiecub@gmail.com](mailto:airdiecub@gmail.com)

[Apply for a free school meals  
and clothing grants here](#)

## Equipment and Resources



All students within the cluster are encouraged to 'be ready' for school, bringing with them their own materials. Nevertheless, young people are not challenged for not having items that bring with them a cost. Pencils, pens and other items are readily available in classrooms for students to use without drawing attention to them not having the item. Support is given to families and young people who struggle to meet the costs of equipment.

Staff have an awareness of the SIMD profile of the young people and financial constraints which are considered when planning for excursions and events. At expensive times of the year and charity events family donations are accepted to reduce to cost to large families. Young people will not be challenged or excluded from social events as a result of financial constraints.

Students identified as requiring ICT provision at home have been allocated, as per NLC plans with a laptop and internet dongles to support key learning at home.

## Excursions

All school / nursery visits are of educational benefit to the young people. Excursions are planned in advance and allow for families to spread the costs. Schools are sympathetic to individual circumstances and open up channels for discussion with individual families to target those who require additional support. A named person will be available for each trip to discuss this support.

All planned trips are non-profit. Before excursions take place schools / nurseries should communicate to parents what will happen if money is left over. This is to keep costs as low as possible for all families. Lunches are made available for those with free meal provision. (Excludes trips abroad)

## Parental views

Views of parents and carers are sought regarding the cost of the school day via online surveys. The survey is designed to seek views of parents and carers on how schools take into account the cost demands of the school day and if appropriate steps are put in place to reduce costs where possible. Centres should also engage with families who do not respond to digital surveys. This should be done by targeting sample groups of parents across the centres demographic. This survey should be reviewed each year.

## Views of Children and Young People

Views of children and young people should also be sought. Centres gather the views of a variety of young people using different means. Schools use class lessons, pupil councils and individual surveys to capture the views of young people and look to action points raised. This practice should be reviewed each year.

## Charity, fundraising activities, Shows and Themed days

Clusters pride itself on being supportive and understanding of the needs and demands on families at times. As much as possible schools plan events and include them on the school calendar. Schools hold a range of resources to support young people such as Halloween costumes and costumes for world book day. No child will be excluded from events due to cost.

Airdrie Cluster schools have strong links with Community organisations organisation for groups in the community supporting families with a range of issues. VANL signposts families to organisations such as foodbanks, CAB and FIT to name a few.

Staff have an understanding of financial constraints and families can contact the staff in school to discuss concerns. Staff will also contact families and young people that they recognise will have added pressure to their financial situation. Collecting money for charitable events should be made in a discrete way to avoid embarrassment.

## Period Poverty

To mitigate period poverty all students have access to safe, hygienic sanitary products in school and are available to take home. Students are made aware of product locations and staff who they can speak to confidentially. Discretion and dignity is the priority in planning for these circumstances.

Education and awareness of the hygiene issues surrounding menstruation are crucial and embedded into the curriculum at secondary level through Health and Wellbeing lessons so that students develop a sound knowledge and understanding of how to manage their period safely.

## Food Poverty

Breakfast clubs are available in all North Lanarkshire primary schools. Snacks and breakfast are available to young people who the school target to ensure that they do not arrive hungry. Cluster schools and family learning centres also provide snacks to those who arrive at school hungry. Staff are aware of the impact of hunger on a child's learning and have clear referral pathways in place to ensure that schools are Getting it Right for Every Child.

Airdrie Clusters provide a Soft Start groups to support young people who may have missed the breakfast club or have arrived late for school.

School leaders identify students and families experiencing poverty and support them in a number of ways. The cluster has a directory of supports to identify agencies who can help families facing different circumstances. Schools are aware of the Financial Inclusion Team and share contacts with families.

## Directory of Support around the School

Organisation	Supports offered	Tel	Email / website	
Airdrie @home centre	Community Engagement Health and Wellbeing Mental Health Initiatives –	James Fagan FaganJa@Northlan.gov.uk		Request For Assistance
12 +	Living Life to the Full Additional Support Needs Social Work support Hope For Autism links Community Safety – Anti Social Behaviour Employability (15 / 16) Young Parents Poor Attendance	Jane Gibson Gibsonj@Northlan.gov.uk		
Family Support (Primary)	Family Learning	David Young Young Dav@Northlan.gov.uk		
SAM Team (Airdrie Academy cluster)	Support specific individual children who require digital technologies to access their learning. At this time they will also be able to offer individualised learning support for children and young people who are unable to attend school for a prolonged period of time, through specific medical and wellbeing needs (not self-isolation).	Gillian Lyall lyallG@northlan.gov.uk		Direct (copy in CIIL)
Adult Learning		Eleanor Rafferty	raffertye@northlan.gov.uk	Direct
Volunteer Action NL	Umbrella organisation for third Sector / community groups	Judith Bremner	Judith.bremner@vanl.co.uk	Direct
Diamonds in the community	Sports based Charity Community Assistance projects	Duggie Allsop 07790663974	diamondsitc@hotmail.com	Direct
Airdrie School Uniform bank	Provides Uniforms for families in need	07895519677	airdrieclub@gmail.com	Direct
North Lanarkshire Young Carers service	Support service for young people with caring roles	01698 258801		Direct
Financial Inclusion Team	Promoting financial inclusion and ensuring that people and	01698 332551	<a href="https://www.no">https://www.no</a>	Direct

