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26 April 2021

NOTICE OF MEETING

A meeting of the **BUTE AND COWAL COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP** will be held via **SKYPE** on **TUESDAY, 4 MAY 2021** at **10:00 AM**, which you are requested to attend.

BUSINESS

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3. MINUTES (Pages 5 - 12)

Meeting of the Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group held on Tuesday 2 February 2021

4. COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE
(Pages 13 - 16)

Report by Committee Manager

5. AREA COMMUNITY PLANNING ACTION PLAN - TRACKER

Verbal Update by Community Planning Manager

6. COVID INFECTION RATES AND VACCINATION (Pages 17 - 22)

Report by Committee Manager

7. PARTNERS UPDATES

(a) Police Scotland (Pages 23 - 24)

Update by Chief Inspector Emma Grimason, Police Scotland

(b) Scottish Fire and Rescue Service - Cowal, Isle of Bute and Dunoon - FQ4 2020/21 (Pages 25 - 30)

Report by Iain Cameron - Watch Commander, Scottish Fire and Rescue

Service

- (c) Bute Island Alliance Update on Arden Craig Gardens

Verbal Update by Jim Osborne – Chairman, Bute Island Alliance

- (d) Department for Work and Pensions (Pages 31 - 36)

Update by Lynn Campbell - Customer Service Leader, Department for Work and Pensions

- (e) Opportunity for verbal updates by Community Planning Partners

8. COMMUNITY LEARNING SERVICES UPDATE (Pages 37 - 38)

Update by Rhona Grant, Community Learning Team Leader

9. POLICE SCOTLAND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TEAM

Verbal Update by Police Inspector Boyle, Police Scotland

10. UK WITHDRAWAL FROM THE EU

- (a) UK-EU Post Transition (Pages 39 - 42)

Update by Chief Executive

- (b) Opportunity for updates from Area Community Planning Group Partners in relation to the impact of UK Withdrawal from the EU

11. COMMUNITY FOCUS

- (a) Col-Glen Community Broadband Initiative

Verbal update by Chair and Cathleen Russel – Chair of Colintrave and Glendaruel Development Trust.

- (b) Forestry and Land Scotland

Update by John Hair, Forestry and Land Scotland (to follow)

12. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN CONSULTATION

Verbal Update by Nicola Hackett - Business Development Manager, Live Argyll

13. GAELIC DEVELOPMENT ACROSS ARGYLL AND BUTE (Pages 43 - 46)

Report by Cristie Moore, Gaelic Development Worker

14. BASECAMP TRIAL

Verbal update by Community Planning Officer

15. CAMPERVAN, MOTORHOME AND STAYCATION ACTIVITY (Pages 47 - 50)

Report by Executive Director with responsibility for Development and Economic Growth

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place at 10.00am on Tuesday 17 August 2021

Bute and Cowal Community Planning Group

Charles Dixon-Spain (Vice-Chair) William Lynch (Chair)

Contact: Stuart Mclean, Committee Manager - 01436 658717

Adele Price-Williams, Senior Committee Assistant - 01546 604480

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**MINUTES of MEETING of BUTE AND COWAL COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP held via SKYPE
on TUESDAY, 2 FEBRUARY 2021**

Present: Cathleen Russell – Colglen Community Council (Chair)
 Willie Lynch – Dunoon Community Council (Vice-Chair)
 Councillor Jean Moffat – Argyll and Bute Council
 Councillor Jim Findlay – Argyll and Bute Council
 Stuart McLean – Committee Manager, Argyll and Bute Council
 Chief Inspector Douglas Wilson - Police Scotland
 PC Laura Evans – Police Scotland
 Samantha Somers – Community Planning Officer
 Sharon Macdonald – Community Development Officer
 Ann Campbell – Dunoon Area Alliance
 Rhona Grant – Community Learning & Development Officer – Argyll and Bute Council
 David Hagerty – Community Learning Worker
 Iain Cameron – Station Commander– Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
 Rodden Shaw – Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
 Harry Bowman – Mount Stuart
 Chris Pescod – Mount Stuart
 Charles Dixon-Spain – Colglen Community Council
 Douglas Whyte – Team Leader East – Argyll and Bute Council
 Robert MacIntyre – Bute Community Council
 Andy Revill – Dunoon Observer

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed everyone to the virtual meeting of the Bute and Cowal Community Planning Group.

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of;

Councillor Jim Anderson;
 Councillor Audrey Forrest;
 Councillor Bobby Good;
 Samantha Stubbs – Third Sector Interface;
 Barbara Halliday – Business Gateway;
 Neil MacFarlane – Local Network Manager, Transport Scotland; and
 Joanna MacDonald – Chief Executive, HSPC.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest intimated.

3. MINUTES

The minute of the Bute and Cowal Community Planning Group meeting held on Tuesday 3 November 2020 was approved as a correct record.

4. GOVERNANCE

(a) **Procedure to Elect Officer Bearers to the Bute and Cowal Community**

Planning Group

The Group gave consideration to a report advising members of the procedure to be followed when electing officer bearers and asked the Group to consider the appointment of a Chair and Vice-Chair to the Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group. The Committee Manager invited nominations from those on the call for both positions.

Decision

The Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group agreed to elect Willie Lynch and Charles Dixon-Spain as Chair and Vice Chair of the Group respectively for the next two year period.

(Reference: Report by Committee Manager, dated 2 February 2021, submitted)

(b) Area Community Planning Group Governance Arrangements

The Group reviewed the current Terms of Reference and membership of the Community Planning Group and noted the dates for meetings up until May 2022.

Decision

The Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group;

1. considered and adopted the Terms of Reference as attached to the report (Appendix 1) and agreed that they be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure their ongoing currency and appropriateness for the work of the Group as it develops over time;
2. considered and agreed the membership of the Group as attached to the report (Appendix 2) with the addition of Colintrave & Glendaruel Development Trust;
3. agreed that the membership of the Group be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure currency and appropriateness for the work of the Group as it develops over time; and
4. noted the meeting schedule and dates submitted in the report.

(Reference: Report by Committee Manager, dated 2 February 2021, submitted)

5. COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Group considered a briefing note which related to the virtual meeting of the Community Planning Partnership Management Committee which met on 2 December 2020.

Decision

The Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group noted the briefing note.

(Reference: Briefing note by Committee Manager, dated 2 February 2021, submitted)

6. PARTNERS UPDATE

(a) HSCP - Cowal Older Adult Health and Social Care

The Group gave consideration to an update from the Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) in relation to the response to Covid- 19 in the Bute and Cowal Area.

Decision

The Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group;

1. considered and noted the information provided; and
2. noted that in the absence of an officer from HSPC the Committee Manager would take back any questions to the HSCP and circulate any responses to the Group.

(Reference: Update by Area Manager, Cowal Older Adult Health and Social Care, dated 20 January 2021, submitted)

(b) Scottish Fire and Rescue Service - Cowal, Isle of Bute and Dunoon FQ3 2020/21 Update

A report highlighting the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service's (SFRS) FQ3 review of local performance within Cowal, Isle of Bute and Dunoon for 2020-21 was considered by the Group.

Discussion focussed on the Test and Protect facilities due to open on Monday 8 February 2021 at Dunoon and Rothesay Fire Stations which will be available to local residents via appointments made by NHS Highland only.

The Group also discussed how the implementation of the new smoke alarm legislation is still to be ratified but is anticipated to come into force by February 2022.

Decision

The Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group;

1. reviewed and noted the contents of the report; and
2. thanked all Scottish Fire and Rescue Service's volunteers for their continued good work.

(Reference: Report by Watch Commander, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, submitted)

(c) Argyll and Bute Third Sector Interface

The Group considered an update from the Argyll and Bute Third Sector Interface (TSI) which detailed their response to Covid-19 which included supporting charities, social enterprises, community groups and encouraging volunteering.

Decision

The Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group;

1. considered and noted the information provided; and
2. noted that in absence of an officer from TSI the Committee Manager would take back any questions to TSI and circulate any responses to the Group.

(Reference: Update by Samantha Stubbs – Strategic Development Manager, Third Sector Interface, dated January 2021, submitted)

(d) **Department of Works and Pensions Update**

The Group considered an update from the Department for Works and Pensions (DWP) which detailed their response to Covid-19 as well as various initiatives they are involved with including job finding support, job entry targeted support and the Kickstart scheme.

Decision

The Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group;

1. considered and noted the information provided; and
2. noted that in absence of an officer from DWP the Committee Manager would take back any questions to the DWP and circulate any responses to the Group.

(Reference: Update by Customer Service Leader - Department for Work and Pensions, dated January 2021, submitted)

(e) **Argyll and Bute Council - Community Learning Service Update**

The Group considered an update from Argyll and Bute Council's Community Learning Service which detailed their response to Covid-19 as well as various initiatives they are involved with including the No One Left Behind initiative, digital employability and the Youth Advisory Panel.

Discussion focussed on how the service had found that the response to the pandemic provided new ways of connecting with young people and that their ways of working would be permanently adapted to reflect this, although there were challenges with adult learners the service believed blended learning would help to overcome those challenges.

Decision

The Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group considered and noted the information provided.

