



Arrivo | Consulting

Planet Youth in Scotland
APPENDIX 1 & 2
March 2023 - March 2025
Arrivo Consulting



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
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Appendix 1

Overview

An online survey was used to gather perspectives from a wider range of coalition members across local areas. However, in practice a relatively low response rate and contradictory information from respondents within areas mean that the survey data was of more limited use. Here we describe the survey data and its limitations.

Survey responses

The survey was disseminated to coalition members by lead officers in each of the six areas.

- In total we received 50 responses from five of the six pilot areas.
- 41 were from coalition members
- nine responses came from schools which were directed to the school survey questions

Number of responses from each pilot area

Coalition structures differ across the areas (some areas have multiple coalitions and others have a single coalition), which has influenced the number of responses from each area.

Pilot Area	Number of coalitions	Number of responses
Angus	Single coalition	7
Argyll and Bute	5 local coalitions	19
Clackmannanshire	Single coalition	8
Dundee	No discrete coalition structure in Dundee (although there is a delivery group). Responsibility for Planet Youth is embedded into Community Planning at strategic and local level levels	4
Highland	5 local coalitions and strategic coalition	12
West Dunbartonshire	No bespoke coalition structure. Responsibility for Planet Youth is embedded in existing planning/decision-making structures.	0

No responses were received from West Dunbartonshire.

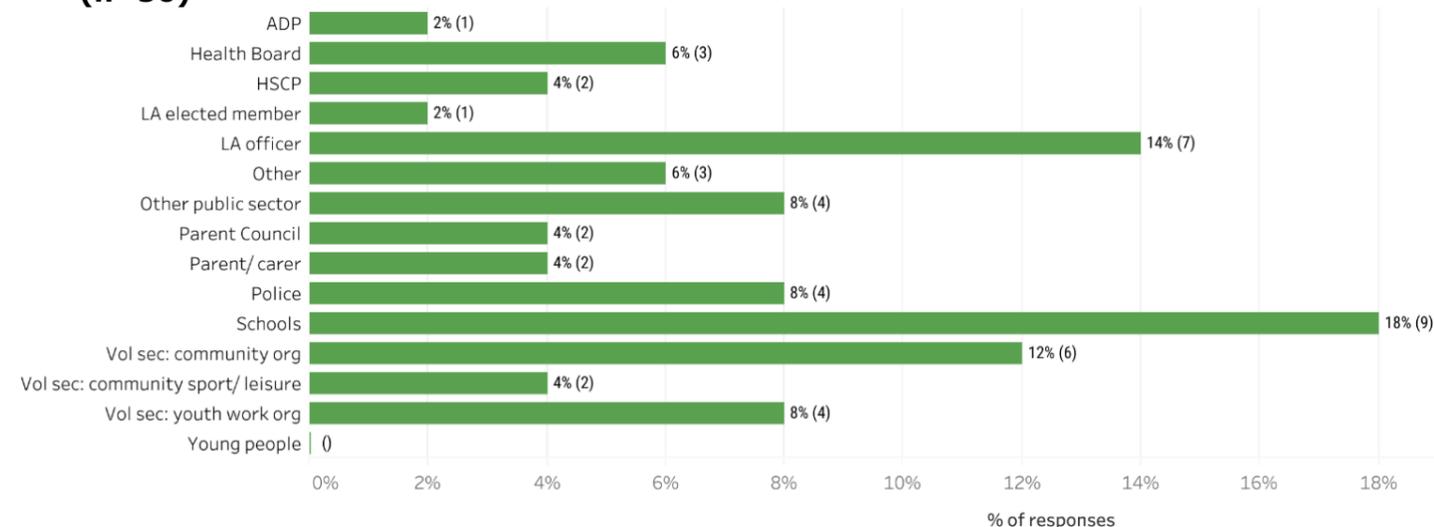
- Recently, responsibility for Planet Youth was transferred to a new structure (The Children and Young People’s Mental Health and Wellbeing Sub-Group).
- This recent change in governance may have contributed to the lack of survey responses, as awareness and familiarity with Planet Youth within the new structure may still be developing.

Who responded?

The types of organisations that responded varied across the coalitions, representing both the differences between coalitions and the relatively low sample size. The voluntary sector made up the largest group of respondents, representing 12 of the 41 responses from coalition members.

Which of the following organisations do you represent on the coalition?

