



Executive Summary 2025

Building safer, more connected and resilient communities

The STAR Project (est. 1999) is an award-winning community organisation that delivers long lasting positive social outcomes, building safer, more connected and resilient communities in Renfrewshire.

Community members access the Project through agency referral or word of mouth and between 2022 and 2024 we delivered significant interventions to just over 26,000¹ individuals.

STAR Project has a solid track record of positive impact across vulnerable or disengaged individuals, families facing disadvantage and likely poor outcomes. Based in the heart of Paisley's North End, where individuals and families face well documented challenges, we facilitate opportunity and aspiration, boost life chances, engender community ownership and celebrate every success.

Vision:

Our vision is safer, more connected and resilient families and communities where opportunity is equal and diversity is embraced.

Mission:

Using a person centred approach to build genuine positive relationships, we will deliver diverse, responsive and creative supports and services which recognise community need, aspiration and potential.

"STAR Project does amazing work and continue to adapt and refocus. Well done!" – Statutory Partner

"There is nowhere else in Renfrewshire like STAR Project! Their compassion and creativity is unrivalled and their holistic and innovative approach changes lives" – Health Partner

"I've never worked with a Project where the community are so integral, so invested..."
– Renfrewshire Council

Just under a quarter of children in Renfrewshire are living in poverty². The figures for Paisley Northwest rose sharply from 22.9% in 2021 to 33.5% in 2023, and the nature of poverty is changing, with poverty rising amongst the young and those in work. Two thirds of children living in poverty are living in a household where at least one person is working.

Paisley Northwest, electoral ward 4, has a population of around 18,000 and includes data zones ranked by SIMD as among the most deprived 5 and 10% in Scotland. Our base of operations in Wallace Street resides within a data zone ranked 516 (*most deprived 10%*).

Many families and individuals in our community face poverty and disadvantage resulting in:

- Poorer life chances
- Ill health
- Social and familial tension
- Low aspiration

¹26,398 – ²20.4%



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The statistics paint a very bleak picture of need, deprivation and vulnerability, particularly in Paisley Northwest. STAR Project's impact is to be found in our unique approach, not just meeting the needs of the community but meeting them *in* their need. Our methodological and direct approach to build positive relationships and work alongside our community and partners is successful and sustainable, cited as best practice³, and offers a tailored, live way of working that fits its focus, its purpose and its community.

Over our 25 year history we have seen an increase in demand year on year. In the last year we supported our community members in more than 100 different ways: Families who are care experienced, those who are wholly benefit dependant, individuals who suffer/have suffered abuse or living with long term poor mental health, and families experiencing poverty, deprivation and stigma.

Over 98% of our intervention last year contributed to local and national Strategy outcomes: most notably Poverty and Social Justice, Mental Health and Wellbeing, Play, CLD, Renfrewshire's Council and Community Plans, Social Renewal, Culture, GIRFEC, Early Years, Empowering Communities and Climate Change. Our work is robustly evaluated and shows significant impact in relation to tackling the impacts of poverty/deprivation, social inclusion, creative capacity, well-being, improving resilience and accessing other services.

The STAR Project features in the Government's Fairer Scotland Action Plan (Action 9), as we led some of the community engagement work for Renfrewshire's Tackling Poverty Commission, amplifying that dignity and respect for community members were crucial to successful public services. This resulted in an increase and improvement in the way that people can be heard, and also to us leading on an Anti-Stigma campaign for Renfrewshire Council.

Our unique wraparound approach allows us to see the person, not a label, not a statistic, not a target, ultimately ensuring people feel safe and accepted and ready to take steps towards realising more of their potential. No other service in Renfrewshire, that we are aware of, supports our most under-served citizens in such an innovative, comprehensive and effective way.

We are Fearless – We are Playful – We are Here

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Company No. 201464

³ TNLCF (Scotland), Renfrewshire Council, Blake Stevenson Research