(Reference: Update by Community Learning and Development Assistant, submitted)

(f) **Opportunity for updates from Area Community Planning Group Partners involved in resilience projects relating to the Covid-19 response**

Colglen Community Council

The newly appointed Vice-Chair of the Colglen Community Council, Charles Dixon-Spain, updated the Group on the activities of the Community Council which included having successfully received £31,000 via two rounds of funding which would help to cover the cost of mileage for volunteers involved with prescription and food delivery associated with their resilience work. However, their box delivery budget had been curtailed to around 18 boxes per week which was proving to be problematic as they were finding more people were coming forward asking for help. Another part of the funding received was for an open air space for the community to access during restrictions which was at the planning stage. Mr Dixon-Spain stated that the number of volunteers was a great help and very welcome especially for prescription runs though if more households find themselves in need of this service as a result of the pandemic the Community Council may need to seek further funding.

Dunoon Community Council

Willie Lynch stated that third sector organisation and resilience and befriending groups were covering any resilience work needed in the Dunoon area.

Bute Community Council

Robert MacIntyre stated that he felt people were largely adhering to the social distancing restrictions and there was a noticeable increase in people walking more to keep fit.

Discussion focused on the increase in uptake in click and collect and online deliveries with local retailers as well as supermarkets had a positive impact on the community though there was some evidence that supermarkets were experiencing stock issues.

At this point Councillor Jim Findlay left to attend another meeting

(g) Opportunity for general updates from Area Community Planning Group Partners

Police Scotland

PC Laura Evans advised the Group of her work with the Cared for at Home network which was established through partnership working with the council and TSI to help raise awareness of fraud and bogus crimes. These types of crimes have doubled this year and a lot are in relation to scam emails as more people are at home and more isolated and vulnerable and therefore an easy target. Information is shared via social media but there is a need to look at how to get this to older people. Police Scotland are sharing alerts with Neighbourhood Watch Scotland who then decimate the information to community councils, who in turn can pass this to care home staff to pass to their clients when speaking to them face to face. PC Evans stressed that the aim of the project was to raise awareness and not to cause panic and was happy to pass on the information for circulation to the wider group.

Bute Community Council

Robert MacIntyre advised that there is only one boat sailing in and out of Rothesay and there is a possibility of the Colintraive/Rhubodach sailing being reduced to an hourly sailing.

7. COVID-19 STAY AT HOME GUIDANCE

The Group gave consideration to the latest Covid-19 stay at home guidance.

Decision

The Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group considered and noted the contents of the guidance.

(Reference: Scottish Government Guidance as of 19 January 2021)

8. UK WITHDRAWAL FROM THE EU

(a) Food and Drink Exports - Mount Stuart Trust

Rural and Operations Director and Building and Facilities Manager, Mount Stuart Trust updated the Group on the issues faced by their business, particularly in regard to exporting their produce, since the UK's withdrawal from the EU. They advised that the beef and sheep business was very strong but was cautious about the future which will be monitored closely. Mr Bowman also advised that the dairy market remained strong in terms of farming.

Decision

The Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group noted and thanked the Rural and Operations Director and Building and Facilities Manager for the update.

(Reference: Verbal Update by Rural and Operations Director and Building and Facilities Manager, Mount Stuart Trust)

(b) Argyll and Bute Seafood Sector Sustainability

A letter to the Secretary of State for Scotland from the Leader of Argyll and Bute Council was consider by the Group.

Decision

The Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group noted the letter.

(Reference: letter from the Leader of Argyll and Bute Council, dated 15 January 2021, submitted)

(c) Opportunity for updates from Area Community Planning Group Partners in relation to the impact of UK Withdrawal from the EU

No updates given.

9. BASECAMP DEMONSTRATION

The Group was lead through a demonstration of BaseCamp, which is an online website which allows all members of the Area Community Planning Group (ACPG) to access relevant documents relating to the ACPG; provide information on action points arising from the meetings or action plans; share information about relevant items of interest with other members; and provides better networks with other ACPG members in between meetings.

Decision

The Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group;

1. thanked the Community Planning Officer for the informative demonstration and noted the information provided in the presentation; and
2. agreed to provide the Community Planning Officer with contact details of those who have intimated their wish to be invited to access BaseCamp.

(Reference: demonstration by Community Planning Officer, dated 2 February 2021, submitted)

10. UPDATE ON A83

Having given his apologies the Committee Manager read out an update provided by Neil MacFarlane, Transport Scotland which detailed notable roadworks on A83 and A82 Loch Lomondside for the next quarter.

Decision

The Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group;

1. considered and noted the information provided; and
2. agreed to post the list of notable works on BaseCamp.

(Reference: Update by Neil MacFarlane, Transport Scotland, dated 2 February 2021, tabled)

11. AFFORDABLE HOUSING SUPPLY AND DEMAND - BUTE AND COWAL

The Group gave consideration to a report which updated them on housing supply and demand activity within the Bute and Cowal area.

Discussion focussed on the need to be cautious about putting too much demand on existing infrastructure, such as schools, required to support new houses and how a further breakdown on rural housing demand in terms of those on the housing waiting list would be beneficial.

Decision

The Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group considered and noted the report.

(Reference: Report by Team Lead – Housing Strategy, dated 13 January 2021, submitted)

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Group noted that the next meeting of the Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group would take place at 10.00am on Tuesday 4 May 2021 with venue details to be confirmed in due course.

The Vice-Chair thanked the outgoing Chair for all her hard work and diligence over the last two years. Mrs Russell thanked the Governance Team for their hard work and support and advised that she would still attend meetings in her role as Chair of the Colintrave and Glendaruel Development Trust.

Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership**Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group****4 May 2021**

Briefing Note: Community Planning Partnership Management Committee Update

This briefing relates to the meeting of the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Management Committee on 10 March 2021. The briefing is for noting and relevant discussion.

Summary

The CPP Management Committee met on the 10th March 2021 with the meeting being held virtually given the restrictions in place in regard to public gatherings.

This was the third Management Committee meeting since the beginning of the restrictions. This update provides an overview of the discussion which took place.

Further information is available in the *meetings, minutes and agendas* section of: <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/council-and-government/community-planning-partnership>

HighlightsCross Cutting Themes

- In relation to Community Wealth Building it was noted that a number of workshops were planned to take place over the coming months with representation from community groups and youth representatives being highlighted as possible attendees. It was agreed that there would be 5 workshops organised and a recommendation was made to look at wider participation.
- Joanna MacDonald provided detail on the last meeting of the Child Poverty Action Group with it being noted that the Council sees child poverty, and poverty in general, as a high priority.
- In regard to the Climate Change Working Group it was noted that the process had begun to create an interactive web directory showing climate change action around Argyll and Bute. This webpage is scheduled to go live at the end of March. Samantha asked for any further examples of good climate change proactive work which can be included on the website to be sent on to her.

- Digital Inclusion as another cross cutting theme was discussed with detail being provided on two projects – Connecting Scotland and Digital Connections.

Matters Arising from Area Community Planning Groups

- An update was provided on the discussions which had taken place at all 4 Area Community Planning Groups which had been held in February 2021. In regard to the issue of youth engagement it was noted that this was already being taken forward as a key action by the Management Committee.
- The MAKI Area Community Planning Group had agreed to undertake a survey to look at identifying any barriers for partner attendance. There was some discussion around diary clashes in diaries for partners with it also being noted that there can be an element of repetition at meetings, particularly for officers who attend all 4 meetings. It was agreed that this would be discussed at the next meeting of the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the ACPG's in advance of the August meetings.
- Kevin Champion, Chair of OLI ACPG highlighted the importance of the youth voice and it was noted that the OLI ACPG Vice-Chair was also part of the local youth forum. It was agreed that discussions would be set up to explore how to involve youth in community planning.
- Fergus Murray provided an update on wild camping, highlighting the work of the group which had been formed as a result of previous discussion at the Management Committee. A survey was also being undertaken which had received over 150 responses. It was noted that the Council had also announced in the budget a substantial fund to address the staycation pressures moving forward, including the recruitment of 4 additional wardens which would provide support and resource. It was hoped that there would be some work and facilities put in place for the coming season, but there may be some work which will roll into future years. It is the intention to create a map with specific guidance for each area which would help in identifying waste disposal and potable water facilities.
- Discussion took place around the current difficulties on the A83 at The Rest and Be Thankful. It was noted that there has been a lot of work carried out with bunding and the re-opening of some parts of the trunk road, but the key focus was on the provision of a permanent solution and maintaining pressure on that. Correspondence to the Scottish Government and Transport Scotland was discussed and it was agreed to pursue responses.

Outcome 5&6 Updates – Healthy Independent Lives and Safer Stronger Communities

- Sheena Mclean, Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator spoke about the Community Safety Strategy 2021-2023 which had been developed in partnership with Police Scotland, who have lead responsibility for Outcome 6. The strategy will be overseen by the Community Safety Partnership Tasking and Coordinating Group and was developed by consulting with members, the responses were then collated to ensure intelligence analysis informed the decision theme and trends. The Group is chaired by Marlene Baillie and the 5 main areas of concern were identified as:-
 - Suicide Prevention

- Water Safety
- Fraud
- Drug Deaths
- Children and Young People

The CPP commended the innovative partnership work being done on the strategy.

