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”](https://cpag.org.uk/scotland/CoSD/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.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Contact Details for Financial Support | |
| Financial Inclusion Team | By telephone on 01698 332551  By email [Fit@northlan.gov.uk](mailto:Fit@northlan.gov.uk) |
| Citizens Advice Scotland | By telephone on 01236 754109  By email [bureau@airdriecab.casonline.org.uk](mailto:bureau@airdriecab.casonline.org.uk) |

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

The Financial Inclusion Team also offer debt and money advice.

* Rent/mortgage arrears

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.

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

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

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

[Apply for a free school meals and clothing grants here](https://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=24240&p=0)

# 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 / nurseys 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.](https://bit.ly/2Nv8BJd)

# 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 and 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

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

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.

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 – 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 | | James Fagan  FaganJa@Northlan.gov.uk | | Request For Assistance |
| 12 + | 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](mailto: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 | airdriecub@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 communities have access affordable financial services and the incomes they are entitled to * Targeting services to support the most vulnerable people | | 01698 332551 | <https://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=23560&email=true> | Direct |
| Womens Aid | 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. | | 01236 432061 | [info@monklandswomensaid.org.uk](mailto:info@monklandswomensaid.org.uk)  [www.Monklandwomensaid.co.uk](http://www.Monklandwomensaid.co.uk) | Direct |
| Barnardo’s | The service supports young people age S1 -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. | | 01698 262443 Ext 3 |  | Direct |
| Health and Wellness Hub | 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.  ​  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 issue, long term unemployed etc.) | | Tel: 01698 262437 | <https://www.thehealthandwellnesshub.org.uk/who-we-are>  Pamela Smith | Direct |
| 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](mailto: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@whocaresscotland.org |  | Direct |
| Hope for Autism |  | | Eileen Waugh –CEO  Office Telephone 01236 779191  Mobile Telephone 07712113614 | [Eileen.Waugh@hopeforautism.org.uk](mailto:Eileen.Waugh@hopeforautism.org.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.info | Direct |
| Chris’s House | Charity offering support and guidance on suicide preventions | | 01236 766755 | info@chrisshouse.org |  |
| Real Time | Music workshop – Positive mental health projects. | | Ryan Currie – Project Manager  01698 862860 | ryan@reeltimemusic.net | Direct |
| Shining Stars ASN theatre school | Drama ASN students | | Katie  07845072758 |  | Direct |
| Bannan Boxing Club | Community Boxing club | | Pat Bannan  07854215074 | www.Bannanfitnessclub.com | Direct |
| Parent Action for Safe Play | Community lead committee within Kirkshaws – Family Learning, Youth Work | | Julie Atkin  01236 426737 | www.pasp.org.uk | Direct |
| Moira Anderson Foundation | Trauma Support | | Sandra Brown – Founder  01236 602890 | www.moiraanderson.org | Direct |
| LGBT Youth Scotland | | Support and advice for young people who identify as LGBTQ. | 0141 552 7425 | www.lgbtyouth.org.uk |  |