(n=50)



Caveats in use of the data

The survey findings should be used with caution.

- Response numbers were relatively small across the five pilot areas, limiting the extent to which the data can be considered representative of local areas. As a result, differences observed between areas cannot be assumed to reflect meaningful variation.
- The distribution of types of organisations and roles within the coalitions who completed the survey varied across local areas. This means that it is difficult to disentangle differences between areas from differences between respondent perspective given the limited sample.
- The high number of 'don't know' responses likely reflects that many of the coalitions are at early stage in development, and members may have had limited exposure to the approach and therefore have limited knowledge of Planet Youth processes.
- Responses from more established coalitions were inconsistent. Even for factual questions, answers varied widely suggesting that coalition members may differ levels of awareness, knowledge and ownership of plans and processes.

The data should therefore be regarded as indicative: It perhaps provides a more useful basis for considering the stage of development of the coalitions than the impact of the Planet Youth approach.

Appendix 2:

The profiles provide an overview of the implementation of Planet Youth at the local level.

Angus

Context

Angus is the most recent area to join the pilot (joined June 2023).

As a later addition to the pilot, it received a significantly lower level of funding than other areas to support implementation (Angus received only £50,000 over the period 2023-2025) but has progressed rapidly.

- **Development of implementation structures**

Angus has a strong local coalition which brings together a range of local partners around the communities of Forfar and Kirriemuir.

There is a strong culture of collaborative working in Angus. It is a small local authority area where 'people know each other'. The coalition has been developed by building on the existing relationships and culture of collaborative working in Angus.

However, a critical success factor in the success of the coalition in Angus is that has built on a group of partners which had already come together to address the challenges faced by young people in Forfar. A multi-agency group had already been formed and there was already strong engagement in the issues of improving outcomes for young people. The implementation structure in the area has built on this strong foundation.

"We had an existing partnership of interested and motivated people who wanted to do something"

Another critical success factor in the development of the coalition has been the skills of the leads. The leads have strong community development skills and have used community development principles to build an empowered and engaged coalition.

- An early decision not to use Scottish Government funding to employ a part-time staff member was driven by an intention to build 'ownership' among coalition members (in the knowledge that groups often cede responsibility for action when they employ a staff member)
- The coalition has retained a strong sense of ownership of implementation of Planet Youth. Coalition members take responsibility for driving development of Planet Youth and are involved in delivery.
 - There are 3 sub-groups of the coalition, each chaired by a coalition member
 - Coalition members also take responsibility for delivering actions (raising awareness among community organisations, parental engagement etc.)

Driving implementation through a committed group of practitioners has developed an informed group of practitioners – coalition members can see the relevance of the Planet Youth approach and have a well-grounded insight into the 'shift' that is required in their own services to enhance the protective factors. Coalition members could provide examples of how they the learning and insights from Planet Youth was influencing their own work (within their own sphere of influence).

The approach in Angus is that "Planet Youth is everyone's job"

Progress

The coalition has developed 3 subgroups to lead on different elements of its work around the protective factors:

- Community and Leisure
- Family
- School

Each subgroup is developing its own action plans, and the approach is evolving.

Strategic buy-in

Planet Youth governance sits within the Angus Community Learning and Development (CLD) Plan. This is the partnership plan for Community Learning and Development activity in Angus. The Angus CLD Plan reports directly to the Angus Community Planning Partnership.

The coalition leads have also been working to enhance awareness of Planet Youth and foster strategic support among elected representatives, key partnership bodies, and senior leadership.

Within the lead agencies there is a commitment to embedding the Planet Youth approach in the day-to-day work of the department:

- Within CLD there is a commitment to embedding the protective factors into services plans and funding criteria.
- Vibrant Communities worked with local partners and young people to create a new one-off funding stream of £55k to support an increase in the leisure offer, building on the protective factors of out of school activities for children, young people and families.

NHS Tayside is supporting Planet Youth in both Dundee and Angus and the Planet Youth approach and principles are clearly aligned with prevention focus within the core work of Health Improvement (NHS Tayside).

- **Fidelity**

There is a high level of fidelity in the approach in Angus, but there is recognition of the need for greater strategic buy-in to support the cultural shift that is required to focus the whole system on upstream prevention.

Coalition leads are working to influence upwards and to embed Planet Youth into planning and decision-making structures.