- Alison McGrory provided an update on the Suicide Prevention Steering Group with it being noted that there was a need to appoint a new chair to replace Joanna who was leaving post shortly. Any volunteers for the post were asked to get in touch with Rona.

Covid 19 Impact and Building Back Better

- Discussion took place on the proposal for incorporation of Building Back Better (Communities) as a workstream for the CPP as a cross cutting theme. It was noted that partnership working was key to success and that it would be important to make better links with the Area Community Planning Groups and to have conversations with communities to create improved communication routes as part of the recovery strategy. It is proposed to incorporate these discussions into the discussions around the revision of the Area Community Planning Action Plans.
- Sarah Griffin provided a presentation on an analysis looking at the impact of Covid. She noted the impact on health and social care provision had included reduced visits to GPs, A&E and Out of Hours services; reduction in emergency and planned admissions to hospital; reduction in outpatients; reduction in cancer diagnoses; and reduction in cardiovascular services. Societal impacts had been enormous due to school closures, increased online abuse of youths, increased domestic violence against women and girls, and the impact of shielding and loneliness and increased inequalities for vulnerable groups. However, support for community resilience had increased.
- Alison McGrory advised that the Social Mitigation strategy would be presented to the NHS Highland Board at the end of March and would be shared in due course.

Promotion and consideration of Gaelic

- Cristie Moore was in attendance and had submitted a paper to the committee on her remit to promote and support the growth of Gaelic in Argyll and Bute and to deliver the Gaelic Gathering. Partners were asked to share information on their Gaelic plans any provide any possible items for the Gaelic newsletter.

For further information, please contact:

Shona Barton, Committee Manager, Argyll and Bute Council (01436) 657605

Shona.barton@argyll-bute.gov.uk

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Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership
Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group
4 May 2021


Briefing Note: Covid Infection Rates and Vaccination

This briefing provides some detail around the current Covid infection rates in Argyll and Bute and also gives some information on the uptake of Covid vaccinations.

Summary

Information is collated by Public Health Scotland on a daily basis in relation to the current rates of Covid infections. This information is freely available on the PHS website [Overview of the daily COVID-19 data dashboard - COVID-19 daily cases in Scotland dashboard - COVID-19 data and intelligence - COVID-19 - Our areas of work - Public Health Scotland](#)

Vaccination information is also collated and published on a daily basis on the Public Health Scotland website.

Infection rates in Argyll and Bute have remained low over the last few months.

Vaccination is progressing well with almost 70% of the adult population having received their first dose.

Covid Infection Rates.

Numbers of infections across Argyll and Bute have remained at consistently low levels over the last number of weeks, as can be seen in the table below.

Cases for Argyll and Bute: Covers period to 18 April, 2021 (comparison with 11 April, 2021)

	Argyll and Bute		Scotland	
	18 Apr	11 Apr	18 Apr	11 Apr
New daily positives reported over 7 day period	3	6	1,421	1,747
Positive cases logged in past 24 hours	1	1	232	199
7 days rate per 100,000 population	3.5	7.0	26.0	32.0

NOTES:

1)These numbers will be subject to revision. The figures for the most recent few days will increase as more cases are logged.

2)'Positive cases logged in past 24 hours' includes cases added retrospectively to previous 'daily positives'. This is the headline figure that is reported in the media.

No new deaths have been reported since 20 February. The total number of deaths reported in Argyll and Bute within 28 days of a positive COVID diagnosis is currently 71.

Some additional graphical information is provided at Figures 1 – 3, which detail:-

Figure 1: Last 7 days with comparison with the Scottish figures

Figure 2: 7 day rates with comparison with neighbouring Local Authorities

Figure 3: Trends of number of positive cases.

Vaccination Information

Daily figures for vaccinations across Scotland as at 20 April are shown below:

COVID-19 vaccination in Scotland Daily update



Last updated: 20 April 2021

COVID-19 Vaccination Open Data: [OPEN DATA](#)

This page shows the latest available figures on COVID-19 vaccinations. More information about the vaccination programme can be found at: <https://publichealthscotland.scot/our-areas-of-work/covid-19/covid-19-vaccinations/>

Scotland	Newly reported	Total	% coverage (16+ years)
First dose	2,358	2,750,052	60.5
Second dose	40,152	797,267	17.6

The "newly reported" figure is the new number of reported vaccinations since the dashboard was last updated. These figures may include some new historic data due to delays in the data being received.

Figure 4 provides detail on vaccination figures for Argyll and Bute. At 20th April 2021 68.9% of the adult population have been given their first dose, with 25.3% having received their second dose of the vaccine.

For those over 60 almost 100% of this age group have received their first dose.

For further information, please contact:

Shona Barton, Committee Manager, Argyll and Bute Council (01436) 657605

Shona.barton@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Figure 1:

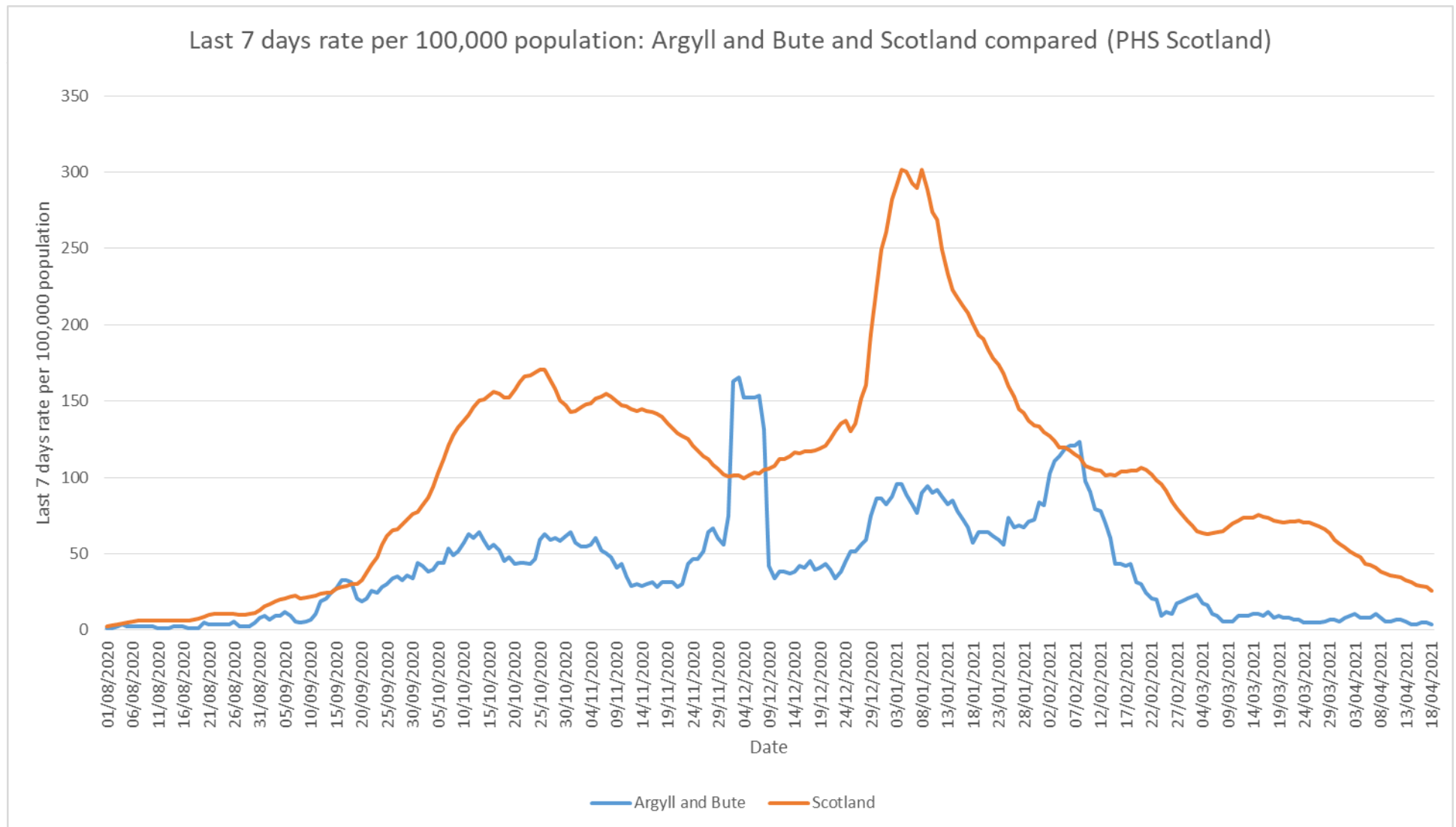


Figure 2:

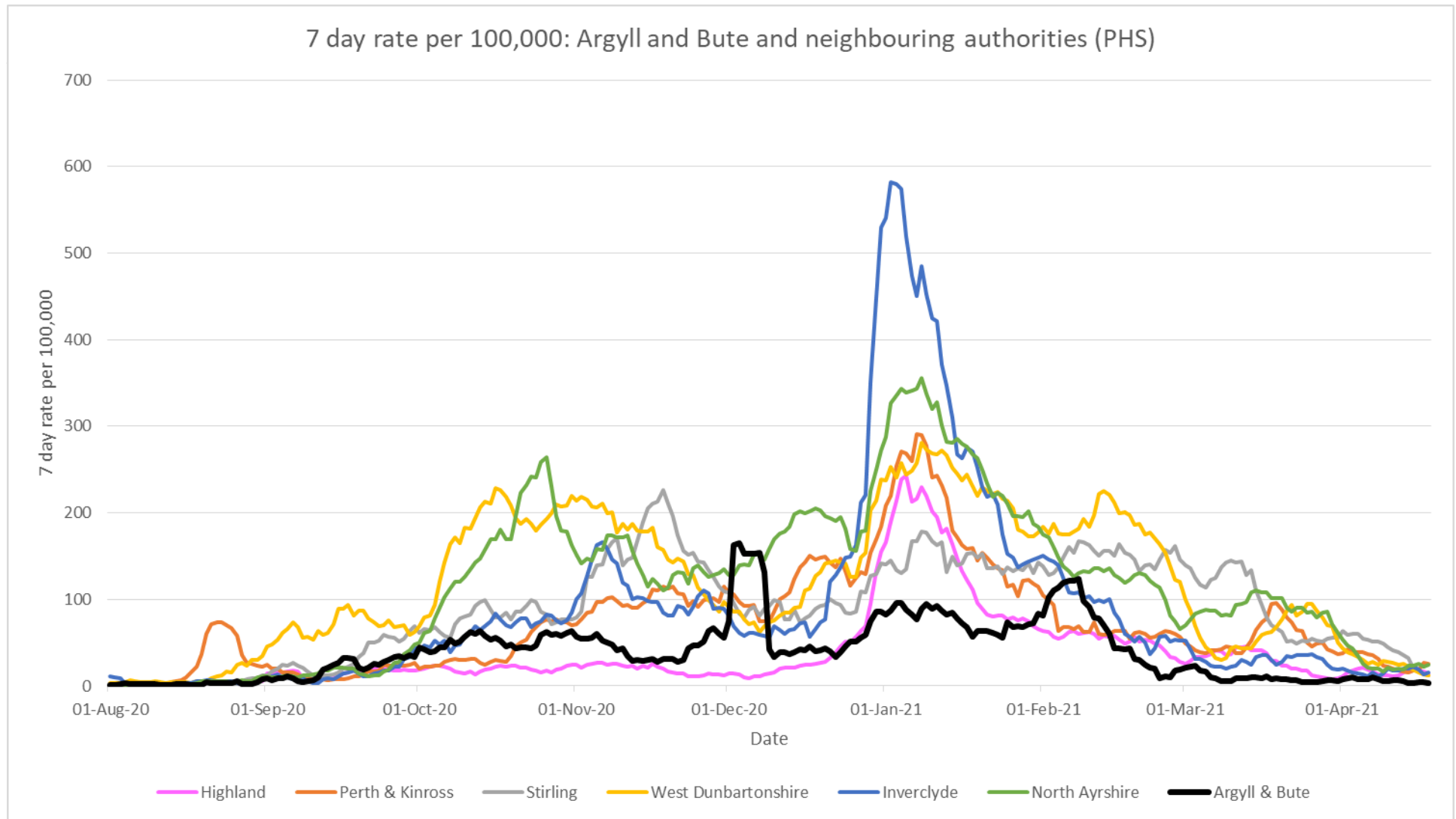


Figure 3:

The figures for the most recent few days will increase as more cases are logged.

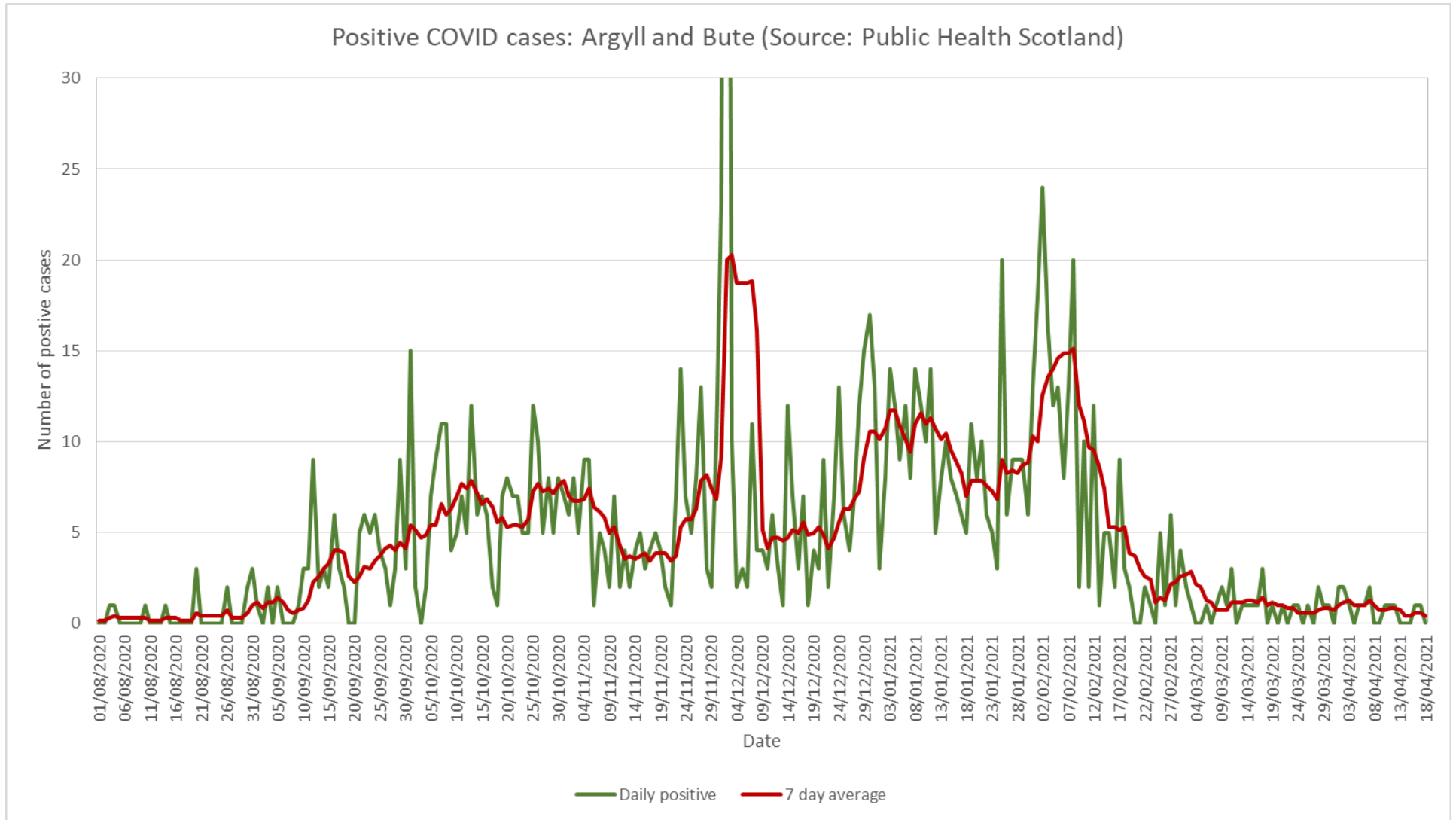


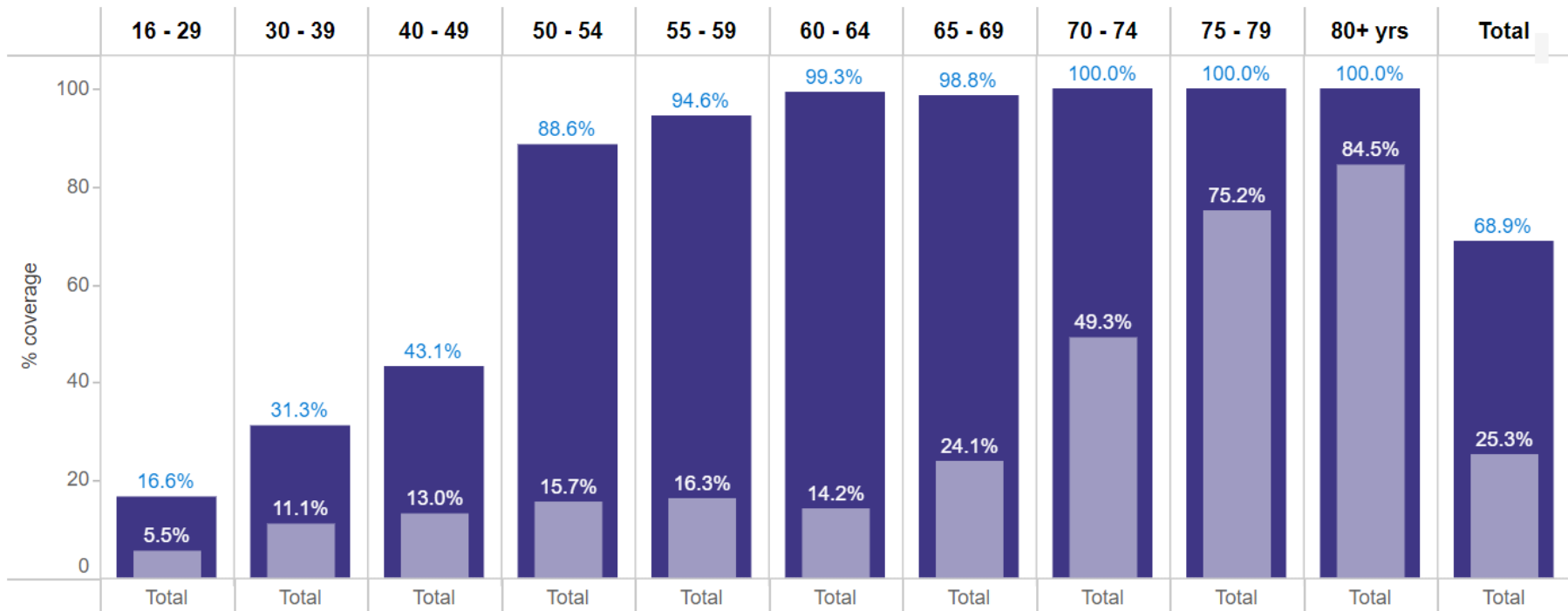
Figure 4

Vaccination Uptake by age group.

