



SUMMER HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

2025



INTRODUCTION

Thriving Communities' Summer Holiday Programmes were designed to provide meaningful, engaging, and accessible experiences for families across South Ayrshire.

Funding utilising UK Shared Prosperity Funding, a wide range of activities were delivered free of charge and targeted to families who would benefit most from additional support and enrichment.

The programmes offered something for everyone: from creative workshops, youth sessions, and outdoor learning to sports, wellbeing activities, and family experiences. These opportunities aimed to build confidence, strengthen relationships, and create lasting memories for children, young people, and their families.

By blending education, recreation, wellbeing, and community engagement, Thriving Communities created inclusive environments where families could learn, play, and thrive together throughout the summer



LOCHSIDE

At Lochside, a 5-week programme was delivered, offering 16 trips and activities designed to engage young people in recreational, creative, and social experiences. A total of 46 P6-P7 children and 24 S1-S4 young people participated, including 28 males and 32 females. The programme successfully combined adventure, skill-building and social opportunities, providing young people with positive engagement throughout the summer.



THE DOMAIN

The 6-week programme at the Domain provided 17 trips and activities tailored to inspire learning, creativity, and social development. 29 P6-P7 children and 62 S1-S4 young people participated, with 28 males and 63 females taking part. Activities encouraged skill development, confidence-building, and the creation of lasting friendships.



I have loved taking part in Thriving Communities Summer Holiday Programme this year, it has made my Summer Holidays so much fun!

AYR NORTH FAMILY LEARNING

The Family Learning Programme offered families opportunities to learn, create, and enjoy shared experiences in a supportive community environment. 56 families participated, including 71 adults and 96 children from Wallacetown, Dalmling, and Lochside areas. Families engaged in trips such as Calderglen Park (Wallacetown – 63, Dalmling – 39, Lochside – 46) and the Science Centre (140 attendees from all areas). Additionally, creative and skill-building workshops included 5 weeks of Radio Workshops with Ayr Hospital Radio (3 families) and 5 weeks of PACT Cooking Workshops (14 families). These sessions encouraged family engagement, learning, and fun in equal measure.

“

I don't know what I would have done without Thriving Communities Summer Holiday Programme this year. It has really helped me as all the activities have been free.

”



AYR NORTH ADULT LEARNING

The Happy Mondays Group took part in an Outdoor Summer Programme delivered by ACE. This offered a 4 week outdoor programme for adults focusing on physical activity, wellbeing and social connection. 27 people took part and benefited from structured outdoor activities and the opportunity to strengthen community links.





In August 2025 Thriving Communities hosted its fourth Youth Work Festival for young people in South Ayrshire, 'Bounce Festival 25'.

The main aim of the event was to provide local young people aged 12 to 18 with an opportunity to engage in and enjoy a wide range of positive activities.

456 young people attended Bounce on Friday 15th August 2025 which offered live music from well known DJ's, various activities including fun fair rides, inflatables and workshops.

Youth Volunteers supported the organisation of the event along with the Youth Council providing Financial Inclusion Funding. The event was free to attend and transport was also organised across the various localities within South Ayrshire to ensure there were no barriers for young people to be able to participate. There was a reduction of 30% in anti-social behaviour incidents on the night of the Festival.



WATCH VIDEO



Carrick delivered 15 activities and 6 trips, combining shared and area-specific sessions:

South Carrick: 8 activities including slime & clay, brunch clubs, craft & sport, toddler sensory sessions, and family fun sessions in Colmonell and Dailly. 5 trips to destinations such as Blair Drummond, M&Ds, Belfast, Carrick Pool Party, and the family festival.

North Carrick: 7 activities including slime & clay, brunch clubs, craft & sport, toddler sensory sessions, and the Maidens family fun session. 5 trips shared with South Carrick to Blair Drummond, M&Ds, Belfast, Carrick Pool Party, and the family festival.

Participation:-

- Parents/Guardians: 135 (69 North / 66 South)
- Children: 197 (92 North / 105 South)

Activity attendance:-

- Girvan craft & sport – 44 participants (16 families)
- Carrick Pool Party – 41 participants (15 families)
- Carrick family festival – 99 participants (30 families)
- Maybole craft & sport – 60 participants (20 families)
- Trips to Blair Drummond, M&Ds, Belfast, Five Sister Zoo, and other destinations were well attended, creating memorable experiences for families across Carrick.