"The next stage is to get it written into plans and strategies, then you are held to account"

At the practitioner level, Angus has achieved a cultural shift with strong commitment to delivering the Planet Youth approach through 'making better use of existing resources' and of 'embedding Planet Youth into their day jobs.'

The challenge for the Angus approach is to engage senior leadership support across all agencies who have power to drive change through the system.

Argyll and Bute

Phase 1

• Context

Planet Youth was initiated by Argyll and Bute Alcohol and Drugs Partnership (ADP), but capacity issues within meant that there was had been no engagement with other partners to raise awareness and build support for the approach. The ADP also lacked capacity to engage schools in the first round of data collection in 2021.

Argyll and Bute Council Education Department assumed the lead role in engaging with schools, and were successful in supporting the two schools in data collection

• Development of implementation structures

There had been very limited engagement with partners prior to the adoption of Planet Youth, which resulted in low levels of awareness and lack of strategic buy-in from partners. As a result, Argyll and Bute struggled to establish implementation structures in Phase 1.

Early attempts to develop an Authority wide coalition did not gain traction due to lack awareness of Planet Youth among local partners.

Lead officers started to develop local coalitions around the two school communities. Progress in development of these structures was also slow due to:

- Limited capacity of the leads
- Limited awareness of Planet Youth within the schools and communities and other agencies.

• Progress in implementation

In the absence of implementation structures, there was very little progress in implementation in Phase 1.

Phase 2: National Pilot

• Development of implementation structures

Argyll and Bute increased the number of schools to five in Phase 2.

There were challenges in recruitment in Argyll and Bute, which delayed progress, but the additional staffing capacity has enabled the development of local coalitions in each of the five communities.

- By March 2025, although progress has been made, the coalitions are still at an early stage of development.
- Local data has been shared with local coalitions. Some of the local coalitions have identified themes and priorities for action from their Planet Youth data, but action planning is still at an early stage.

The local data has been useful in highlighting needs and issues at the local level,

- In Dunoon, the Planet Youth data identified the need for more Youth facilities.

- A local third sector organisation (coalition member) has used the data to lever support to develop a new youth space.

By March 2025, a decision had also been made to develop an authority wide coalition to provide an oversight to Planet Youth development across the area.

• Strategic use of data

Argyll and Bute did not participate in the National Health and Wellbeing survey 2021. Planet Youth survey data is the only source of data on young people. the strategic level, Planet Youth data has been used in the Integrated Children Services Plan and in a local policing plan.

• Engagement with partners

Staff have worked to raise awareness and buy-in with partners at the community level, although the capacity of the local infrastructure in many of the communities is a limiting factor (few service providers in rural /remote communities)

• Engagement with communities

The implementation team delivered engagement events (based on their successful 'Growing up in Dunoon' model). These have been successful in raising awareness especially among local organisations, although it has been more challenging to engage parents and communities through these events.

• Issues and challenges in implementation

A key challenge in Argyll and Bute is that the pilot was started without multi-agency buy-in. Leads have worked to raise awareness of Planet Youth at the strategic level and to 'drip feed' Planet Youth data into local plans but there is limited support from other departments/agencies in the area at the strategic level.

The lack of multi-agency support constrains the potential of the approach in Argyll and Bute. Current action plans are focused on schools/education as Planet Youth has limited support/leverage within the wider system. Without wider support for the approach Planet Youth does not have the capacity to deliver across the four domains.

There are specific challenges in Argyll and Bute associated with the geography of the region (rural/remote/island communities) including limited capacity of the local infrastructure (with few services in some of the locations) which limits capacity to provide new activities to support prevention. Poor transport in rural/remote locations also make it difficult for young people to access activities.

At the operational level, the 'joint lead' arrangement — with leads from both Education and Health Improvement — provided some additional capacity but also generated challenges in joint working arrangements. The lead agencies did not share a unified vision for implementing Planet Youth, and differences in organisational culture hindered effective collaboration.

Systems-related barriers also impacted partnership working. For example, decisions on communications and marketing required approval from both statutory sector bodies, which slowed

progress and reduced capacity to engage communities. In one instance, an agency vetoed the use of the Planet Youth Facebook page, limiting outreach to rural and remote communities.

- **Sustainability beyond the pilot**

The posts which were created through Scottish Government investment have now ceased. Both postholders have moved in permanent posts with their respective employers – both posts retain some continued responsibility for Planet Youth but as part of another role (rather than a dedicated post)

- **Fidelity to the Planet Youth approach**

The key challenge to fidelity was the lack of multi-agency support for Planet Youth which has impacted on progress in implementation. Argyll and Bute is now developing implementation structures at the local/community level.