Select NHS Board / Local Authority

Argyll and Bute

Total % coverage by age group in Argyll and Bute



Age group breakdowns use the age of the individual as at 31 March 2021.

Police Scotland – Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Partnership Update for meeting on 04 May 2021

1. **Personnel Change** - Inspector Simon Shanks will transfer to a new role in the Division as Response Inspector for West Dunbartonshire on 26 April 2021. He will be replaced by Inspector John Forrest, who knows the area well, having worked here previously as a Sergeant. Whilst welcoming John to his new role, I would like to thank Simon for his dedication and professionalism over the past 14 months and wish him well in his new post.
2. **Covid** - As we move forward with the continuing easing of Lockdown restrictions, local policing plans are in place to direct, guide and inform officers as the various different restrictions are relaxed. Officers are directed to monitor the main arterial routes, Ferry Ports, popular tourist areas and known wild camping areas. Regular liaison is taking place with the National Parks and key partners to ensure a joined up response.

Officers will also be monitoring some retail premises and licences premises as they open and restrictions relax on the purchase of alcohol. We will be liaising with Argyll and Bute Council Environmental Health and Trading Standards where there are issues identified.

Officers are generally still instructed to follow the strategic Police response which is the four-step escalation principles of engagement, explanation, encouragement and finally enforcement but as the lockdown restrictions have continued for so long now, there are more instances where officers are justified in moving straight to enforcement with the issue of fixed penalty notices.

3. **Livestock Attacks** – Upcoming changes in legislation
The Dogs (Protection of Livestock) (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill – brought forward by Emma Harper MSP & supported by local officers, local Farmers and the local Council Dog Wardens, was debated in parliament for the third time at the end of March & it will now proceed to Royal Assent before becoming law in about 6 months' time. Under the provisions of the new Bill, dog owners could be fined up to £40,000 and/or 12 months' imprisonment for letting their dog chase or kill livestock. The outdated 1953 UK Bill will also be modernised to extend the definition of livestock to include protection for the likes of alpacas, llamas and buffalo.

With Lambing in full swing across the country, livestock attacks traditionally increase at this time of year and officers work with Farmers and Dog owners to help prevent and detect these crimes. We regularly publish campaigns and increase awareness of the issue through our social media channels.

4. **Future planning** - issues which may provide resourcing challenges include the Euro 2020 football Tournament in Glasgow in June and the Climate Change Conference in Glasgow in November. Both these events may have an impact on local Police resources but contingency plans are being put in place which will mean officers working longer shifts to cover some absences for officers Policing the events. It is not yet clear what local events will be taking place this summer but several have already cancelled and it is anticipated that very few will take place.

5. **Fraud Prevention – Telephone Frauds/Scams are a continuing problem**

The Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership have provided funding for a number of call blocker devices that can be installed at homes of vulnerable people (particularly those who have fallen victim to telephone frauds). Devices are held by both Police Scotland and Trading Standards. Police Scotland will offer a device to anyone who has been a victim of telephone fraud (through their landline) and a number of devices have already been installed in Bute and Cowal as well as the Isle of Mull. Members of the public can request a device directly through Argyll and Bute Trading Standards if they know of someone who is vulnerable and may benefit from these devices. Police Scotland will then assist in the installation of these.

All Community Councils have been contacted through the Basecamp SharePoint system to ask if they can help support fraud prevention awareness through trying to recruit people to become "friends against scams". This is a free online course open to everyone which provides the user with a certificate on completion but more importantly raises their awareness on scam types. Images that can be shared on social media have also been placed on Basecamp for all community councils to use where they wish to support this.

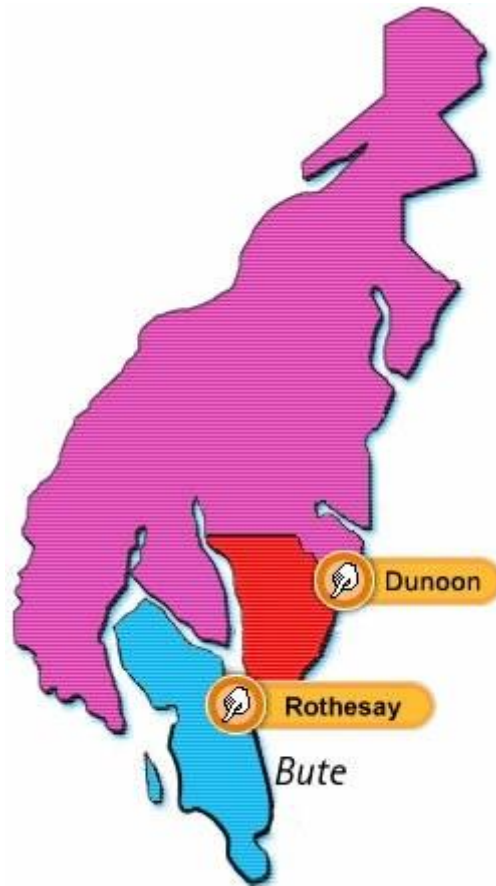
6. **Frontline Support Packs** - Police Scotland is working with the Argyll and Bute Alcohol and Drugs Partnership to create a printed booklet that can be provided to members of the community by frontline staff from Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue and Scottish Ambulance Service. The booklet will include local support organisation and community groups that people can contact for emotional support, bereavement support or support with alcohol, drugs or gambling addictions. Bute and Cowal will be the test area for this work with the aim that this will then be replicated for Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands. The printed booklet was suggested following a number of incidents attended by Police officers where a person was in distress and wasn't able to access online support for a number of reasons. This printed booklet will provide people with these local groups so that they can make contact with them at a time suitable to themselves.

7. **Road Policing** – The National Motorcycle Campaign commenced on 5th April and runs until 30th September and will see road policing officers devoting particular attention across Argyll to reduce instances of motorcycle related incidents. Road policing officers primarily patrol the main strategic routes especially those favoured by motorcyclists providing a high profile presence with targeted enforcement in relation to road traffic offences. In addition, unmarked patrol vehicles are used to target dangerous and speeding drivers. Safety Cameras Scotland also carry out enforcement at various sites throughout Argyll.



Cowal, Isle of Bute and Dunoon

Q4 - 2020/21



C – Cowal D – Dunoon IofB – Isle of Bute

Incidents	C 19/20	D 19/20	IofB 19/20	Total 19/20	C 20/21	D 20/21	IofB 20/21	Total 20/21	=/-
Total	36	25	25	86	30	31	13	74	-12
Fire Fatalities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Non-Fatal Fire Casualties	0	2	1	3	0	0	0	0	-3
Accidental Dwelling Fires	0	2	2	4	3	3	1	7	+3
7KPI's									
Deliberate Fires	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	4	+4
Accidental Fire	5	3	3	11	4	4	2	10	-1
Fatal and Non-fatal fire casualties	0	2	1	3	0	0	0	0	-3
Non-Domestic fires	3	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	-4
Special services incidents	6	1	7	14	3	5	2	10	-4
RTC Casualties	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	-2
False alarms	25	21	15	61	21	21	8	50	-11

INCIDENTS OF NOTE**Dunoon****Primary Fires**

05/01/2021	Ferguslie Street	Extinguished before arrival
19/01/2021	Park Road	Dropped cigarette
27/01/2021	A815	Tractor on fire
03/03/2021	William Street	Small fire in top floor flat
21/03/2021	Johnston Terrace	Extinguished before arrival

Secondary Fires

26/02/2021	Marine Parade	Field across from care home
20/03/2021	Tom a Mhoid Road	Grass

Special Services

08/01/2021	West Street	Assist SAS
11/01/2021	Shore Road	Smell of leaking heating oil
16/01/2021	Sandbank	Assist SAS
25/01/2021	Dunoon	Assist SAS
16/02/2021	Church Street	Isolate water
22/02/2021	Argyll Street	Remove object from roof (part of chimney)
21/03/2021	Cromwell Street	Services not required

UFAS 1/1/21 to 31/3/21

Sheltered Housing – Cragroy. 6 incidents

School – Dunoon Grammar. 3 incidents

Tighnabruaich

Primary Fires

13/02/2021	Kames	Oil tanker on fire
26/02/2021	Shore Road	Small fire in annexe

Secondary Fires - Nil

Special Services - Nil

UFAS 1/1/21 to 31/3/21 – Nil

Colintraive

Primary Fires - Nil

Secondary Fires

14/03/2020	Ardachuple	Refuse
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Special Services - Nil

UFAS 1/1/21 to 31/3/21 – Nil

Community Safety Activity

Q4 Home Fire Safety Visits			
Station	Home Fire Safety Visits	High Risk Visits	Visits Where Detection Was Fitted
Dunoon	17	11	10
Rothesay	2	2	1
Tighnabraich	0	0	0
Strachur	0	0	0
Colintraive	0	0	0
TOTAL	19	13	11

Community Safety Activity

Covid-19 Testing underway by SFRS personnel at Fire Stations within area.