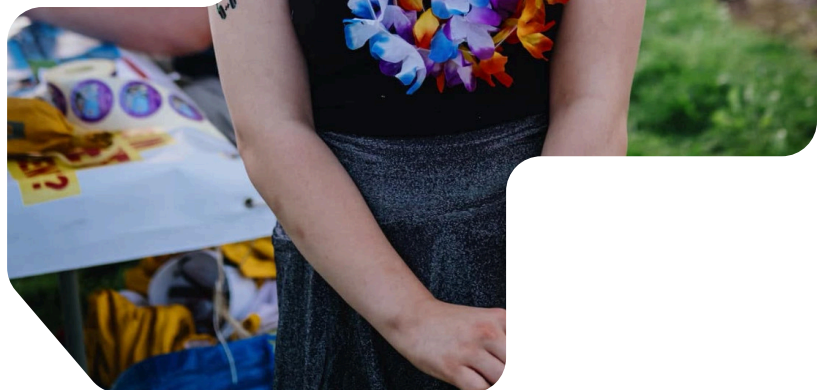
CARRICK FAMILY PROGRAMME

For many families, these trips provided a rare chance to travel beyond their local area and explore new places and experiences —some for the very first time. Belfast Titanic Museum: An educational visit that offered families the opportunity to learn about the history and legacy of the Titanic through interactive exhibits and immersive storytelling. Five Sisters Zoo: A popular destination that gave children and adults alike the chance to see a wide variety of animals up close. M&Ds: A great day out filled with funfair rides and attraction for the whole family. Pool Party: A fun way for families to get active, have fun together and enjoy a new experience in a local area. Family Learning Festival: A great day with lots of FREE activities for the whole family such as entertainment and inflatables, hot food and watersports.

“

Lovely day out to somewhere new we have never visited before. With four children days out are really expensive so having the opportunity to go these trips really helps, thank you!

”



NORTH CARRICK FAMILY PROGRAMME THE OUTCOME

In North Carrick, families coming together to enjoy free summer activities, meals, and trips has had a huge impact and a whopping 1488hrs 30mins of engagement was had during summer. These no-cost opportunities removed financial barriers, allowing parents and children to connect, play, and explore without stress or exclusion. Free lunches ensure that no family goes hungry, while shared experiences—from local events to exciting day trips—help build stronger family bonds and lasting community connections. Importantly, attending these sessions often acts as a gateway into further support and engagement. Families who might not otherwise reach out begin to build trust and confidence, opening the door to ongoing provision, advice, and interaction with our team. This summer, North Carrick showed how a welcoming, inclusive approach where everything is free can lead to long-term positive change for families and the wider community.

SOUTH CARRICK FAMILY PROGRAMME

THE OUTCOME

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“ Today was a very good experience for myself and my kids. We loved every minute of it and will be back. Very grateful to have had this experience and all the opportunities it has offered. ”

FAMILY FESTIVAL

Building on the success of last year's event, the Thriving Communities Family Learning Festival took place on Wednesday 13th August and provided families across South Ayrshire with an opportunity to engage in and enjoy a wide range of positive activities, including; live music, children's entertainment, food, outdoor learning, STEM, sensory play, health and wellbeing workshops and much more!

We targeted areas in South Ayrshire where families are experiencing challenging situations in their everyday lives. Thriving Communities staff supported 380 parents and children who predominately live in neighbourhoods recognised as statistically deprived within the health and wellbeing summary and the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation to attend. This event was completely free of charge and families will be supported to attend by their Thriving Communities Officer.

WATCH VIDEO



“

We had a great day, thank you!

We had a fantastic time!

Great wee day, well fed, watered
and entertained!

”

PRESTWICK, TROON & THE VILLAGES - YOUTH PROVISION

Transition Days

Two P7 Transition Days were delivered—one each for the Marr and Prestwick clusters, South Ayrshire's largest schools. Open to all cluster primaries, the events responded to transition anxiety identified by Family First, aiming to support current referrals and prevent future ones. Held just before the new term, they built on the success of local P7 Youth Clubs, helping young people reconnect and prepare for secondary school. Active Schools led sports delivery, Family First sponsored both days, and Employability provided staffing. Young people shaped the format and activities through pre-event consultation



Youth Provision

Youth Club members were invited to stay connected and explore new experiences through outdoor learning. In partnership with The Outdoor Partnership—who matched our funding—we delivered three full days of activities at Barassie Beach, including stand-up paddleboarding and kite surfing in a relaxed, informal setting.

A key focus of the summer programme was supporting Young Carers. Following a successful Easter pilot, the initiative expanded over summer, with referrals from schools across Prestwick, Troon, and surrounding villages. A core group took part throughout, bonded by their caring roles and given space to unwind and enjoy themselves. Transport and lunches were provided to remove barriers to participation, and several young carers earned HI-5 Awards in recognition of their achievements ★

All youth club, school, and holiday programme participants were given priority access to the Bounce Youth Festival, with free transport included



PRESTWICK, TROON & THE VILLAGES FAMILY PROGRAMME

The Family Programme was promoted via the schools, Small Steps, Social Work, Community Link Practitioners and other close partners, it is not advertised openly due to the targeted nature of the programme.

