

Airdrie and Villages Area



LOCAL AREA...

The Airdrie and Villages area has a population of **53,199** (2011 census). Airdrie is the area's biggest town with a population of 37,130 (2012 estimate). The area is split into the three wards of Airdrie North (Ward 7), Airdrie Central (Ward 8), and Airdrie South (Ward 11). As well as the town of Airdrie, the locality includes the villages of Plains, Caldercruix, Greengairs, Glenmavis, Chapelhall and Calderbank.

Airdrie town centre has been regenerated in the last ten years, with a refurbished town centre and pedestrian precinct and a new road scheme. The Sir John Wilson Town Hall has also been refurbished, and One Wellwynd Social Enterprise Centre opened in 2011. Significant local employers include Bell Group UK Ltd, Albert Bartlett and Sons Ltd and Teleperformance. The town is also home to Monklands Hospital, Airdrie Sheriff Court and Airdrieonians FC.

Outside the town, the Airdrie area extends into rural countryside with several small villages and settlements. Some of these villages, most notably Caldercruix and Greengairs, are fairly isolated from the town.

VOLUNTEERING...

From January 2014 to December 2014, **280 new volunteers** from the Airdrie and Villages area were successfully matched with local volunteering opportunities through support provided by the local Third Sector Interface (Voluntary Action NL).

During the same period, 304 voluntary sector organisations listing a main premise in the Airdrie and Villages area promoted **113 live volunteering opportunities** through engagement with the Third Sector Interface. The most frequent genres of volunteering opportunities available in the local area were working with children or young people and working in a health or care setting. Based on the number of active volunteering opportunities in the local area, Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire estimates that approximately **12,000 individuals** from the Airdrie and Villages area engaged in volunteering during 2014-15 (conservative estimate including charity trustees).

Volunteering activity was also notable in the local area through opportunities provided by statutory partners, including **NHS Lanarkshire** (at Monklands Hospital), **North Lanarkshire Council** (mainly through Active Schools North Lanarkshire and Community Learning and Development), and **Secondary Schools** (clear evidence of senior pupil involvement in volunteering at St Margaret's High School, Airdrie Academy, and Caldervale High School). **St Margaret's High School** was North Lanarkshire's top school for Saltire Award achievers in 2013-14.

SECTORAL PROFILE...

Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire research indicates that **304 voluntary sector organisations** listed premises in the Airdrie and Villages area as their main address (as at 2015), with an estimated total **1300 voluntary sector organisations**, including a high proportion of local authority wide and national organisations, having a footprint in the Airdrie area during the period April 2014 to March 2015. Key investors in the voluntary sector locally include North Lanarkshire Council, Scottish Government, The Big Lottery Fund, Voluntary Action Fund, and several private sector trust funds.

To summarise the voluntary sector in the Airdrie and Villages area, it is important to recognise the key differences between voluntary sector activity happening in the main town and voluntary sector activity happening in the villages scattered rurally outside the town. Within the town is where the larger and more recognised voluntary sector organisations are based, whilst voluntary sector activity in the villages is regularly epitomised by a more grassroots, pure community approach. Both types of activity contribute valuably to what is evidently a very diverse, productive and thriving voluntary sector in the locality.

One Wellwynd Social Enterprise Centre, operated by Clyde Valley Housing Association, houses a number of voluntary sector organisations in the Airdrie area, including the central office of Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire. This facility has provided an essential boost to the local voluntary sector and has become a focal point for sectoral activity and delivery of key voluntary sector services.

ONLINE RESOURCES...

- **Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire** – www.voluntaryactionnorthlanarkshire.org.uk
- **Voluntary Action Scotland** – www.voluntaryactionscotland.org.uk
- **Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations** – www.scvo.org.uk
- **Volunteer Scotland** – www.volunteerscotland.net
- **Locator Tool (for older people's services)** – www.voluntaryactionnorthlanarkshire.org.uk/locator
- **Saltire Awards** – www.saltireawards.org.uk
- **Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator** – www.oscr.org.uk

STRATEGIC RESOURCES...