Clackmannanshire

- **Development of implementation structures**

A new lead officer took responsibility for Planet Youth in November 2023 and worked to redevelop the coalition and embed Planet Youth into Clackmannanshire's wider approaches and shifting toward prevention, providing consistency after a period of staff absence and change.

Planet Youth is now more firmly embedded into the Family Wellbeing Partnership.

- The Family Wellbeing Partnership was established in 2020 as part of the broader effort to transform how public services are designed and delivered to communities in Clackmannanshire. It is an overarching cross portfolio approach which aims to shift to early intervention and prevention, person-centred delivery models and increased collaboration with community partners and third sector organisations.

The development of Planet Youth has benefited from the work of the Family Wellbeing Partnership which had built the 'conditions for change' in Clackmannanshire

- Collaboration between services/organisations
- Engaging with parents and families
- Facilitative leadership
- Permission – officers have been empowered to act

The additional resources accelerated progress in development of the Planet Youth structures and in implementation of Planet Youth in Clackmannanshire.

- Significant development of the coalition
 - The coalition is still relatively immature (less than a year old) and there is a need to build ownership and accountability for action among coalition members
- Strong use of data insights to 'get the messages out' and supported partners to use the data to inform services
 - Evidence that third sector providers have used evidence to shape services

- Third sector organisations have used Planet Youth data to lever additional funding to deliver new activities to increase protective factors

'The data has started conversations at the coalition and different organisations have developed actions. I'm much more connected to other services in the area. There is huge potential to start making more joined up decisions' Coalition member

- Supported all three high schools to use the data insights to identify issues and develop collective responses (informing PSE curriculum/developing policies) and school specific initiatives to respond to local insights.

- Supported other partners to develop services to improve outcomes for young people.

- **Strategic fit/embedding into planning and decision-making structures**

The Planet Youth approach and objectives align directly with the objectives of the Family Wellbeing Partnership. Planet Youth has now been embedded into a key programme supporting transformational change in Clackmannanshire.

Planet Youth has been integrated into the Family Wellbeing Partnership's management and governance structures, aligning it with the partnership's strategic and operational processes.

- The coalition has identified four goals for Planet Youth (one for each of the Planet Youth domains) which are aligned with the goals of the Family Wellbeing partnership.

- **Sustainability beyond the pilot**

The implementation team (the two additional members of staff) were employed in fixed term contracts. The team was disbanded at the end of the funding period (March 2025). The Manager of the Family Wellbeing Partnership is a permanent post. This post will maintain the Planet Youth coalition, although there is recognition that capacity will be an issue without dedicated resource.

Dundee

Planet Youth in Dundee

Phase 1

Dundee was the other area which had been considering the adoption of the Planet Youth prior to joining Winning Scotland in the first pilot.

- Preparedness

Facilitated by University of Stirling, a group of local organisations had been researching the Icelandic Prevention Model and exploring its relevance for Dundee since 2019.

- Developing strategic buy-in

The Executive Director of Children and Families, Dundee Council had been part of the knowledge exchange group and has since led on the adoption of the Planet Youth approach in Dundee. This strategic leadership has supported the development in Dundee.

- Strategic alignment

There is a clear strategic fit for Planet Youth in Dundee and established partnerships structures and approaches which align with the Planet Youth principles.

The Dundee Partnership has a commitment to critical areas of public service reform including a decisive shift to prevention and joint resourcing between and across partners and sectors.

The ADP has a strong focus on prevention (and a Prevention Framework) and is part of Dundee's wider whole systems approach to prevention and harm reduction (Protecting People).

- Fidelity to the Planet Youth approach

The approach in Dundee recognised that in order to deliver a whole system approach to prevention, planning and decision-making at the local level would need to be connected to the decision-making systems in the city (i.e. that local implementation groups would need the authority of a strategic group that has authority for service planning and resources).

Dundee developed

- a strategic oversight group:
 - to address the resource and funding implications at the 'decision maker' level
 - to champion the Planet youth approach, to build multi-agency buy-in and build awareness of how different agencies contribute to delivery of prevention
 - to lead the strategic development of Planet Youth in the city
- a community implementation group
 - to make decisions at the local level based on local data.