Families were offered a wide range of free, accessible activities designed to be local and easily replicated. Transport and lunches were provided to remove barriers to participation, especially for families in more rural areas such as Dundonald. Highlights included:-

- Outdoor family crafts, games, sports, and a minibeast hunt led by the SAC Park Ranger Service
- Movie Night screening of 'Brave' at Dundonald Castle Dean Park
- Castle tours and den-building with interactive dressing-up experiences
- Family watersports including paddleboarding, kite-surfing, and archery
- Knights and Castles day at Dundonald Castle featuring potion-making and a scavenger hunt
- A visit to the Glasgow Science Centre Family Learning Festival

These activities offered families opportunities to connect, learn, and have fun together in relaxed, supportive environments.



PRESTWICK, TROON & THE VILLAGES ADULT LEARNING

Troon Men's Group continued through the summer as usual and celebrated with a trip to Millport. The Journaling Group also completed their sessions through the summer.

PRESTWICK, TROON & THE VILLAGES EVALUATION

★★★★★ Every evaluation received a 5/5 from parents★★★★★
"Always great days"

- "Great event today, even granny enjoyed it, well done Team"
- "Well Organised! Good fun"
- "Loved every part of the event, opportunity to try new things"
"refreshing after paddle boarding, relaxing, tiring, new experiences
(archery and kite-surfing) all enjoyed every bit of it adults and kids
10/10"
- "Great day of learning and fun for parents and kids alike. Thank you
Thriving Communities"
- "Thank you so much for a wonderful outing today. The kids learned so
much. Lunch was lovely too"



HEALTH & WELLBEING EVALUATION

Our holiday programmes are a great way for young people to stay active and keep in touch with friends when school is out. Alongside our popular multi sports camps, we offer a wide variety of activities for all ages and abilities.

These include free community pop-ups, cycling, watersports, walking sessions, beach days, and activities for children and young people with additional support needs.

- 700 people taking part in our summer programme (413M/ 287F)
- 144 sessions offered
- 15 looked after pupils
- 21 young carers
- 226 ASN or disabled participants

Some feedback from the camps based on returns:

- How would you rate the range / choice of activities provided? (1 star = poor / 5 star = excellent)? – 4.6
- How would you rate the quality of activities provided? (1 star = poor / 5 star = excellent) – 4.6
- In terms of value for money how would you rate the Summer Camps (1 star = poor / 5 star = excellent) – 4.9
- How would you grade the overall experience of participating in Summer Camps? (1 star = poor / 5 star = excellent) – 4.6
- What did you child(ren) enjoy most about the Camp?



EVALUATION FEEDBACK

What did your child(ren) enjoy least about the Camp?

- Key theme here was nothing to change except have it as a longer day, a lot of people happy with the service, could snack and lunch be extended?

Would you consider booking your children on future camps?

- All yes except from 3 maybes.

Please use this space to provide any further feedback you would like to share with us about the Summer Holiday Camps:-

- "Love all the holiday camps and think they are a great way of keeping kids active and letting them try different activities!"
- "My child loved the camps and they offered great value for money"
- "Lots of activities on offer and changed each day. Staff were fab."
-



EVALUATION FEEDBACK

- "I think the coaches provided fun,engaging activities and were very good at supporting the younger children."
- "All the staff did a brilliant job, it really helps the parents break up the summer holidays! 😊"
- "My little boy loves coming along to sports camp. My only comment is it would be amazing if the camps ran for slightly longer each day, even if it cost slightly more."
- "The sessions were amazing & the leaders were all fantastic, especially in the inspire/ dolphin house sessions,"
- "Thanks so much to all the staff at the summer camp and to Lewis at golf pop up, daughter really enjoyed it."



DOLPHIN HOUSE FEEDBACK

"Range of activities was great and took my children out of their comfort zone and challenged them. My children thoroughly enjoyed their days. More days offered! My kids were disappointed that they were only going for 2 days."

"I asked my daughter and she said "helped me feel more confident and be more active" just wish there were more sessions more regularly, she absolutely loved her experience and all the activities, thank you."

"My daughter loved the experience. Well organised and great transport collection was on offer. Well done looking forward to booking next year again for my daughter and my son expressed he wants to try it also."



DOLPHIN HOUSE FEEDBACK

"My son loved the activities on offer and variety throughout the day. This was more expensive than other camps, but I feel the level of activities and instructors was justified. A hot lunch rather than packed lunch was a bonus. Maybe split cycling into groups based on ability?"

"Everything was very well organised and staff were extremely kind and supportive. J had a fantastic week and really hopes for such an opportunity again next summer for secondary pupils."

"Great experience overall and well organised - great communication from Karen and she was very supportive regarding dietary requirements for children. She was very helpful and it was appreciated. In an ideal world more sessions could be offered so that more children can participate and benefit."

"I thought the whole week was organised really efficiently right down to the transport. My kids attended all week and were delighted with the activities on offer. They came home full of stories, filthy and had an appetite. It was a great experience and great value for money."

