

# South Lakeland Health and Wellbeing Partnership

## Priority Setting Exercise - 2022

### INTRODUCTION:

This report draws on the workshop for partnership members held on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022 and data from returned questionnaires from partnership members. Both the workshop and the questionnaires were designed to seek the views of partnership members on the Cumbria Joint Public Health Strategy, specifically those aspects they felt were most important for the residents of South Lakeland and which of these the partnership was best placed to influence and/or affect.

Additionally, partnership members were asked to rank the importance of the current life-course priorities and if desired to comment on these.

If agreed the priorities proposed herein will inform a long term action plan for partners to assist local progression of the Cumbria Joint Public Health Strategy.

### WORKSHOP AND QUESTIONNAIRE:

The partnership held a workshop on the 28<sup>th</sup> of February 2022 where those attending had an opportunity to discuss the 5 domains addressed in the Cumbria Joint Public Health Strategy, namely:

- Planet: Growing our Natural Assets
- People: Nurturing our Human Assets
- Participation: Building Social Connections
- Place: Improving physical assets
- Prosperity: Fair and Inclusive Growth of our Financial Assets

Attendees were asked to complete the questionnaire, subsequently issued to those unable to attend the workshop, which asked partnership members to rank these domains (and sub sets) by importance for South Lakeland residents and by the ability of the partnership to affect or influence.

### WORKSHOP ATTENDANCE AND RETURNED QUESTIONNAIRES:

Sector	Representatives on the Partnership	Attended Workshop	Completed Questionnaires after the Workshop	Total
Local Government	13	7	3	10
NHS	9	0	2	2
VCFSE & Other	4	0	1	1

50% of partnership members have contributed to this proposals paper by attendance at the workshop and/or completing the questionnaire.

**FINDINGS:**

The following diagrams show the collective weight (by percentage) of relative importance and relative ability to influence and/or affect the 5 domains and the attendant sub-domains as assessed by those having completed and returned the questionnaire.

**DOMAINS**

Fig 1a.

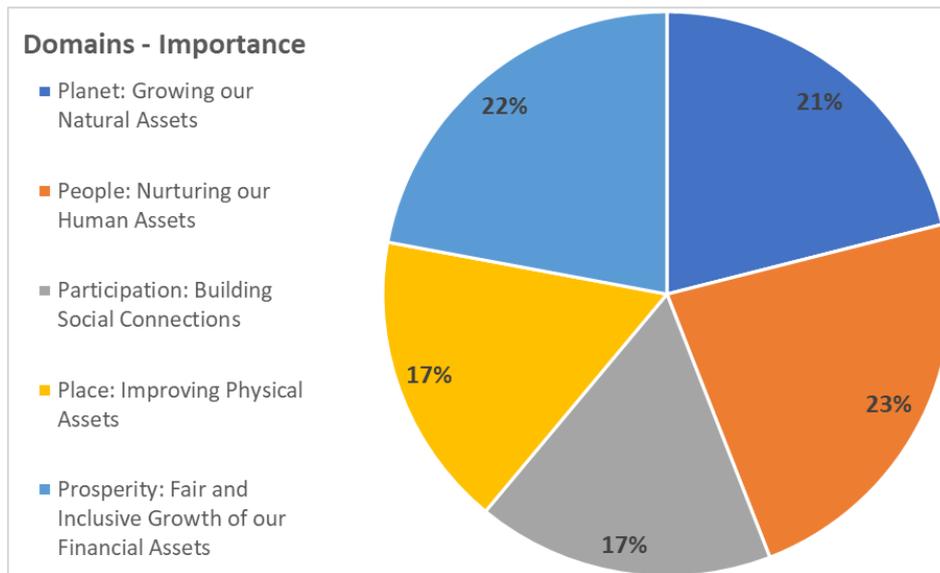
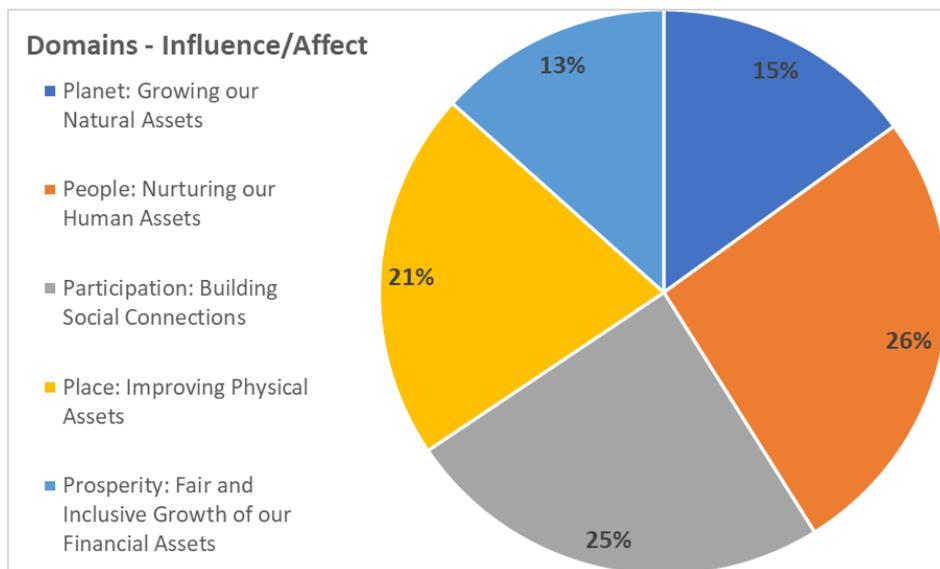


Fig 1b.



**COMMENTS - IMPORTANCE:**

“In South Lakes we all have access to plentiful green space. Therefore, improving the personal circumstances of people is top priority.”

“All are important and interconnected.”

“Difficult to put Planet or Prosperity as most important. They both come out top to me, with Planet slightly ahead due to the finality of not addressing the climate emergency.”