The strategic oversight group was chaired by The Executive Director of Children and Families. Membership included:

- Head of service for Education
- Head Communities (Responsible for CLD/community empowerment and youth work)
- NHS - Health Improvement
- Police
- Manager for Active Schools
- Children's Commissioner
- Sport Scotland

The Community Implementation Group was predominantly officer led. It aimed to bring together the two schools and local partners including council departments, Active Schools, Public Health, Police, the Communities team and third sector representatives. It did not have any parent or community involvement.

- Progress

Implementation of the approach has been challenging. The Community Implementation Group was 'slow to get off the ground'. This was due to lack of capacity to develop the community infrastructure but also a lack of clarity at local level about the about the purpose of Planet Youth and lack of clarity of roles of various agencies in prevention. "At the beginning, it wasn't clear what we were trying to do"

The capacity of schools to engage was limited.

There was also very limited dissemination of survey data due to local concerns over misuse of the data. As a result, there was very limited use of the data from the first cycle of data collection in Dundee. Limited sharing/use of data has limited partner engagement in Planet Youth and there was a low level of visibility and ownership of Planet Youth by partners.

There has been limited use of data at the school level:

- The lead (who was the QIO for health and wellbeing) incorporated some of the issues raised through the survey into the PSE curriculum.
- One school carried out a peer led project to raise awareness of the harms of vaping.

The strengths in the Dundee approach were:

- Visible strategic leadership
- Strategic alignment (strong prevention focus in Dundee)
- Experience in system change and the recognition of the need for the strategic group to drive the approach, and to have the power/authority to drive changes in planning and resourcing service delivery.

However, there were challenges in finding the fit for Planet Youth in an already crowded landscape:

- There were other local initiatives that operate with the same principles/approaches which resulted in lots of duplication 'the same people sitting round tables talking about the same things'.
- It has been challenging and time-consuming to navigate these complex environments to understand where and how Planet Youth can **best align** or **integrate** within this landscape — both **strategically** (planning structures, policies, leadership) and **operationally** (on-the-ground delivery, systems, practice).
"To be sustainable, we need to find a way to subsume Planet Youth into wider systems change work."

The focus in Dundee in Phase 1 has been on developing the structures which will support system change in the long term. There was less progress in direct implementation during the first phase of the pilot, but the learning from this phase has influenced the development and evolution of the 'Dundee approach' during the National Pilot.

Phase 2

Development of the implementation structures

The approach developed in the first phase of the pilot recognised that Planet Youth needed the support of leaders across the partnership who had the authority to drive changes in the planning and resourcing of services at the local level.

- **Embedding into planning and decision makings structures**

The approach has further developed over the period of the National Pilot. The Planet Youth implementation structures have been further integrated in to the strategic planning and local planning structures in Dundee.

The aims are to ensure that embed Planet Youth into planning and decision-making structures so that Planet Youth is influencing plans and strategies across the Community Planning Partnership and that there is formal accountability for implementation of actions through recognised decision-making structures.

- At the strategic level,

The Planet Youth strategic oversight group has been disbanded and responsibility for Planet Youth now sits within the remit of the Child Poverty and Inequalities Strategic Leadership Group. This is one of the three Strategic Leadership Groups (SLGs) of the Dundee Partnership which area tasked with the responsibility for delivery of improved outcomes within their theme, delivering of joint improvement priorities, redesigning and integrating services and making a decisive shift to prevention.

A Delivery Group has been established. This is a senior officer group (rather than strategic group) tasked with driving implementation.

- At the local Level,

The local implementation group has been disbanded and responsibility for community level engagement, planning and response has been integrated into the existing Local Community Planning Partnership (LCPP) structure.

The aim is that data from Planet Youth will inform identification of need and development of collaborative responses at local level to address the risk and protective factors. These actions will be integrated into the local community plans, and the LCPPs will hold partners accountable for delivering actions.

- **Issues and challenges in the approach**

The strategy in Dundee has been to embed Planet Youth in local structures so that Planet Youth 'messages' are influencing the strategies and plans of all agencies/departments. As such there is less emphasis on developing a Planet Youth action plan and more emphasis on how Planet Youth data insights/messaging is influencing other plans/services. As a result Planet Youth is less 'visible' in Dundee.