	<p>communities have access affordable financial services and the incomes they are entitled to</p> <p>Targeting services to support the most vulnerable people</p>		<p>rthlanarkshire.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=23560&amp;email=true</p>	
Womens Aid	<p>Women's Aid can provide: A safe place to talk about how you are feeling. A confidential service - information will only be passed on if there are children at risk. Support whether you decide to leave or stay. Information on rights in relation to the law, money and benefits, housing, children etc. So you can make informed choices.</p>	01236 432061	<p>info@monklandsomensaid.org.uk</p> <p>www.Monklandomensaid.co.uk</p>	Direct
Barnardo's	<p>The service supports young people age 5-21 years (26 if care experienced) living in the North Lanarkshire area, who are affected by their own or someone else's substance misuse and other related complex issues.</p>	01698 262443 Ext 3		Direct
Health and Wellness Hub	<p>Since 2012 the organisation has been providing regular health and wellbeing activities in a number of community based centres that are in areas of North Lanarkshire where multiple deprivation exists.</p> <p>It also provides an intensive volunteer support programme aimed at individuals in North Lanarkshire who have a number of support needs and are marginalised and disadvantaged in some way (e.g. learning/physical disability, long term health condition, mental health</p>	Tel: 01698 262437	<p>https://www.thehealthandwellnesshub.org.uk/who-we-are</p> <p>Pamela Smith</p>	Direct

	issue, long term unemployed etc.)			
Lanarkshire Community Food and Health Project	Will be working with local community organisations to make sure that those affected have access to what they need. We can help you source supplies, get them to you, and help with delivery where needed.	0141 771 9043	tracey.hunter@lcfhp.co.uk	Direct
Whinhall Action Group	Local Community organisation	Joanne Boyle – Chairperson 07738204577	Joboyle123@hotmail.com	Direct
Whinhall Allotments Association	Community growing initiatives – schools support	Heather Paterson – Chairperson 07504283983	hpat@live.co.uk	Direct
Social Work		01236794888		Direct / RFA
Educational Psychologist	M Gibbons S Gorey C Cruikshank			Direct /RFA
Community Capacity building Worker – Sonia Pitman	Community partnership team – council partnership with community organisations	Sonia Pitman		Via CIIL
Airdrie Lottery Link	Laura Scott – discuss lottery funding available, support with applications	07976327572	Laura.scott@tnlcomminityfund.org.uk	Direct
SPARK				
SAMH		Eileen Quinn (service manager) 01698 265659		Direct
Active Schools	Stephen Hughes			
CAB / Covey	Citizens Advice	Claire Boyle 07951181583		



Who Cares? Scotland	Support for Care experienced young people	lcambell@whocare sscotland.org		Direct
Hope for Autism		Eileen Waugh –CEO Office Telephone 01236 779191 Mobile Telephone 07712113614	Eileen.W augh@h opefora utism.or g.uk	Direct Copy in CIIL
Coatbridge Stay Connected		Father Kane St Augustine's 01236 427538		Direct
Health Improvement	NHS Health Improvement senior (Airdrie)	Lynn Adams 07810127582		Direct
Islamic Centre	Community Outreach, Partnership, community assistance Syrian resettlement programme	Dr Irfan Drijk1@yahoo.co.uk		Direct
Landed PEER Education services	Drug and Alcohol workshops	Robbie or Tamsin 01698 269872	robbie@ landed.i nfo	Direct
Chris's House	Charity offering support and guidance on suicide preventions	01236 766755	info@ch risshous e.org	
Real Time	Music workshop – Positive mental health projects.	Ryan Currie – Project Manager 01698 862860	ryan@re eltime music.net	Direct
Shining Stars ASN theatre school	Drama ASN students	Katie 07845072758		Direct
Bannan Boxing Club	Community Boxing club	Pat Bannan 07854215074	www.Ba nnanfitn essclub.c om	Direct
Parent Action for Safe Play	Community lead committee within Kirkshaws – Family Learning, Youth Work	Julie Atkin 01236 426737	www.pa sp.org.u k	Direct
Moira Anderson Foundation	Trauma Support	Sandra Brown – Founder 01236 602890	www.m oiraande rson.org	Direct
LGBT Youth Scotland	Support and advice for young people who identify as LGBTQ.	0141 552 7425	www.lgb tyouth.o rg.uk	