(People ranked most important) “...because education is really important so people can make informed decisions.” (Then Planet) “...because if we don’t look after our planet then we will not survive as a species to do anything.” (Then Prosperity) “...because if we don’t address poverty, then we will not be able to achieve anything.” (Then Place) “...because it has housing in there, I would really like to rank it higher.” (Finally Participation) “...if we do the other things there will be the opportunity to build social cohesion because people will have the breathing space to consider what they can do to help.”

“They are all important but without Physical assets the health inequality gaps cannot be improved.”

“Climate change is top of the problems that we face and that includes biodiversity – unless we tackle the climate emergency we will not have a planet fit to live on.

Climate justice and social justice are intricately linked and that is why I have chosen inequality as the next priority.

My third priority is linked to the fact that many residents live in homes that are damp and hard to keep warm which effects their health adversely. Tackling lack of insulation in houses would result in less fuel poverty and help the climate emergency at the same time.

In many ways I would like to see a more circular diagram rather than a hierarchy of priorities. That way the issues are clearly shown how they link with each other – the aim being to embrace them all in a holistic way with the state of the planet overarching the whole process.”

“In my opinion everything stems from decent education and decent housing. With those in place anything is possible.”

“Climate change takes long term priority for me, then a more equitable society. I think social connections and especially human assets are dependent upon good physical infrastructure hence the ranking.”

#### COMMENTS - INFLUENCE/AFFECT:

“We can influence all of the above, however the ranking reflects how I feel we are set up to influence impactful way at the moment.”

“Creating places with access to green space and human interaction is critical.”

“As a local authority SLDC has to concentrate on its strengths. Leave the lower level activity to society to sort out.”

“This is very difficult to answer ..... I am not ..... clear about how the partnership works currently – I am still learning.

My view would be that the partnership makes sure that their voice is heard in all areas of policy that matters to health and well-being – a huge task I know but at least it makes clear that health and well-being encompasses most areas of the Council.”

“I think our community development work can make a huge contribution to community cohesion, I think our capacity to affect climate change and the macroeconomic picture is very limited.”

SUMMARY:

With regard to importance no great distinction is drawn between planet, people and prosperity. Participation and place were collectively viewed as of relatively lower importance for residents of South Lakeland.

People and participation were the domains which it was felt the partnership was best placed to influence and/or affect followed by place. Planet and prosperity were the domains partnership members felt the partnership least well placed to influence or affect.

SUB-DOMAIN - PLANET:

Fig 2a.

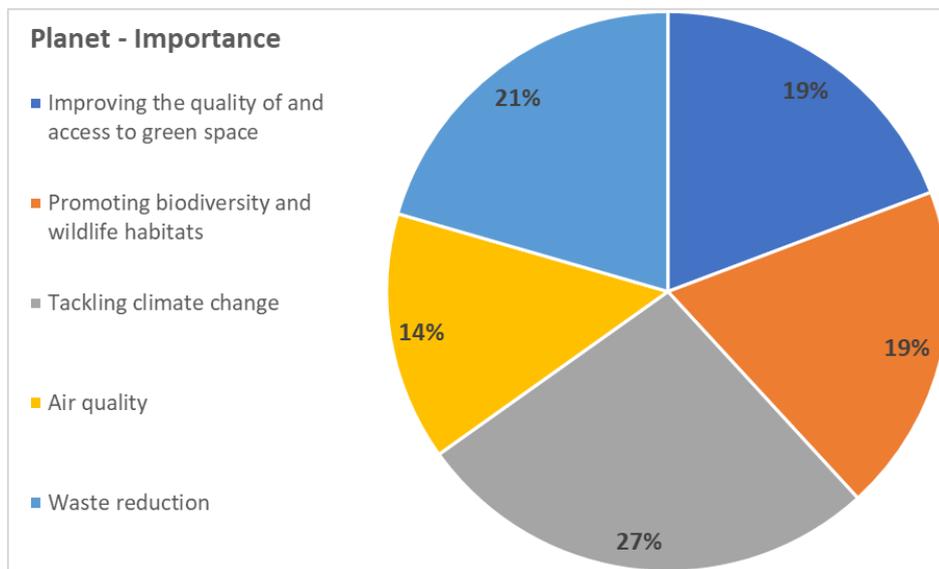
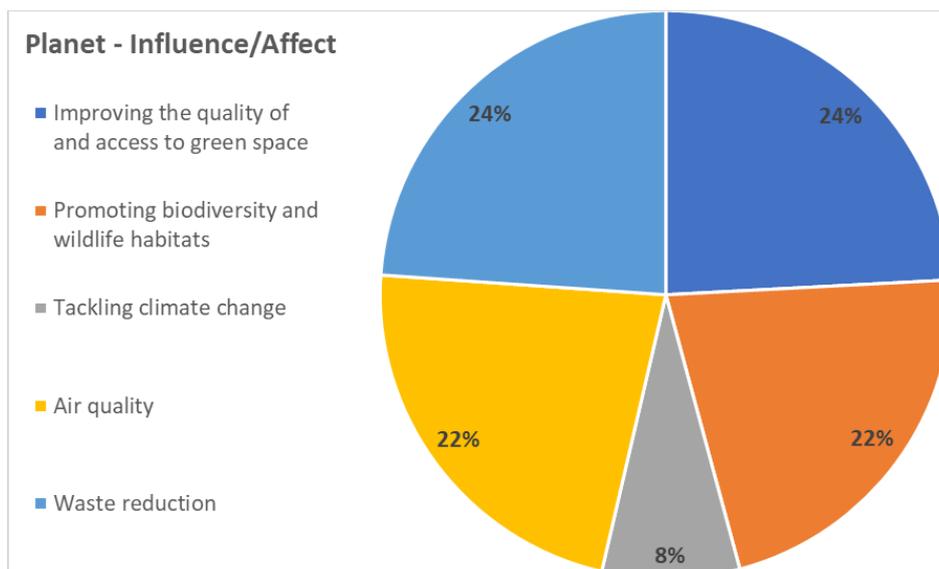


Fig 2b.