There is now commitment to Planet Youth in key strategic plans in Dundee:

- There is a commitment to support the implementation of Planet Youth in the ADP Delivery Plan (2023-25)
- The Children and Families Services Plan 2023-27 makes a commitment to Planet Youth (commitment to extend Planet Youth to all schools in Dundee)

However, there is limited evidence to date that Planet Youth is influencing strategic planning or leveraging change across the system.

A wider challenge is that it is difficult to see the outcome of 'influencing' work, and Planet Youth is less 'visible' than in other pilot areas.

"It's about changing the way we work".

The lack of visibility of Planet Youth and a definable 'action plan' can make it difficult for partners to understand 'what Planet Youth is' and their role in Planet Youth.

"There is clear commitment to Planet Youth but there could be better understanding what the project is set up to achieve and how it could be supported by the wider partnership" (respondent to coalition survey 2025)

At the local level, there are also challenges in implementation. While community leads and developed new activities in the community and in the local school, there has been little progress in using the data to inform local community plans.

Additionally, local community planning structures have not been a successful vehicle for involving schools in planning at the local level. The schools have not seen significant benefit from being part of Planet Youth and have limited engagement beyond completion of the survey. They are not connected to the local community planning structures, so the work to connect and plan across schools/community is weakened.

- **Fidelity to the Planet Youth approach**

The model has strong strategic intent, with the aim of leveraging system change, but limits the capacity of the model for partner engagement and community involvement in decision making.

Highland

Planet Youth in Highland

Phase 1

Highland made significant progress in in implementation in the first year of the pilot. Factors in success include:

- **Preparedness**

Highland was an early adopter of the Planet Youth approach and had made significant progress towards the adoption of the approach prior to the first pilot.

It had been a joint ambition of the ADP and Public Health to pilot Planet Youth in Highland since 2018. They had been raising awareness and support for the approach.

ADP and Public Health had been raising awareness with agencies across Highland, building relationships and allies - "a motivated group of like-minded people who wanted to make it happen".

There was also community buy-in in Caithness. At an event in February 2020, local organisations and community members supported the approach and provided pledges of support.

- **Strategic alignment**

Highland ADP had a strong focus on prevention. Planet Youth provided a mechanism to operationalise its prevention strategy.

The ADP was already funding some funding sport/leisure activities for young people as part of its preventative strategy.

- There was an existing relationship with Highlife Highland who have continued as key partners in Planet Youth.

- **Strategic support**

The ADP co-ordinator has been a key champion for Planet Youth – raising awareness, building relationships and developing allies across agencies to build a base of multi-agency support for Planet Youth in Highland.

The adoption of the Planet Youth approach has also been supported at a strategic and operational level by NHS Highland

- Director of Public Health has been a key champion for Planet Youth
- A member of staff from Health Improvement has acted as the 'lead' for Planet Youth Highland

- **Local funding to support implementation**

The ADP has also been a key source of investment in the Planet Youth approach in Highland. The ADP invested resources to build the capacity of the implementation team in the first phase of the pilot.

- The ADP also funded a Children's Health (Drugs and Alcohol) post within the Council. This was not a post dedicated to Planet Youth but provided some additional support to implementation. (engagement with schools and communities)
- This post was additional to the 'lead' role which was added to the role of a staff member of NHS Health Improvement Team.

- **Funding for prevention activities**

The ADP also invested in the provision of prevention activities. In 2023, the ADP agreed funding to support Highlife Highland, a partner in Planet Youth in Highland, to create two new Youth Sports Worker posts. These posts provide take a youthwork approach, engaging young people (and families) in additional leisure time involvement as a protective.

- **Fidelity to the Planet Youth approach**

There is a very high level of commitment and ownership of Planet Youth in Highland. There was also an enhanced understanding of the Planet Youth approach, supported by staff's sustained investment in developing their knowledge and a strong uptake of training opportunities provided by Planet Youth Iceland, including visiting Iceland to learn firsthand.

The commitment to Planet Youth is manifested in the rigorous and methodical manner in which the process has been implemented.

- During the initial phase of the pilot, the lead officer systematically advanced through the ten-step process, demonstrating a strong commitment to methodological rigour.
- The lead officer had a clear plan for the implementation process (which mirrors the steps in the 10-step Planet Youth process) and has implemented with rigour.

The coalition used data from the first survey to develop an action plan (which was based on Highland wide data rather than local as the coalition covered all five communities.)

