

**Dumfries and Galloway Poverty and Inequalities Partnership**

**Message from the Chair, Nick Hopkins.**

Hello, and welcome to the first of what will be a fair few Poverty and Inequalities Partnership Newsletters over the next couple of years. We’re aiming to do one every couple of months, with additional send outs when something comes up urgently.

I joined the Partnership in August 2023 and wanted to take the chance to say a belated hello, and to highlight some of the work we’re doing.

**Getting people to help**

Our ultimate ambition locally is that every contact with anyone experiencing poverty in the region is seen as an opportunity to identify issues and offer help, so that no one is missed who could benefit from support on offer locally.

Getting close to that ambition will need everyone working at the frontline, in offices, health centres, schools, communities, and in people’s homes, to have an understanding of poverty and to know how they can respond there and then with a referral to an appropriate organisation.

As a first step, we’ve produced a brief video through Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway and NHS Dumfries and Galloway which walks people through some of the key advice services across the Region, with a particular focus on financial hardship and fuel poverty.

The video is really clear and is available in two formats, with and without subtitles:

The links are here:

Without subtitles: <https://youtu.be/baqrcQvl7J8>

With subtitles: <https://youtu.be/GU81HlGrYAo>

**Developing our work**

Over the next couple of months we will be looking at the Partnership’s action plans and identifying our priorities for the next couple of years, with people from across the public and voluntary sectors involved.

That can’t be a closed process. The problems we face are too great, and the resources we have too finite, to ignore any good ideas on how we can better tackle poverty. If you do have ideas that you think are worth exploring, please don’t hesitate to get in touch. We can link you with people who might be able to help you take them forward.

You can share your ideas with me by e mailing nick@nhhrconsulting.co.uk

**Read more**

You can read more about the work of the Partnership on the Community Planning website,

<https://communityplanning.dumgal.gov.uk/article/24187/Poverty-and-Inequalities-Partnership>

I attach our latest report to the Community Planning Partnership along with our Newsletter.

I look forward to seeing what we can all achieve over the next couple of years and beyond.

Nick Hopkins
Chair,

Dumfries and Galloway Poverty and Inequalities Partnership