Continue to provide fire safety guidance via telephone, provision of smoke detection where none is present, and HFSV to those at threat of fire from criminal behaviour

Attend the MARAC and support those affected by domestic violence

Supporting the "Make the Call" campaign from SFRS

New Smoke Alarm Legislation

We have received some enquiries from our communities on the new standards of smoke detection that are due to be implemented. Below is the guidance that we have been providing:

Thank you for your enquiry concerning the changes in legislation relating to fire and smoke alarms introduced by the Scottish Government. Please visit the Scottish Government website where you will find further information and a list of frequently ask questions

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/fire-and-smoke-alarms-in-scottish-homes/>



Fire and Smoke
Alarms in Scottish H

DWP Update – Mar 2021

Argyll and Bute

Stats/MI (Recorded as of 11th Feb 2021)

Office	Total UC Claimants	Conditionality groups					
		Preparing for work	Planning for work	Working – No requirements	No work Requirements	Working – With requirements	Searching for Work
Campbeltown	971	22	13	177	217	170	375
Dunoon	1172	37	15	182	262	217	465
Helensburgh	1314	48	12	257	293	223	482
Oban	2139	63	38	466	330	342	894
Rothesay	665	36	15	75	168	107	262
	6261			1157		1059	2478

Customers searching for work by age (as at 11th February 2021)

	18 - 24	25 - 49	50 – 59	60+
Campbeltown	73	178	76	48
Dunoon	70	249	91	50
Helensburgh	105	236	99	41
Oban	176	467	172	82
Rothesay	35	137	52	38
Total	459	1267	490	259

Kickstart

Jobcentre Plus colleagues are working closely with employers and Gateway Organisations (Inspiralba and Argyll & Bute Council) in preparation for Kickstart vacancies coming through and work coaches will match eligible customers to the live vacancies. **To date 5 young people have started work via Kickstart across Argyll & Bute.**

The Kickstart Scheme provides funding to create new job placements for 16 to 24 year olds on Universal Credit who are at risk of long term unemployment. Employers of all sizes can apply for funding which covers:

- 100% of the [National Minimum Wage](#) (or the [National Living Wage](#) depending on the age of the participant) for 25 hours per week for a total of 6 months
- associated [employer National Insurance contributions](#)
- employer minimum automatic enrolment contributions

Employers no longer need a minimum of 30 job placements to apply directly for a grant and can apply for a Kickstart Scheme grant by either: :

- applying online themselves
- applying through a Kickstart gateway who is already working with the Kickstart Scheme

Further funding is available for training and support so that young people on the scheme can get a job in the future.

Virtual Youth Hub

DWP have been hosting a Virtual Youth Hub for our customers since July 2019 which expanded to include partners (Skills Development Scotland, Community Learning & Argyll & Bute Employability Team) in October 2019. The aim of a Youth Hub is to provide opportunities to train and develop skills, delivering individual wraparound support to ensure young people see a value in the world of work. The longer-term aim is that this will be hosted by a partner organisation and be supported by DWP staff.

Our Job Centres

All offices remain open to vulnerable customers and are compliant with social distancing Covid guidance, with staff working from home and in offices. Work coaches continue to engage with customers on a digital or telephone basis, or a blend of both, and our telephone lines remain open until 6.30pm.

From 12/4/2021 opening hours will revert from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm each weekday, with the exception of Wednesday's when offices will be open from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm.

Staff working in Oban Job Centre continue to pilot **Video Appointment Service** which offers video appointments to customers.

From late autumn through a discussion with customers, the work coach check they have 'unlimited' home internet or 'unlimited' mobile data to ensure there is no cost to the customer, they have a suitable device as well as access to the appropriate web browsers. This is voluntary and participants can withdraw at any time. This has been well received by customers and work coaches alike and is helping to build rapport and trust as well as provide more visible support to their customers.

Jobcentre Plus arrangements over the Easter period

On Friday 2 April and Monday 5 April Jobcentre Plus offices and phone lines will be closed. To make sure people receive their payments on a day when Jobcentre Plus offices are open, arrangements have been made to make some payments early:

Expected payment date	Benefits will be paid early
Friday 2 April	Thursday 1 April
Monday 5 April	Thursday 1 April

If the expected [payment date](#) is not shown, customers will get their money on the usual payment date.

Benefits

The temporary £20 per week uplift to the Universal Credit Standard Allowance, introduced in March 2020 for 12 months to support those affected by COVID, will be extended by another 6 months and will apply to all Universal Credit claims until September 2021.

A single one-off payment of £500 will be made to all eligible WTC claimants. This payment will be made under the Coronavirus Act and will not be considered a welfare payment. It will also be disregarded for all means tests, capital tests etc. for welfare purposes

The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme has been extended to 30 September 2021.

Universal Credit benefits checker

We have launched a new benefits checking tool to help people who think they might be eligible for Universal Credit. It takes a few minutes, and doesn't require any detailed information, nor does it process or store personal data. It is an easy first step for anyone who is unsure whether they want to start a claim. [See the benefits checker](#)

Post Office Card Accounts

DWP is writing to all customers who currently receive their State Pension or benefit payments into a Post Office card account (POca). The letter informs them the POca service is closing and asks them to provide alternative account details.

Our dedicated customer service centre is available to take calls from POca customers, to accept new account details or answer any questions. We will ensure all future payments are switched to the customer's new account from the next available payment date and there will be no interruptions with their payments.

For anyone who is unable to open a different type of account or provide new account details, a payment exception service will be available.

Customer Service Centre

Telephone: 0800 085 7133

Textphone: 0800 085 71

Help to Save

Help to Save is a type of savings account. It allows certain people entitled to Working Tax Credit or receiving Universal Credit to get a bonus of 50p for every £1 they save over 4 years. Help to Save is backed by the government so all savings in the scheme are secure.

How payments work

You can save between £1 and £50 each calendar month. You do not have to pay money in every month.

You can pay money into your Help to Save account by debit card, standing order or bank transfer.

You can pay in as many times as you like, but the most you can pay in each calendar month is £50. For example, if you have saved £50 by 8 January you will not be able to pay in again until 1 February.

You can only withdraw money from your Help to Save account to your bank account.

Full details can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/get-help-savings-low-income>

Virtual Youth Hub

DWP have been hosting a Virtual Youth Hub for our customers since July 2019 which expanded to include partners (Skills Development Scotland, Community Learning & Argyll & Bute Employability Team) in October 2019. The aim of a Youth Hub is to provide opportunities to train and develop skills, delivering individual wraparound support to ensure young people see a value in the world of work. The longer-term aim is that this will be hosted by a partner organisation and be supported by DWP staff.

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Argyll and Bute Council - Community Learning Service update

Scottish Youth Parliament Elections 2021. Any young person in Scotland aged 14-25 can stand as an election candidate. Expressions of Interest will open on 1 April until 30 June and will be done directly on the SYP elections portal. While the perception may be that a young person has to be politically minded to be an MSYP, this is absolutely not the case. They just need to be passionate about a subject such as climate change, young people's rights, LGBTQ+ etc. SYP are producing a short promotional video called "Passion over Politics" which will be available once they have completed the final edit.

Community Learning Services and current MSYPs are promoting the elections using the local area social media channels and through the schools, and delivery inputs into PSHE, House time and Modern Studies as this will be crucial to enthuse and inspire young people to stand as candidates. Also we will be utilising any school daily bulletins, newsletters and websites to help with the promotion. Once SYP have additional promotional materials available. There will be Q&A sessions with the three current MSYP's around May/June for any interested young people.

Dates and Phases:

- 1 April – 30 June 2021 – Phase 1: Expression of Interest.
- 1 July -31 July 2021 – Phase 2: Confirmed Candidacy.
- 1 September – 30 October 2021 – Phase 3: Promote the Vote.
- 8-21 November 2021- Phase 4 – Elections.

On a local level, all MSYP's have been involved in the Youth Advisory Panel for the CYPSP and in the Youth Participation Group around youth voice in Argyll and Bute and ensuring young people's voices are heard in regard to COVID-19 and lockdown. The next SYP Election will be in November and expressions of interest are now open for any young people interested in standing.

