



The UK is continuing to experience a cost of living crisis. In December 2022, Public Health Scotland published a [rapid health impact assessment](#) on the population health impacts of the rising cost of living in Scotland. The report identifies that the crisis could have a range of adverse effects on individuals and households.

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Infographics
Produced

Cost of Living

In response to the Cost of Living crisis, an NHS Lanarkshire short life working group led by the Director of Public health has been established to oversee the development of a Cost of Living delivery plan.

Dedicated webpage and Email Account created:

<https://www.nhslanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk/services/cost-of-living/Costofliving@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk>

A range of actions will be monitored over 23/24. Emerging research and learning from other areas will be considered.

No
stigma

Routine Enquiry

Routine Enquiry of finances is well established within several NHS services, such as midwifery, health visiting and GP link workers.

It is the process of asking all patients if they have any money worries as part of the routine assessment of their care and offering a referral to a money advice service. The universal approach helps alleviate any potential stigma or people being missed. NHS referrals in 22/23;

- There were **2485** referrals to the [North Lanarkshire Council Tackling Poverty team](#) (Q1 – 510, Q2 – 595, Q3 – 675, Q4- 705).
- There were **2333** referrals to the [South Lanarkshire Council Money Matters team](#) (Q1 – 525, Q2 – 638, Q3 – 639, Q4- 531).
- There were **78** referrals to the Royal Hospital for Children money advice project (Q1 – 22, Q2 – 16, Q3 – 24, Q4- 16).

Keep Well, district nursing and the children's nursing service have have been rolling out the approach this year.

Communications

Communications plan has been developed

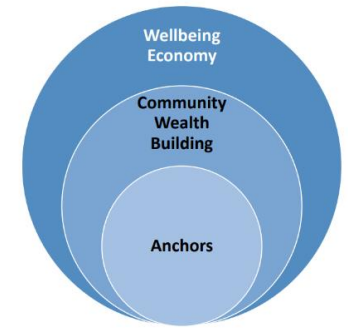
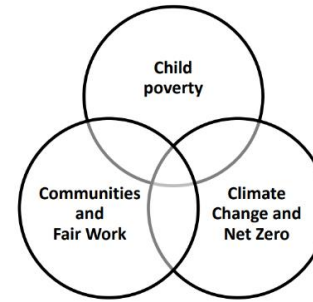
- Social media posts and articles in staff brief
- Distribution of 10,000 'worrying about Money leaflets'
- Since January 276 people have visited the cost of living webpage. The length of time spent on the page is higher than average, with 48% clicking on a link
- Quit your way team developed a campaign which included videos, images, social media and a podcast
- Facebook – 7467, Twitter – 118 engagements
Instagram – 16 likes



Partnerships

We have worked with a range of internal and external partners across localities, Lanarkshire wide, regionally and nationally to inform and progress actions around topics including;

- Child poverty
- Employability
- NHS as an anchor organisation and Community Wealth Building
- Fair work
- Sustainable Development Goals



Free period products

This year we have worked with South Lanarkshire Council to evaluate and ensure free period products are available in a range of accessible locations in our community. Our selected health sites in SL have given out a total of;

- 992 packs (255 Hamilton, 48 EK, 310 Clydesdale, 281 Camglen , 1 Wide)
- SLC have also funded 2 dispensers for emergency provision in University Hospital Hairmyres

Products are also available in NL community health sites and NLC have also funded dispensers for acute hospitals. 23/24 will look at evaluation of existing provision in NL. New Pick up My Period app launched nationally.



Homelessness

- Legislation is expected in summer 23 that will require all public sector bodies to 'ask and act' around housing insecurity.
- Health Improvement are currently working with partners to refresh health and homelessness actions.
- A school nursing pathway has been developed and a notification pathway being progressed.



For further information on anything contained in this report, please contact Alana McGlynn, Health Improvement Programme Manager (alana.mcglynn@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk) or Jo Duffy, Senior Health Promotion Officer (jo.duffy@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk).

In 2023/24 two temporary posts will be initiated, one health improvement senior and one money advisor from South Lanarkshire Council's Money Matters Advice Service. These posts will enhance the capacity of the work around routine enquiry and workforce development across NHS Lanarkshire.