COMMENTS - IMPORTANCE:

“I feel the local authority’s place is to address large issues not covered by central government work.”

“Air quality is important but localised in its impact.”

“We must tackle climate change and biodiversity first.

In doing so waste reduction will be reduced and air quality improved and most certainly our green spaces will be more abundant.”

“By improving Biodiversity and wildlife habitats and reducing waste you are impacting upon climate change.”

“I don’t see poor air quality as a pressing local issue and while I think waste reduction is important, I think the importance of our local environment (not least to the local economy) gives it priority only surpassed by the importance of tackling climate change.”

COMMENTS – INFLUENCE/AFFECT:

“There are a lot of low cost interventions which can make big biodiversity impacts growing impacts by post CAP biodiversity net gain.”

“Green space is abundant in S.L. access for all with public transport links already there.”

SUMMARY:

While tackling climate change is considered overall the most important of these sub-domains the partnership members generally feel this is the sub-domain the partnership is least well placed to influence or affect.

Waste reduction, then green spaces and biodiversity are seen as the next most important with all three, along with air quality, seen as sub-domains the partnership is better placed to influence or affect than climate change.

SUB-DOMAIN - PEOPLE:

Fig 3a.

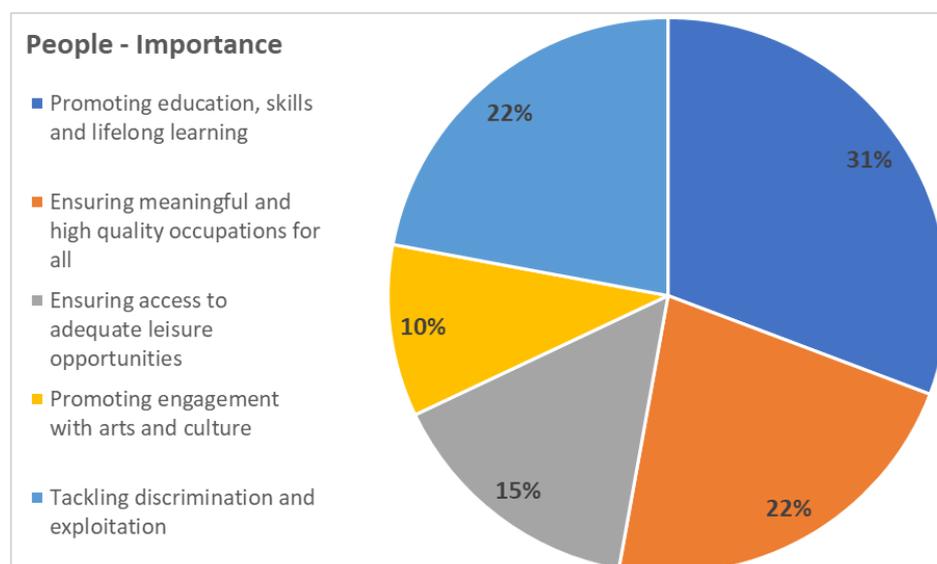
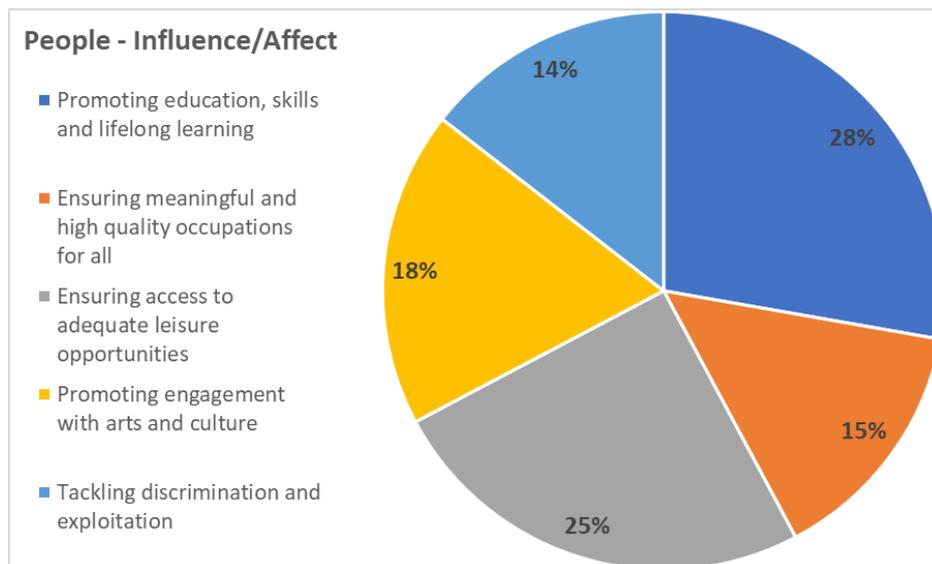


Fig 3b.



COMMENTS - IMPORTANCE:

“Education is the cornerstone of people’s ability to effect their social outcomes.”

“Discrimination is the immediate cause of poor wellbeing and low life chances.”

“I have put tackling discrimination and exploitation as the most important, as for those affected by this, it is top of the list of things to tackle.”

(Promoting education, skills & lifelong learning, and ensuring meaningful and high quality occupations for all) “...= better mental health if people are in satisfying jobs which are well paid i.e. give you enough to live on plus a bit extra to enable you to enjoy your leisure.”

“Happiness in work is important.”

“There are big gaps locally between boys and girls in reading and writing and this should be improved plus looking at encouraging young people into science and technology careers and promoting apprenticeships to get people to stay in the area after school.”