- **North Lanarkshire Voluntary Sector Strategy 2013-18** – North Lanarkshire Voluntary Sector Partnership Group's strategy document outlining a vision for the voluntary sector
- **North Lanarkshire Partnership Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement 2013-18** - Key strategic documents of North Lanarkshire Partnership highlighting priorities and objectives for developing communities
- **A Framework for Third Sector Connectivity to Community Planning in North Lanarkshire 2015-18** – Outlines a vision and three-year Improvement Plan for voluntary sector involvement in Community Planning
- **Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire Business and Operational Plans** – The Business and Operational Plans of The Third Sector Interface include a number of aims and objectives for developing the local voluntary sector
- **MILO Platform** – The Scottish Government endorsed online database for Third Sector Interfaces to hold key data.

PARTNERSHIPS...

Listing some of the key local partnerships and forums relevant to the local voluntary sector:

- **Airdrie & Villages Local Area Partnership** – Local strategic community planning table. Key items on the agenda include anti-social behaviour, community safety, town centre development, improving leisure opportunities for young people, development of vacant space, health improvement and local employment
- **North Lanarkshire Voluntary Sector Partnership Group** – Key strategic group linking the voluntary sector to North Lanarkshire Partnership
- **Airdrie Area Voluntary Sector Locality Network** - Network for the local voluntary sector, facilitated by Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire on behalf of the North Lanarkshire Voluntary Sector Partnership Group (two gatherings per annum)
- **Airdrie and Villages Community Forum** – North Lanarkshire Partnership's recognised vehicle for engaging and consulting with citizens of the Airdrie and Villages community
- **Airdrie Community Learning and Development Partnership** – Multi-agency Partnership to assist the development of local communities, facilitated by North Lanarkshire Council Community Learning and Development
- **Other Partnerships** include Voluntary Sector Thematic Networks (including Employability Network), North Lanarkshire Social Economy Partnership, and private sector liaison.

ORGANISATIONS...

Brief synopsis of a few key **local voluntary sector organisations** operating in and specifically providing services to the Airdrie and Villages area:

- **Airdrie Citizens Advice Bureau** – Provides free, impartial, and confidential advice services for local citizens
- **Caldercruix Youth and Community Development Project** – Provides youth and community services for citizens of Caldercruix
- **Airdrie PACES** – Promotes healthy living for local people through provision of structured walking and cycling programmes
- **Whinhall Action Group** - Provides youth services and community development for residents of the Whinhall area.

Brief synopsis of a few key **local authority wide voluntary sector organisations** with a major footprint in the Airdrie and Villages area:

- **Parkinson's Self Help Group (North Lanarkshire)** – Works to support individuals and families affected by Parkinson's Disease
- **Routes to Work Ltd** – Provides employability support, advice and guidance to local citizens from its Airdrie office
- **St Andrew's Hospice** – Lanarkshire's only Specialist Hospice is based in Airdrie and provides palliative care and end-of-life care
- **Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire** – Scottish Government's Third Sector Interface for supporting voluntary sector in local area.

Brief synopsis of a few key **national voluntary sector organisations** with a significant footprint in the Airdrie and Villages area:

- **Cornerstone Community Care** – Provides care and support services to help individuals live full and independent lives
- **Guide Dogs For The Blind Association** – The Airdrie branch raises funds to provide guide dogs to visually impaired people
- **Maira Anderson Foundation** – National charity, based in Airdrie, dedicated to supporting those affected by childhood sexual abuse
- **Royal Voluntary Service** – Operates a Community Cafe from Monklands Hospital and delivers Meals on Wheels locally.

Please note that the organisations noted above represent only a small sample of active local and national voluntary sector organisations.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

The voluntary sector, along with NHS Lanarkshire, North Lanarkshire Council and the Independent Care sector, played a key role in the delivery of North Lanarkshire's Reshaping Care for Older People Change Plan during the period 2011-15. Following on from the Change Plan, the voluntary sector is a central delivery partner in Scottish Government's Health and Social Care Integration agenda.

As part of a well-established Locality Partnership Development Programme, **Voice of Experience Forum** is the lead organisation for the Airdrie and Villages area for supporting and facilitating voluntary sector involvement in Health and Social Care Integration. A number of local voluntary sector organisations have been funded to deliver services that contribute to this agenda.