The coalition identified a number of actions. The actions demonstrate a strong understanding of the principles of the Planet Youth approach, building protective factors for young people by increasing access to activities, and attempts to build family connections and social cohesion in the 'family' domain.

There have been a number of 'wins' but also challenges in delivering on actions which highlights an issue of governance of coalitions – the lack of mechanisms to hold partners to account for their actions.

One of the goals was to develop parent agreements about consistent messages regarding alcohol and drug use.

- In one community, a parent pledge was developed with a small group of parents/community members

Other ambitious goals around increasing the number of family-to-family activities could not be delivered due to lack of capacity among partners, and in the absence of capacity to engage with parents/communities, the actions around building social cohesion were predominantly around developing access to information/resources.

Challenges

- There were challenges in engaging with communities - even with additional staff capacity, the capacity to engage with communities across five different areas spread across the Highland was low.
- There were also challenges in maintaining engagement with schools and schools were not involved in the action planning process
- Limited engagement with Education at the strategic level
- The capacity of partners to deliver on actions

Highland also recognised that there was still limited knowledge among wider partners (and communities) of the purpose of Planet Youth beyond a drug and alcohol intervention which limited engagement. In Phase 2, they worked to develop a wider understanding of upstream prevention, of the role of different partners in delivering prevention, and its wider impact (education, attainment and attendance, health and wellbeing, and community cohesion etc).

Note that limitation in capacity influenced the development of implementation structures.

- Highland recognised that it could not service five local coalitions (in remote locations) with staff capacity available, so developed a single coalition for all five communities in the first phase of the pilot.

Phase 2:

The increased staffing capacity has enabled Highland to develop its implementation structures and has increased capacity for wider engagement in the communities.

Progress in implementation

- **Development of coalition structure**

Highland has five local coalition groups (Local Action Groups) in each of the five local communities. It has also developed a strategic coalition to oversee strategic development of Planet Youth in Highland.

- **Engagement with parent and communities**

Highland has also seen considerable increases in engagement with parents, and communities and local organisations.

The team has been creative - developing new ways of engaging directly with parents through Parent Cafés.

The team has also engaged parents and communities more widely with Planet Youth data insights and 'messages' (developing an understanding of the risk and protective factors) through its social media presence (over 600 members on an active Facebook page)

The team has also developed a series of resources aimed at parents that respond to issues identified through the local survey data (resources for parents on vaping, bullying, mental health etc)

- **Engagement with schools**

There have been mixed levels of engagement of schools, but the Implementation Team has been creative in building connections with schools and building links between schools and other local partners, for example:

- The Planet Youth Highland team has piloted the delivery of Health and Wellbeing Days for the local schools. The team co-ordinated events which took coalition partners and service providers into the schools to raise awareness of the resources available to support health and wellbeing.
- The events were successful in raising awareness of services directly with the young people who attended the days
- The events have increased also connectedness between school and local organisations involved in providing health and wellbeing support to young people.

"Planet Youth has been incredibly useful for my organisation to be able to expand our service in the coalition areas across Highland. It has helped us to raise awareness of our mental health supports within schools and other organisations and to reach far more young people than we would have been able to otherwise". (local coalition member)

Success factors in Phase 2

- **Strong foundations/knowledge and preparedness**

There is a high level of embedded knowledge and commitment to Planet Youth in Highland and the strong progress in the Phase 1 of the pilot set strong foundations for the Phase 2. There was also a plan for the development of the pilot in Phase 2 and knowledgeable support for the new staff from the previous 'lead' officer.

- **Staff resources**

The staffing model in Highland has accelerated implementation.

- The decision to appoint a full-time 'lead' has accelerated progress in implementation in Highland
 - In other areas the original 'leads' who had limited time and capacity continued to hold the lead role. Their lack of capacity continued to hinder implementation.
- The appointment of a postholder in the role of 'community lead' who had local knowledge and existing relationships in the communities has also engagement at the local level.

- **Strategic alignment**

Clear strategic alignment with the ADP strategy and Public Health priorities

"Planet Youth is now baked into the ADP strategy"

- **Consistent support from leaders and champions**

Consistent strategic support from the ADP and Public Health.

- **Funding to support prevention activities**

In Highland, consistent support from the ADP has provided funding to support the development of Planet Youth infrastructure but also supported funding for delivery two posts (delivered by Highlife Highland) to deliver sport/physical activities for young people and families.