“I think access to education and training throughout life underpins the other four aspects thus it takes priority. Most people do, I believe, engage with arts and culture (albeit maybe through music, cinema and TV etc. rather than theatre or arts exhibitions) and simple leisure opportunities (walking, cycling etc.) are very accessible.”

COMMENTS – INFLUENCE/AFFECT:

“We can put on, promote and improve access to education and training. And we could invest further in leisure, arts and culture. The factors that influence the jobs available locally and discrimination and exploitation are, I believe, harder for us to influence.”

SUMMARY:

Greatest importance has been attributed to promoting education, skills and lifelong learning; second in importance was ensuing meaningful & high quality occupations for all and tackling discrimination

& exploitation, both scoring the same. Ensuring access to adequate leisure opportunities was deemed more important than promoting engagement with arts and culture which received the lowest overall score.

promoting education, skills and lifelong learning was seen as the sub-domain the partnership was best placed to influence and/or affect. Ensuring access to adequate leisure opportunities and promoting engagement with arts and culture were respectively deemed to be second and third of the sub-domains the partnership was able to influence and/or affect, with ensuring meaningful & high quality occupations for all and tackling discrimination & exploitation attracting similar scores as the sub-domains the partnership was least well positioned to influence and/or affect.

**SUB-DOMAIN - PARTICIPATION:**

Fig 4a.

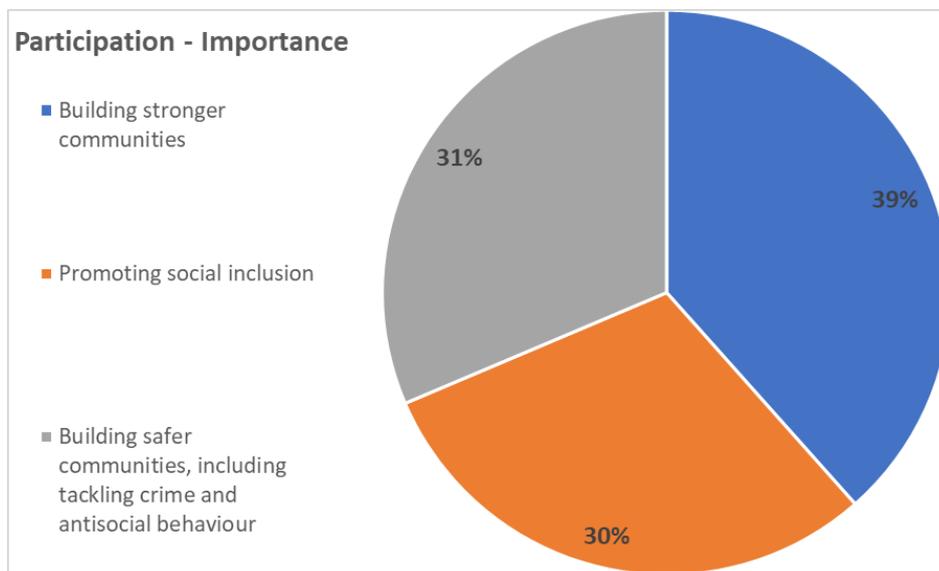
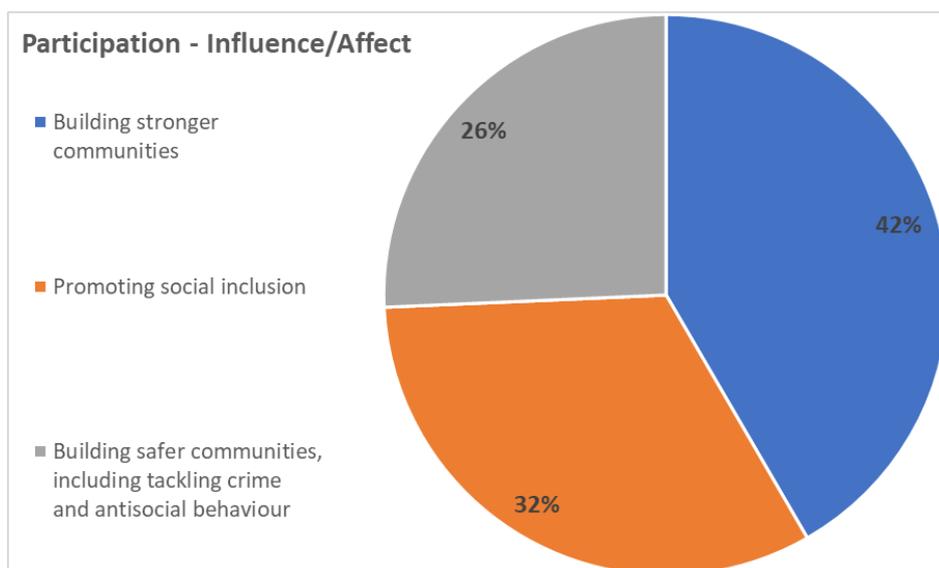


Fig 4b.



#### COMMENTS - IMPORTANCE:

“All important but crime/ASB not a big issue in SLDC. Strong communities build better communities.”

“Support for youth provision in a localised way – financial – training – advice.”

“Communities have come together during covid and this should be continued as if communities are stronger then crime and antisocial behaviour should fall.”

“If you do not feel safe in your community your mental health will suffer so that is why I put that as no 3.”

“This was a difficult one for me. I know that building stronger communities leads to safer communities, but I responded from what I believe the SL residents would consider most important. I would have liked to put them all down as equally important.”

“All are very important but strong communities mitigate against social isolation crime and antisocial behaviour hence the priority. Loneliness is a big local issue and crime rates are comparatively low thus promoting social inclusion takes priority over crime etc.”

#### COMMENTS – INFLUENCE/AFFECT:

“Public sector can tackle ASB and create conditions for stronger communities.”

“Can we please prioritise tackling attitudes towards women and girls at a grass-roots level. Primary school and secondary school communications.”