SYP AWARDS 2021 – CONGRATULATIONS!! Goes to Cameron Garrett Argyll and Bute MYSYP, who won the MSYP of the Year 2021. 18 year old Cameron who is from Ardrishaig has represented Argyll & Bute at the Scottish Youth Parliament since being elected in March 2019. Cameron is also the Convener the Education and Lifelong Learning committee and a member of the advisory panel to SQA, feeding back young people's views on exams and the impact of COVID-19 to the exam diet. Cameron was awarded MSYP of the year award at 74th National Sitting on 27 & 28 March for his commitment to the inspirational work of the Scottish Youth Parliament. Cameron is supported in his role by Community Learning to carryout consultations across Argyll & Bute on SYP National Campaigns, Members Motions, and Youth Parliament sittings and has represented Argyll & Bute at the Northern Alliance Youth Conference in Inverness.

Argyll and Bute CLD Plan 2021 -2024

[Argyll and Bute CLD Plan 2018-21](#). Work continues on the development of the next plan which has to be completed by September 2021. Desktop Research is underway and a working group is in place developing the consultation exercise for a number of local consultation exercises and focus groups to take place which will shape the content of the plan. We will continue to report back to the Area Community Planning Groups on progress.

Coming out of Lockdown Restrictions – We continue to follow the Government Guidelines and as restrictions lift we will start the process of resuming face to face provision and Service Delivery around Recovery and Transition. We will still be maintaining a blended model of delivery which see provision still being delivered online/digitally. We will be in touch with Partners as we move through this transition and will continue to report back to the Area Community Planning Groups.

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ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL**Bute and Cowal Area Community
Planning Group****Chief Executive****4 May 2021**

UK- EU POST TRANSITION

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Further to the UK exiting the EU and entering the new agreement from 1st January 2021, this report sets out the considerations of the EU Withdrawal Tactical Group with regard to identifying and assessing any risks relative to Argyll and Bute.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Members are asked to be assured that the Council and the HSPC are as well prepared as they can be with regards to having exited the EU and are actively engaged with our partners through the local and national resilience frameworks

3.0 DETAIL

- 3.1 On the 31st December 2020, with the Transition Period concluding, EU Law jurisdiction in the UK, and access to the EU Single Market ended. The UK-EU Trade Cooperation Agreement (TCA) agreed on 24th December 2020 and ratified by the UK Parliament on 30th December (European Union (Future Relationship) Act 2020) covered the most urgent matters.
- 3.2 The TCA is wider in scope than most free trade agreements and makes provisions for workers, mobility, environmental and social standards, some easing on cross border services, participation in some EU programme and fisheries.
- 3.3 The TCA does have an impact on Argyll and Bute and the EU Withdrawal Tactical Group revised its risk assessment which covers the following themes:
- A. Economy and Population
 - B. Trade
 - C. Community
 - D. Policy and Funding
 - E. Health and Social Care

Economy and Population

- 3.4 The downward trend projection for the population of Argyll and Bute is well established and it remains a risk. Exiting the EU common market will exacerbate this trend, particularly with the loss of free movement of economically active EU residents to our area. This will have a direct impact on key sectors in Argyll and Bute including tourism, food production (fishing and aquaculture) and the care sector with the latter a growing issue for our communities. EU residents currently resident in the UK have until 30th June 2021 to apply for Settled Status in the UK and it is unknown how many this may be.
- 3.5 In partnership with other local authorities, Argyll and Bute Council successfully lobbied the Scottish Government to lead on a national initiative to tackle population decline which is an issue for many rural authorities including all those on the West of Scotland. On the 15 March 2021 the Scottish Government published the first [national population strategy](#) based on four key building blocks as follows;
1. A family friendly nation
 2. A healthy living society
 3. An attractive and welcoming country, and
 4. A more balanced population
- 3.6 With regard to the economy, there are a number of concurrent risks including COVID-19 volatility in the economy (resulting in a recession and closure or reduction of business activity), treasury function disruption and as described later, potential impact on food exporters into EU.
- 3.8 Due to the ongoing pandemic, collectively we are all still in the resilience phase and it remains to be seen when and how we can effectively commence economic recovery. At the time of writing, furlough support is currently scheduled to stop at the end of April 2021 and it is likely this will have an adverse impact on employment levels as some jobs may not be redeemed once this financial support ends.
- 3.9 It is possible to draw comparisons with the economic recession of 2008 – 2009 where UK employment levels did not return to pre-recession levels until 2017. A more specific distinction is the long period of financial reductions to the public sector (and particularly to local government) due to reduced income to governments and an objective to reduce national deficits. Therefore a medium to long term risk is the continued squeeze on public finances.

Trade

- 3.10 A central part of the TCA is the first ever EU non-tariff, non-quota deal with another trading partner in the largest bilateral trade deal in the world by volume of goods. Nonetheless, custom checks and controls now apply to all UK exports entering the UK. A separate and important mechanism is the 'level playing field' where both the EU and UK retain the right to take

countermeasures if they believe they are being damaged by measures taken by the other in subsidy policy (State Aid), labour and social policy, or climate and environment policy, and fisheries; in plain terms this means the right to introduce quotas and tariffs.

- 3.11 The single greatest risk currently for Argyll and Bute is for food exports to the EU as they now require an Export Health Certificate (EHC). Our current projections was that this will generate a demand for an additional 1,000 EHCs in Argyll and Bute alone as the EU is our greatest export market for shellfish and to a lesser extent for aquaculture which has a more global market.
- 3.12 A significant development is all major food exporters in Argyll and Bute are using Commercial Hubs established in South Lanarkshire which reduced a significant burden on council services; possibly as many as an additional 19,000 EHCs per annum. Nonetheless, these suppliers now require attestation certificates from Argyll and Bute Council and this work is largely complete and will remain ongoing by request. This activity had a significant impact on resources within Regulatory Services and was prioritised at the expense of other statutory work. The Council continues to engage with and support industry at this time of change.
- 3.13 During the initial period of the new arrangements, due to issues with documentation (and primarily where multiple consignments were 'bundled'), a number of seafood exporters experienced lengthy delays at ports and a number of consignments were rotten. Allegedly single supplier vehicles were less impacted and were able to deliver goods on time. Regarding loss of income, the UK Government announced compensation for suppliers on top of the £100m fund that was previously set aside to invest in the UK fishing fleet.
- 3.14 On fisheries the UK has accepted that EU vessels continue fishing within UK waters with a distinction that the EU handing over 25% of its present quota to UK owned operators. This agreement will expire in 2026 and will be the subject of annual negotiations between the UK Government and the EU. The Council Leader and CEO are currently liaising with the Clyde Fisherman's Association to identify areas where the council can support the industry.
- 3.15 It remains to be seen if there will be an impact on the supply chain for other products, including other food (e.g. fruit and vegetables); this risk relates to an increase in costs as well as a reduction in choice. Senior officers continue to engage regularly with Scotland Excel, the Public Sector Food Forum and industry to ensure continuity of supply that meets nutrition standards.
- 3.16 Regarding ports and harbours', the only site of consideration in Argyll and Bute is Campbeltown. The Council's Marine Operations Team forms part of the West of Scotland Port Security Committee and received an approval in November 2020 which permits custom operations at this site from 31st December 2020 to 1st July 2021. The Marine Operations Team continues to liaise with relevant agencies, including HMRC to ensure business continuity.

Community

- 3.17 The primary risk for communities in the short to medium term is food security for vulnerable people and senior officers continue to liaise with the Argyll and Bute Community Food Forum which has evolved and expanded in response to the COVID-19 crisis. In addition, senior officers are liaising with the Scottish Governments Islands Directorate and Food Insecurity Team, from the Social Justice Directorate, where they pick up issues raised by the Food Forum. Whilst this is currently not a high risk, it is critical this is monitored to prevent a future crisis.

Policy and Funding

- 3.18 It is well established that the EU Structural and Investment funding programmes will be replaced by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. The precursor to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund is the UK Community Renewal Fund and Argyll and Bute Council has been identified as a Lead Authority; one of the 100 priority places across the UK. The deadline for submission of bids from Lead Authorities to the UK Government is 18th June. These bids are competitive and there is no guarantee that funding will be awarded.

Health and Social Care

- 3.20 As described above, retaining and attracting staff into the care sector which is a growing sector in Argyll and Bute will be impacted by the loss of free movement of economically active EU residents to our area. In liaison with the HSCP this will be monitored and lobbying opportunities promoted to the leadership.

4.0 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The exit from the European Union raises a number of risks and opportunities and the Council and HSCP continue to liaise with all partners and industry to ensure we remain as ready as possible whilst continue to monitor impacts on our communities.

Pippa Milne, Chief Executive

07 April 2021

For further information contact:

Ishabel Bremner, Ishabel.bremner@argyll-bute.gov.uk
Stuart Green, stuart.green@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership**Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group**

4 May 2021



Gaelic Development across Argyll and Bute

Summary

This report looks at the role of the Gaelic language in Argyll and Bute and considers what value this asset can bring to the improvement outcomes. The partners are asked to continue to support the promotion and usage of this language.