- **Use of data**

The pupil survey data is analysed by Planet Youth Iceland. Highland has benefited from internal capacity (a data analyst in Public Health) which has enabled them to interrogate the local data themselves. This has been particularly helpful giving leads a much more in-depth understanding of the local data and enabled them to create tailored reports on local issues which has supported engagement of parents and partners.

- **Getting the messages out**

At the operational level, production of high-quality resources for parents and partner to disseminate key insights from the survey, good information resources (including a monthly newsletter which goes out to all partners, parents, communities etc) and good use of social media helped to increase awareness, visibility and engagement.

Challenges

It has been challenging to engage Education at the strategic level in Planet Youth.

- **Fidelity to the model**

There is a strong commitment to the Planet Youth approach in Highland which is reflected in the commitment to fidelity in design and implementation.

There has been consistent strategic support from the ADP and Public Health and other key partners (Highlife Highland) and ongoing efforts to engage other partners to increase multi-agency strategic support, to shift the capacity of the model to support system-change.

West Dunbartonshire

Context

In West Dunbartonshire, no dedicated coalition or implementation structure was established to oversee Planet Youth. Instead, responsibility for the initiative was embedded within existing planning and decision-making frameworks, with oversight delegated to a sub-group of the Alcohol and Drug Partnership (ADP).

This approach aimed to integrate Planet Youth into established systems, providing legitimacy and strengthening accountability for prevention efforts, and reducing duplication of structures (West Dunbartonshire is a small local authority). However, as a formal sub-group of the ADP, membership is closed, which limits opportunities for the inclusion of new partners, schools, parents, or community representatives in the planning and delivery of Planet Youth. As a result, the model does not fully reflect some of the key principles of the Planet Youth approach.

Nonetheless, there is clear evidence of commitment and ownership, with West Dunbartonshire being the first pilot area to secure funding to continue delivery beyond March 2025, extending the programme beyond the initial Scottish Government funding period.

Development of implementation structure

In Phase 1, the implementation was led by an officer from the HSCP (Health Improvement) who has been the champion for the Planet Youth approach. The role of the lead was critical in maintaining a focus on Planet Youth within the Sub-group and in building understanding and motivation for Planet Youth among members of the sub-group.

In the first phase of the pilot, there was one school involved in the pupil survey

There was little capacity in the implementation model to engage with the community or parents, and dissemination of the data was limited.

A number of actions were developed with the participating school (a mental health day, taster activities etc).

West Dunbartonshire planned to extend Planet Youth across all schools in the region during the National Pilot, but two denominational schools withdrew from the survey at the last minute.

- **Development of implementation structures in Phase 2**

The funding from the Scottish Government enabled pilot area to build the implementation capacity.

West Dunbartonshire piloted an alternative staffing model to support implementation of Planet Youth in the community. It commissioned a third sector organisation to lead on promoting and supporting engagement of schools, communities and parents in the Planet Youth approach.

There have been challenges in implementation.

- While the commissioned service has transformed its own services to reflect the Planet Youth approach (increasing service provision to younger children, increasing opportunities for family activity to build protective factors) it has been less successful in engaging with schools, communities and parents outwith its own service.
- The coalition secured funding for each of the schools (including those that did not participate in data collection) to deliver prevention activity (driven by the data)
 - Many of the schools are still to develop plans and the funding has not been taken up.

There have also been challenges in the development of the structures for governance/ oversight of Planet Youth.

- Organisational changes with West Dunbartonshire Health and Social Care Partnership have resulted in shifts in the governance arrangements for Planet Youth.
- The governance of Planet Youth has been transferred to the Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing Subgroup.
- The strength of the new 'coalition structure' is that has a wide membership of agencies that can contribute to a key Planet Youth priority (mental health).
- It is also chaired by a strategic leader from the Education Department – historically, engagement with Education at a strategic level had been a gap in the Planet Youth structure.
- The challenge is that it will take time to build knowledge (of the purpose and principles of the Planet Youth approach), to build commitment and ownership of Planet Youth and to develop relationships to support implementation across each of the domains.

- **Sustainability of the approach**

West Dunbartonshire was the first pilot area to secure funding to extend the delivery of Planet Youth beyond March 2025 (the Scottish Government funding period). The local funding secures implementation until March 2026.

- **Fidelity to the Planet Youth model**

The lack of a coalition structure limits the capacity of the model to be community driven.



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