“These are so inter-linked that I would have liked to put them all down as the same (3).”

We can do, and indeed do, a lot to build the fabric of our communities – we could do much more. It can be very difficult to identify, engage with and support those socially isolated which is why I think this is the hardest to influence, but not impossible.

#### SUMMARY:

Greatest importance is attributed to building stronger communities albeit there is also strong support for the importance of building safer communities and promoting social inclusion which both attract similar scores.

The responses indicate that building stronger communities is the sub-domain the partnership believes it is best able to influence and/or affect with building safer communities including tackling crime and antisocial behaviour being that sub-domain the partnership feels least able to influence and/or affect. Perception of the ability to influence and/or affect the promotion of social inclusion falls approximately half way between the other two sub-domains.

SUB-DOMAIN - PLACE:

Fig 5a.

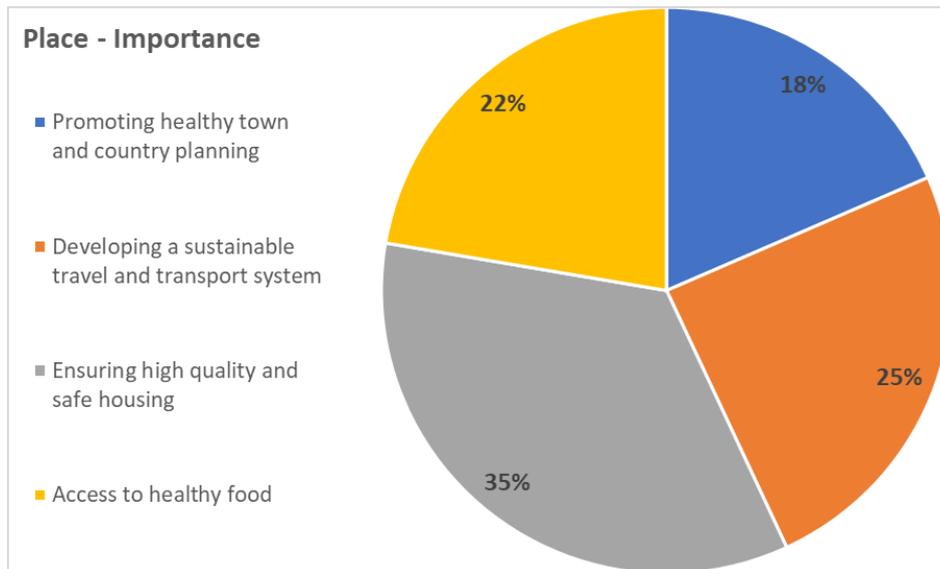
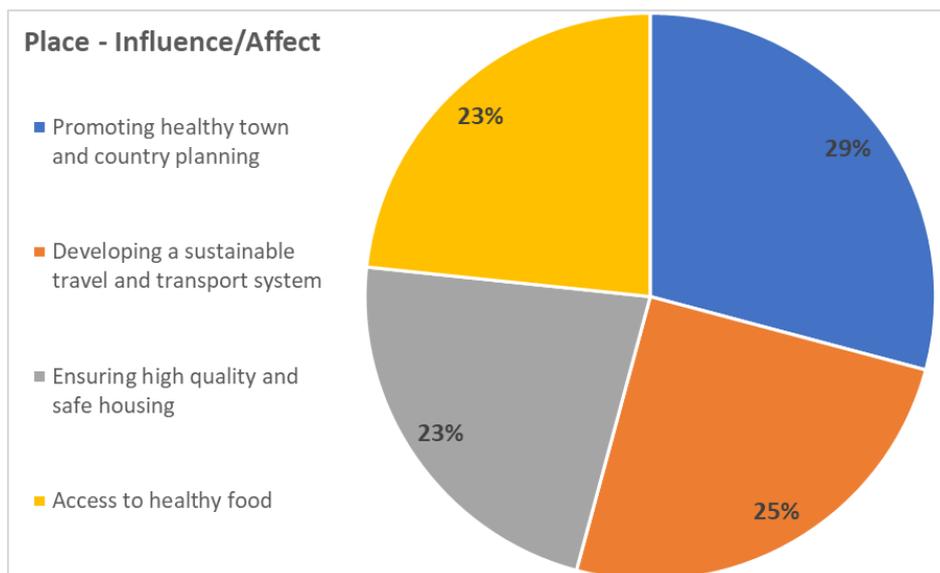


Fig 5b.



COMMENTS - IMPORTANCE:

(Access to health food) “You are what you eat – need help to choose the right food – need help to prepare healthy food – but can you afford it?” (Ensuring high quality and safe housing) “A safe, warm, healthy home is absolutely key to everyone’s health, wellbeing, being able to take advantage of educational opportunities.”

“Once we have our quality education and our good jobs, we can concentrate on gaining quality housing.”

Place is critical. Sustainable and active transport develops health and social interaction. Current market trends – car based, pushing things in the wrong direction. Sustainable town centres are central to civilised life.”

“It is a basic human right to have healthy food and safe housing so this should be priority however without sustainable transport and with rising fuel prices this also needs to be a priority. People need a wider public transport service and free buses to affordable supermarkets such as Aldi, make safe cycling tracks around the area and encourage cycle to work and school schemes.”

“I would like to add that housing is fit for the climate crisis and is well insulated and to a high energy efficiency standard.

Sustainable transport system is not at all clear in my view – enabling people to make the shift out of their cars into an efficient and zero carbon transport system would tackle climate change crisis and provision of safe cycling routes would help with people’s health and well-being.

Recently I read about research in Holland into Dutch teenagers who travel over 2,000km per year on pedal bikes and they take the least anti-depressants and are the happiest young people in the world. You might also be interested to know that Ulverston Town Council conducted a travel survey recently as to how people travel into Ulverston currently and what changes are they prepared to make in terms of more walking, cycling or using public transport. Overwhelmingly they cited lack of infrastructure and not feeling safe on the roads as reasons why they would not change. Conversely if they felt safe and there was provision they would cycle.

