5 YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

BETTER LIVES PARTNERSHIP



Acknowledgements



Thanks go to:

- Our young people, their families and carers
- Our peer mentors in Dumfries and Stranraer
- Our funders and partners
- Our Staff
- Our Trustees
- Our external consultants



Our Priorities

- Enhancing our services – building on our strengths and addressing our weaknesses; ensuring quality driven services while safeguarding our ethos
- Increasing opportunities for our young people
- Raising our profile and increasing our influence on behalf of our young people and their families
- Positively developing our people as our most important resource

Priorities



Current Challenges

SDS Funding (Central/Local Government policy change)

In earlier years SDS packages accounted for 90% of our funded places, as at June 2026 this currently stands at 51%.

Issues of rurality (local transport etc)

Currently not all young people who would benefit from our programmes are able to access them due to geographic and transport challenges.

Promotion of positive outcomes

We are committed to continuing to develop a clear and consistent system through which we can track and promote our positive outcomes.



What we will do

Within 5 years BLP aims to achieve the following objectives:

Protect and strengthen the BLP ethos by protecting and strengthening the following key qualities:

- Person-centred practice
- Youth voice
- Organisational culture
- Relationship-based-support
- staff values and behaviours

Broaden our network to build pathways to positive futures with:

- Into-employment transitions
- Employer and community engagement
- Work experience and volunteering opportunities
- Longer term progression and transition support

Better Lives Partnership

Continue to increase our reach within D&G to facilitate appropriate growth by:

- Exploring how the organisation's impact can be extended geographically in a sustainable way which does not compromise quality, relationships and the person-centred ethos of BLP
- Exploring further opportunities for young people to maximise their independence
- Enhancing our Outreach Programme to extend our reach to young people who are currently unable to participate



Lead on local and, where appropriate, national collaboration to extend our sector's impact and influence. We will do this by:

- Building strategic partnerships
- Building on school relationships
- Expanding community collaboration
- Moving towards collaborative impact approaches



Strengthen organisational sustainability and resilience

through the development of a robust fundraising strategy which will focus on:

- Funding Diversification
- Workforce sustainability
- Capacity planning
- Infrastructure development

Seek to enhance workforce development by:

Embedding our, staff developed, BLP Code of Conduct and Practice through our recruitment, induction and probation processes and performance management systems.

Grow Evidence, Impact and Learning

by developing methods and systems to measure and record what works, long term outcomes, impact and progression pathways. We will do this by creating systems and processes for:

- Outcome measurement
- Impact reporting
- Continuous improvement
- Evidence based practice
- Learning and innovation
- External communications and creating an organisational Communication Strategy that seeks to effectively communicate the strategic development of BLP and internal and external communications.



Achievement of the objectives will be measured using the following key indicators:

- Impact and delivery
- Financial stability
- Fundraising effectiveness
- Operational and team capacity

Target groups

BLP will continue to provide and develop services to young people primarily from the age of 16yrs to 25yrs. Our Outreach Programme will also continue to focus on the transition for young people about to move from full-time education, including those educated otherwise, into mainstream society.

Target areas

BLP will continue to focus our service delivery within the Dumfries & Galloway local authority area.

Strategic approach

Our strategic approach will be structured via a translation from our high-level strategic priorities/objectives to focussed site-specific operational plans utilising SMART objectives (Specific/Measurable/Achievable/Relevant/Time-bound).



Better Lives Partnership

BLP will develop, maintain and manage a robust organisational Risk Register

The strategic planning process has identified the following risks associated with the strategic objectives detailed within this plan:

Risk and Mitigation

- Dilution of Ethos in pursuit of a growth strategy.
  Any consideration of expansion must be tested against approved strategic objectives and be subject to feasibility study, robust impact analysis and cost/benefit analysis.

- Workforce pressures. Increasing demand for our services could impact staff capacity/well-being and retention.
  Any enhancement/expansion of our existing services will only be approved by the CEO if staff capacity allows.

- Demand for services outstripping capacity/resources. Growing need for our services may exceed available resources.
  Any enhancement/expansion of our existing services will only be approved by the CEO if that expansion is properly costed and resourced.

- Fragmented pathways. Without stronger partnerships, young people may continue to experience gaps in progression and transition support. BLP via this Strategic Plan is committed to seeking out new partnership arrangements on behalf of our young people.



Seek to further develop membership of our Board of Trustees relative to the needs of the organisation by:

- Reviewing our constitution
- Annual skills audit and the provision of development opportunities for trustees
- Development of a robust on-going trustee recruitment process
- The development of a robust trustee handbook as a trustee resource

If the opportunity presents, be open to exploration for expansion. This is not a strategic priority and we will only consider this by the utilisation of:

- Risk assessment and amangement of any potential opportunities
- Through feasibility study