1. Purpose

- The role of ABC's Gaelic development worker is outlined.
- A survey on Gaelic prevalence and priorities is being conducted.
- Some information on the value of Gaelic to Argyll and Bute's outcomes is offered.
- Some information on the context of the Gaelic language is offered also, including the priorities of Argyll & Bute Council's Gaelic Language Plan.
- Finally some suggestions are made as to how partners can continue to support the development and interest in the language.

2. Recommendations

2.1 Area CPG members are requested to:

- Support the promotion of Gaelic where possible
- Consider Gaelic as an option when looking at new and existing initiatives
- Connect interested parties with Gaelic Development Worker
- Have an awareness of the Argyll and Bute Gaelic Language Plan and where possible support the objectives
- Be aware of Colmcille 1500 celebration in 2021 which relates to initiatives linking Scotland and Ireland
- Assist where appropriate with taking forward actions identified by the Gaelic survey

3. Background

Since around the 5th Century the Gaelic language has been spoken in Argyll.

Today there are still communities in Argyll and Bute where Gaelic is part of everyday life. Including schools and community groups, from Gaelic Choirs to Fèisean to language classes and cafes. These provisions cover all ages.

Gaelic has been on the decline in Argyll and Bute and the 2011 Census showed a decrease of 15% in the number of Gaelic speakers.

The Gaelic Language Plan directly links with the six joint outcomes of the Council's Corporate Plan.

In November 2020 a part-time 18 month Gaelic Development Worker role commenced. This post is part funded by Bòrd na Gàidhlig.

4. Detail

4.1 The remit of the Gaelic Development Worker is to:

- Increase awareness
- Link and coordinate Gaelic activity
- Develop capacity of community groups
- Deliver a Gaelic Gathering in spring 2022
- Other actions relating to Business/economics/tourism; language learning and heritage and history

4.2 Gaelic Survey

Part of the role is to deliver on the Gaelic Gathering actions collected in 2019. These are wide and varied and more information was needed from the community to decide which to take forward. A survey ran for a month between 14 January and 14 February. Over 1000 people responded demonstrating the relevance and interest of Gaelic to people in Argyll and Bute. The survey was aimed at everyone in the area whether they were a Gaelic speaker or not. The findings from the survey are almost collated and will be fed back to the Gaelic Policy Lead and will help the council make the best use of its resource and identify which actions from the Argyll Gaelic Gathering are a priority for local communities.

4.3 Diverse value of Gaelic

Gaelic is woven into the fabric of Scotland and has great value in many areas including education, economy, tourism and communities. It has a link to each of the six SOAs. A 2014 study by HIE estimated the potential economic value of Gaelic to be between £82M and £149M.

In Argyll and Bute there are currently 11 schools offering Gaelic Medium Education (GME) ranging from early years to Primary and High School provisions. Plus many schools offering Gaelic Language in the Primary School (GLPS).

There are also many community groups and provisions in Argyll and Bute. They range from Bookbug sessions for parents and toddlers to choirs, Fèisean, language classes and conversation groups.

Bilingualism is shown to have health benefits and increases a persons ability to pick up other languages.

4.4 Relevance of Gaelic today

570,000 Scottish Gaelic learners signed upto Duolingo in the first year of the course. This is one demonstration of the level of interest and relevance of Scottish Gaelic to people across Scotland and beyond.

The Gaelic Tourism Strategy highlights Gaelic language and culture as a unique selling point. It also shows the interest from those abroad who have Scottish heritage.

4.5 Heritage of Argyll and Bute

Gaelic has been spoken in Argyll and Bute since the 5th Century. It is present in many place names and can often be used to help interpret the landscape.

In the 2011 Census Argyll and Bute had the third highest number of people aged over three with some Gaelic language skills (6%). It had the fourth largest number of people for a council area.

4.6 Argyll and Bute Gaelic Language Plan

Argyll and Bute Council have a commitment to produce and deliver on a [Gaelic Language Plan](#) as part of the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act, 2005 and the National Gaelic Language Plan. The plans use three main sections which cover a wide range of engagements and initiatives:

- Using Gaelic
- Learning Gaelic
- Promoting Gaelic

5. Conclusions

Gaelic is a great asset for Argyll and Bute, one that offers a great deal across many domains.

There is opportunity to link to Gaelic development by looking for ways to promote and support Gaelic more widely and by helping to implement actions from the Gaelic Gathering.

The Gaelic development worker can be contacted on cristie.moore@argyll-bute.gov.uk.

6.0 SOA Outcomes

This report relates to all of the SOA outcomes.

For further information please contact:

Cristie Moore, Gaelic Development Worker, Argyll and Bute Council

Tel 01436 658989

**Argyll and Bute Community Planning
Partnership**

**Bute & Cowal Area Community Planning
Group**

4 May 2021



Campervan, Motorhome and Staycation Activity

Summary

This report provides CPP Area Committee members with a brief update following on from the previous report regarding informal camping.

1. Purpose

- To provide a brief update on activity within this area.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the partnership group note the content of this paper and progress to date,

2.2 That partners continue to collaborate to try and address the challenges faced due to increased informal camping activity.

3. Background

The last report presented was on Informal Camping and outlined the opportunities and challenges, some of which is being driven by the pandemic and some of which has been a longer term trend.

4. Detail

Some relevant updates are provided below -

- The Motorhome and Informal Camping Survey went live at the beginning of February 2021. This was promoted through Argyll and Bute Council's communication channels and by partners. Over 150 responses from throughout Argyll and Bute were received. There were a range of views and locations shared across the Argyll and Bute Council region, with varying experiences. Feedback came from local community organisations, representatives, landowners, as well as local companies that fit out motorhomes. Although the survey was focused on communities within Argyll and Bute we received feedback from out with the area too. A link to the survey can be found here [Motorhome and Informal Camping Survey \(argyll-bute.gov.uk\)](https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/motorhome-and-informal-camping-survey). The survey data will have some operational value and will also help in future project work.
- At the recent council budget, resource was committed towards four seasonal warden positions for the 2021 season (one per administrative area) within Roads and Infrastructure Services. These positions will focus on positive and proactive engagement with visitors, encouraging responsible behaviour. Another temporary position is being created within Development and Economic Growth to help progress Staycation project work.
- At the recent council budget, resource was committed towards public conveniences (PCs), to support the reopening of those PCs which remained closed last year as the resource wasn't available to re-open them under the enhanced cleaning regime required.
- Progress is being made on developing clearer guidance for businesses/landowners/community organisations on the regulatory aspects and what might be required if they are interested in providing greater facilities to accommodate visitors. Most sorts of development, even small scale, will require planning permission and a caravan site licence. Assistance is being provided where possible to assist those interested in developing facilities.

- The national Visitor Management Plan and Strategy was published by VisitScotland on the 19th of March 2021 and full information on this can be found here - [Visitor Management: Scotland's Plan & Objectives | VisitScotland.org](#)
- NatureScot launched the Better Places Green Recovery Fund on the 19th of March, applications can be from constituted organisations, registered charities, trusts, local authorities and community groups. Where applications are received from partnerships or organisations working collaboratively, a lead applicant must be identified.
 - Fast delivery project applications - midnight Friday 9 April 2021.
 - All other applications - midnight Friday 14 May 2021.

Full information on this fund can be found at the following link - [Better Places Green Recovery Fund - Round 2 | NatureScot](#)

- VisitScotland announced the opening of Round 4 of the Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund on the 19th of March, Design grants of up to £5,000 are available for projects, but to qualify for the design grant Expression of Interests through the local authority need to be in to VisitScotland by **Friday 30 April 2021**. If you have projects for submission please contact - Craig.wilson2@argyll-bute.gov.uk Full details on the requirements of the fund can be found at the following link - [Rural Development Fund - Funding | VisitScotland.org](#)
- We are currently developing better collated information on locations of existing chemical waste disposal point facilities in Argyll and Bute. Encouraging existing sites which offer motorhome waste disposal points to non-resident tourers to promote their facilities through CaMPA's (Campervan and Motorhome Professional Association) map. Work has also be underway to identify within the regulatory environment and operationally, how additional chemical waste disposal points might be provided. Resource was allocated in the recent council budget to assist with this.
- We are promoting the Scottish Outdoor Access Code, which is a national priority, to encourage responsible behaviour, more information on this can be found here [NatureScot \(outdooraccess-scotland.scot\)](#). VisitScotland has recently setup a responsible visitor management campaign and more

information can be found at the following link - [Responsible Visitor Management - News | VisitScotland.org](#) A communications approach will be adopted consistent with national messaging.

- The national guidance for Managing Camping with tents was recently updated - [Managing camping with tents in Scotland | Scottish Outdoor Access Code \(outdooraccess-scotland.scot\)](#)

5. Conclusions

Argyll and Bute Council continues to work with partners to respond to the challenges and opportunities presented, seeking solutions that will benefit our communities and reduce negative impacts where possible.

6. SOA Outcomes

- **Outcome 1 - In Argyll and Bute the economy is diverse and thriving** – tourism is an important part of Argyll and Bute’s rural economy and we are required to adapt to help support the growth of the sector.
- **Outcome 2 - We have infrastructure that supports sustainable growth** – Infrastructure investment is bid for in a targeted approach, working with industry and communities.

For further information please contact:

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