I am not sure what healthy town and country planning means – if it means that towns become car free where people shop, I can see how that would improve pollution levels for shoppers and create a place where people can enjoy shopping.”

“I put Access to **healthy** food last, but it could easily be most or 2<sup>nd</sup> most important after housing if it had simply been access to food, rather than healthy food.

This is quite a difficult question to answer for all of the people of South Lakeland. People living in deprived communities or really struggling to get by might answer this very differently to those who are working and need to travel to employment outside of their area.”

“I think housing affordability is a key local issue hence it’s my top priority. Planning should include transport planning and I think access to healthy food is not the issue, rather it’s choosing healthy food.”

#### COMMENTS – INFLUENCE/AFFECT:

“Planning system is weakened by Government. Developer influence pushes things in the wrong direction.”

“I find these difficult to rank. As we include planning authorities we should be able to promote healthy approaches and support high quality housing. Many transport issues are dependent upon national investment and challenges around access to the national parks are very complex.”

#### SUMMARY:

Ensuring high quality and safe housing is seen as of greatest importance; developing a sustainable transport system, access to healthy food and promoting healthy town and country planning ranked 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> respectively, all three were attributed with fairly similar levels of importance.

Despite the importance attached to ensuring high quality and safe housing it is, along with access to healthy food, the sub-domain the partnership felt least well placed to influence and/or affect. The partnership felt best placed to influence and/or affect healthy town and country planning which attracted a slightly higher score than developing a sustainable travel and transport system. There was little difference between all the sub-domains with respect to the degree the partnership felt they could influence and/or affect.

SUB-DOMAIN - PROSPERITY:

Fig 6a.

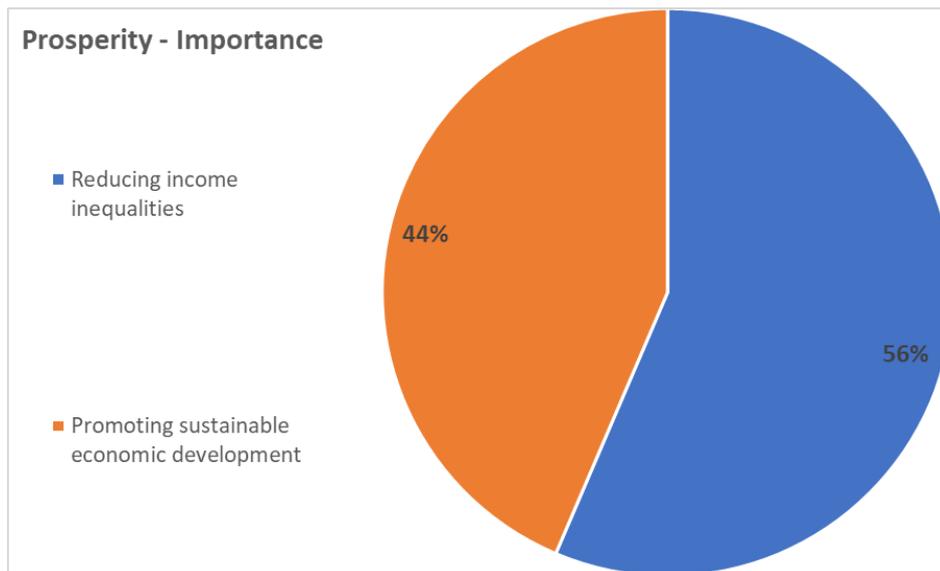
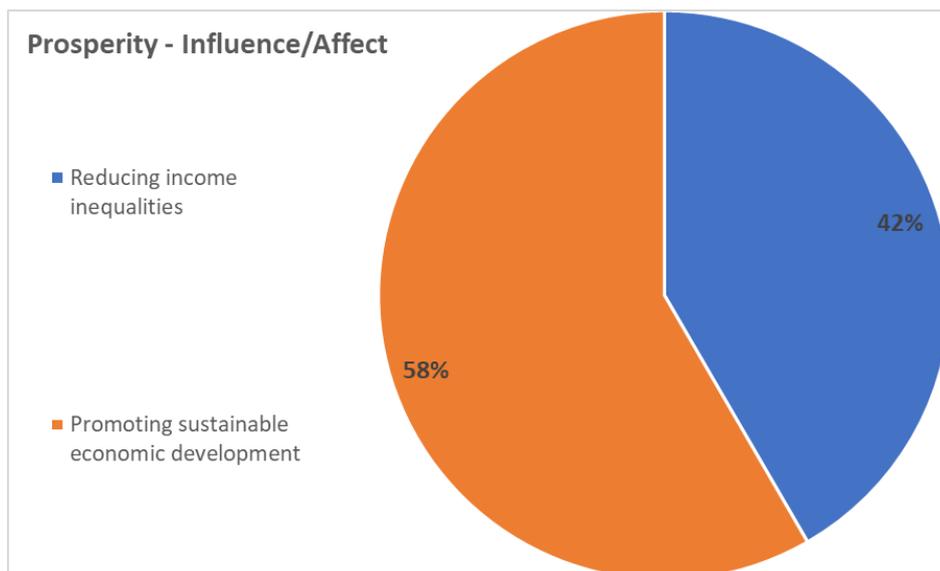


Fig 6b.



COMMENTS - IMPORTANCE:

“If you help with economic development the market will eventually reduce the income inequalities.”

“Two halves of the same coin.”

“I am not sure what sustainable economic development means – another discussion perhaps?”

“I believe widening inequalities in income lead not only to health inequalities but also erode social cohesion hence it’s my priority.”

COMMENTS – INFLUENCE/AFFECT:

“Main influence is our economic growth.”

“We can do much through planning etc. to promote sustainable economic development what we can do to reduce income inequalities, rather that intervene to mitigate the worst of the effects, I’m not sure.”

SUMMARY:

Addressing income inequalities is seen as the more important of the two sub-domains, however both are viewed as being important with 4 of the 13 respondents considering promoting sustainable economic development the most important of these two sub-domains.

A sizable majority (10 of the 13 respondents) felt the partnership better placed to influence and/or affect sustainable economic development than to influence and/or affect reducing income inequalities.

CURRENT LIFE-COURSE PRIORITIES:

Fig 7a.

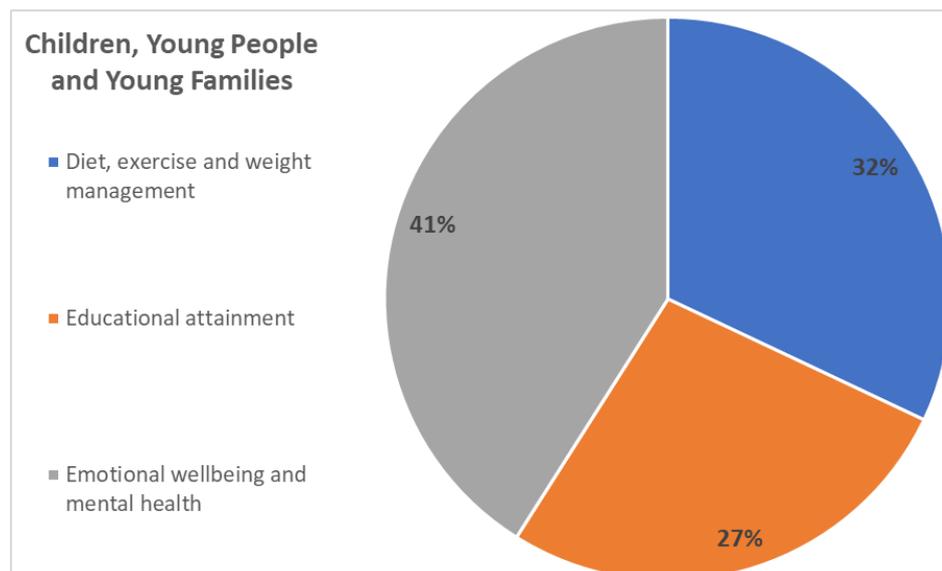


Fig 7b.

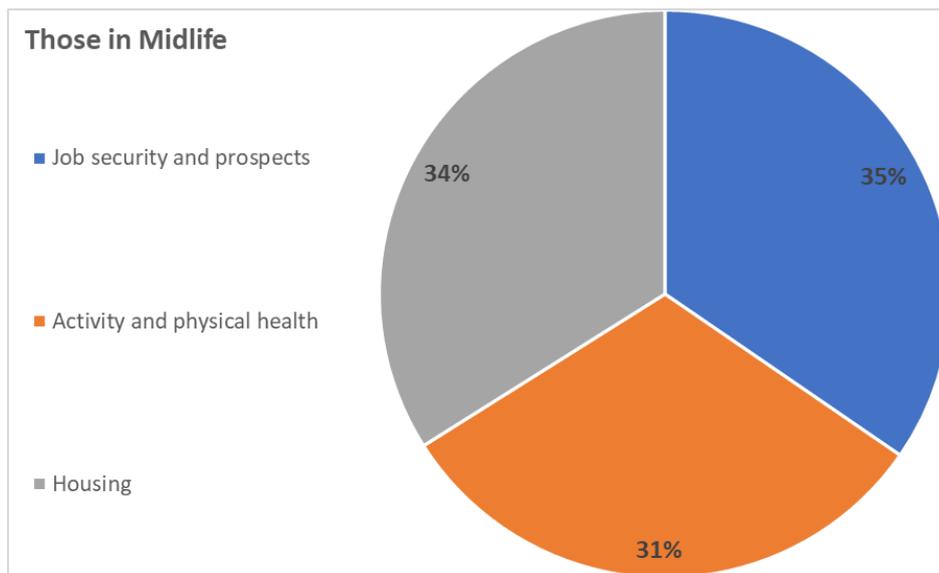
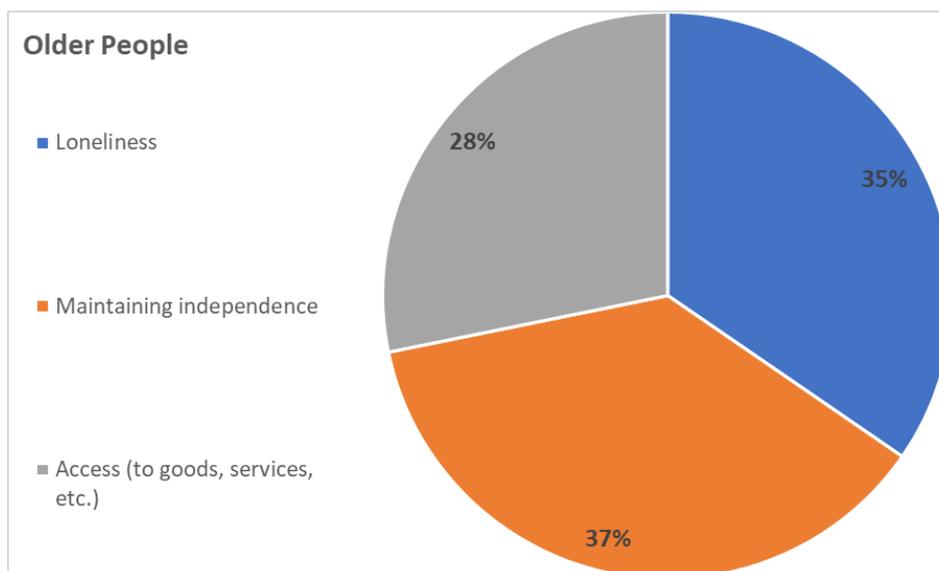


Fig 7c.



COMMENTS:

“Some areas require to be in a top priority and not relegated to a less high priority.”

“Stress the need for Early Help.”

“Mental and emotional wellbeing should be a priority in all age groups along with promoting physical activity and healthy eating particularly since mental health issues have worsened during the pandemic.”

“I think closer dialogue between the partnership and the wider community, sometimes there is a difference between the big picture (e.g. climate change and exercise) verses what an individual might see as important (jobs , housing).”

#### SUMMARY:

No respondents suggested additional life-course priorities were required. There is strong support for emotional wellbeing and mental health being a priority for children, young people and young families. There was little discrimination between the three current priorities for those in midlife; maintaining independence and loneliness are seen as greater priorities that access to goods and services etc. for older people.

#### CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Many respondents reported difficulty ranking domains and sub-domains, in particular with respect to importance. All were considered important, and interconnectedness exposed some crudity in the approach taken. Nevertheless planet, people and prosperity attracted greatest priority amongst the 5 domains (Figs 1a & 1b), as people was the domain respondents felt the partnership best placed to influence and/or effect it is appropriate to firstly consider priority within the attendant sub-domains.

Promoting education, skills and lifelong learning was considered the most important of the people sub-domains and is the sub-domain respondents felt the partnership is best placed to influence and/or affect (Figs 3a & 3b). Ensuing meaningful & high quality occupations for all, and tackling discrimination & exploitation were together considered the next most important of the people sub-domains, however respondents felt the partnership was least well placed to influence and/or affect these.

##### **RECOMMENDATION:**

The Partnership will collaborate with and support the Education and Skills Sub-Group of the South Lakeland Building Financial Resilience Partnership to develop **a medium to long term plan for Promoting Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning.**

##### **PROPOSED ASPIRATION:**

The Partnership will develop links with the Local Economic Partnership to explore opportunities to progress meaningful and high quality occupations for all locally.

Although participation attracted a lower score for importance than planet or prosperity the degree to which respondents felt the partnership can influence and/or affect this domain suggests consideration should next turn to priorities among the attendant sub-domains.

Building stronger communities is clearly deemed both the most important sub-domain and that which the partnership believes it is best placed to influence and/or affect. The degree to which respondents feel the partnership believes it can influence and/or affect the promotion of social inclusion suggests this should be prioritised above building safer communities albeit it would be appropriate (given comments made) to ensure the partnership maintains its strong links with the Community Safety Partnership to facilitate collaboration in this area.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Building on current work the Partnership will develop a **medium to long term plan for Building Stronger Communities to include addressing Social Inclusion.**

**PROPOSED ACTION:**

The Partnership will maintain strong links with the Community Safety Partnership to facilitate collaboration regarding building safer communities including tackling discrimination and exploitation.

Place ranks next when importance and ability to influence and/or affect are conflated. As three of the sub-domains (ensuring high quality and safe housing, developing a sustainable transport system, and promoting healthy town and country planning) are concerned with infrastructure, are addressed in other fora, and are subjects of existing strategy (i.e. the South Lakeland District Council Housing Strategy 2016 to 2025) it would be inappropriate for this partnership to seek to provide leadership in these areas. Nevertheless, it is appropriate that the partnership be recognised as a key stakeholder for development programmes e.g. housing and transport infrastructure.

Access to healthy food is a complex issue as it includes not only issues of transport and cost but is a function also of ability to prepare food, understanding of nutrition, personal taste etc. Additionally, in the current economic climate there are significant concerns about the ability of struggling households to afford food and much work has been undertaken to support community infrastructure (food hubs etc.) designed to mitigate risk in this area. It is suggested that the partnership collaborates with the South Lakeland Financial Resilience Partnership to establish a working group to address issues attendant to ensuring local households have access to sufficient and healthy food.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Collaborate with the South Lakeland Financial Resilience Partnership to establish a **working group to address issues attendant to ensuring local households have access to sufficient and healthy food.**

**PROPOSED ACTION:**

The Partnership will work to ensure it is recognised as a key stakeholder for local development programmes e.g. housing and transport infrastructure.

Given the importance placed by respondents on planet the relatively low confidence that the partnership is able to influence and/or affect in this area should not prevent efforts to progress the aspirations of the Cumbria Joint Public Health Strategy. It is therefore recommended that the partnership establishes a sub-group or companion partnership to support activity attendant to the sub-domains and to facilitate a coordinated local approach.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Establish a **sub-group or a companion partnership to support activity attendant to planet issues** (biodiversity, waste reduction, green spaces, climate change and air quality) and to facilitate a coordinated local approach.

Final among the domains addressed in the Cumbria Joint Public Health Strategy is prosperity. The respondents generally felt that reducing income inequality was more important than promoting sustainable economic development however the ability to influence and/or affect income inequality was deemed less than that to promote sustainable economic development. It is recommended that the aspiration above to 'develop links with the Local Economic Partnership to explore opportunities to progress meaningful and high quality occupations for all locally' be expanded to include opportunities to reduce income inequality locally and to promote sustainable economic development.

**PROPOSED ASPIRATION:**

The Partnership will develop links with the Local Economic Partnership to explore opportunities to reduce income inequality locally and to promote sustainable economic development.

The existing life course priorities remain unchanged and are in part addressed by the recommendations, aspirations and actions above. There are however specifics that are being progressed in other fora and it is recommended that the partnership maintain, and strengthen where appropriate, links to those local bodies coordinating activity in these areas.

**PROPOSED ACTION:**

The Partnership will maintain and strengthen where appropriate, links to:

- South Cumbria Future in Mind Group (children & young people's mental health)
- South Lakeland Children's Partnership (diet, exercise and weight management in children and young people)
- Morecambe Bay Population Health Strategic Group (activity and physical health in midlife, maintenance of independence for older people)