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14 April 2022*

## **NOTICE OF MEETING**

A meeting of the **HELENSBURGH AND LOMOND COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP** will be held by **MICROSOFT TEAMS** on **THURSDAY, 21 APRIL 2022** at **10:00 AM**, which you are requested to attend.

Douglas Hendry  
Executive Director

## **BUSINESS**

- 1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**
- 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
- 3. MEETING OF THE HELENSBURGH AND LOMOND AREA COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP HELD ON THURSDAY, 10 FEBRUARY 2022**
  - (a) Minutes (Pages 3 - 16)
  - (b) Actions Update (Pages 17 - 18)
- 4. PARTNERS UPDATES**
  - (a) Transport Scotland Update
  - (b) Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Update (Pages 19 - 24)
  - (c) Police Scotland Update (Pages 25 - 28)
  - (d) Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership - Public Health Update (Pages 29 - 32)
  - (e) Live Argyll - Community Learning Service Update (Pages 33 - 34)
  - (f) Strathclyde Partnership for Transport Update (Pages 35 - 36)
  - (g) Department for Work and Pensions Update (Pages 37 - 44)

- (h) Argyll and Bute Citizens Advice Bureau Update (Pages 45 - 46)
- (i) Helensburgh Community Council Update (Pages 47 - 50)
- (j) Fun First Update (Pages 51 - 52)
- (k) Time for Change Argyll and Bute Update (Pages 53 - 54)
- (l) Plastic Free Helensburgh Update (Pages 55 - 56)
- (m) Males Tales/Females Tales Update (Pages 57 - 58)
- (n) Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Update (Pages 59 - 60)
- (o) Skills Development Scotland Update (Pages 61 - 72)
- (p) Opportunity for verbal updates from Area Community Planning Group Partners

## **5. COMMUNITY FOCUS**

- (a) Partnership Approach to Water Safety (Pages 73 - 82)

Presentation by Station Commander, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

## **6. CLIMATE CHANGE**

- (a) Minutes of the Climate Change Working Group meeting held on Thursday, 17 February 2022 (Pages 83 - 84)

## **7. COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE** (Pages 85 - 90)

Report by Committee Manager, Argyll and Bute Council

## **8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, 23 August 2022 at 10am.

## **Helensburgh and Lomond Community Planning Group**

Contact: Iona Campbell, Senior Committee Assistant - 01436 658 801

**MINUTES of MEETING of HELENSBURGH AND LOMOND COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP held  
by MICROSOFT TEAMS  
on THURSDAY, 10 FEBRUARY 2022**

**Present:**

David Moore (Chair), Scottish Fire and Rescue Service  
 Shona Barton, Committee Manager, Argyll and Bute Council  
 Kirsty Moyes, Community Development Team Leader, Argyll and Bute Council  
 Councillor Lorna Douglas  
 Councillor Gemma Penfold  
 Inspector Roderick MacNeill, Police Scotland  
 Inspector Alan Heron, Police Scotland  
 PC Laura Evans, Police Scotland  
 Gill Simpson, Helensburgh Community Hub  
 Alison Gildea, Grey Matters Active Ageing  
 Theresa Bain, Argyll College UHI  
 Duncan MacLachlan, Arrochar and Tarbet Community Development Trust &  
 Friends of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs  
 Angela Anderson, Time for Change Argyll and Bute & Plastic Free  
 Helensburgh  
 Sephton MacQuire, Dunbritton Housing Association  
 Neil MacFarlane, Transport Scotland  
 John Lewis, Males Tales & Females Tales  
 Janice Kennedy, Scottish Enterprise  
 Sarah Davies, Helensburgh Community Council & Fun First & Plastic Free  
 Helensburgh  
 Barry Colvan, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service  
 Fiona Baker, Destination Helensburgh & Rhu and Shandon Community  
 Council & Friends of Hermitage Park  
 Rita Easterbook, Department for Work and Pensions  
 Allan Comrie, Strathclyde Partnership for Transport  
 Fergus Madigan, Garelochhead Community Council  
 Sophia McArdle, Royal Navy Family and People Support  
 Brian Smith, Community Learning Service – Live Argyll  
 Jayne Burnett, Visiting Friends  
 Alasdair MacCuish, Helensburgh Gaelic Group  
 Andrew Galloway, Local Democracy Reporter, Helensburgh Advertiser/BBC

**1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

Shona Barton welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made. Shona then outlined the procedure for the meeting.

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of:

Morevain Martin, Garelochhead Station Trust;  
 Paula Darbyshire, Argyll and Bute Third Sector Interface;  
 Councillor Iain 'Shonny' Paterson;  
 Hannah Robinson, Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park;  
 Christopher Casey, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service;  
 Heather Munro, Cardross Climate Action Network (CardrossCAN);  
 Kate Benet, Garelochhead Riding for the Disabled Association Group;

Robert (Bobby) Rennie, Royal Navy;  
Rhona Grant, Community Learning Service – Live Argyll; and  
Susan MacRae, Skills Development Scotland.

## 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

## 3. MINUTES

### (a) Meeting of the Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group held on Thursday, 18th November 2021

The minutes of the meeting of the Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group held on Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> November 2021 were approved as a correct record.

## 4. HELENSBURGH AND LOMOND AREA COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP GOVERNANCE

### (a) Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group

The Group considered a report providing information relating to the appointment of a Chair and Vice-Chair of the Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group and outlining the expected time commitment and information about the roles.

#### Decision

The Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group agreed:

1. to appoint David Moore to the role of Chair of the Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group; and
2. to appoint Sephton MacQuire to the role of Vice-Chair of the Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group.

(Reference: Report by Shona Barton, Committee Manager, Argyll and Bute Council, dated 10<sup>th</sup> February 2022, submitted)

Following his appointment as Chair, David Moore introduced himself and highlighted his hopes and expectations for his time in the role.

### (b) Area Community Planning Group Governance Arrangements

The Group considered a report which asked Members to consider the updated Terms of Reference for the Group and membership of the Group. The report also noted planned future meeting dates until May 2023.

It was noted that any other suggestions for new organisations to join the Group could be submitted to Shona Barton or Iona Campbell following the meeting.

#### Decision

The Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group:

1. considered and adopted the Terms of Reference at Appendix 1 of the report and agreed that they would be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure their ongoing currency and appropriateness for the work of the Group as it developed over time;
2. considered and agreed the Membership of the Group at Appendix 2 of the report, subject to the removal of Cardross Climate Action Network at their request due to conflicting priorities;
3. agreed that the Membership of the Group would be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure currency and appropriateness for the work of the Group as it developed over time;
4. noted that the next meeting of the Group would take place on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2022; and
5. noted the dates for future meetings of Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2022, Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2022, Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2023, and Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

(Reference: Report by Shona Barton, Committee Manager, Argyll and Bute Council, dated 10<sup>th</sup> February 2022, submitted)

## **5. PARTNERS UPDATES**

### **(a) Transport Scotland Update**

The Group considered an update from Neil MacFarlane, Transport Scotland, which provided information around scheduled trunk road projects including resurfacing projects taking place during March at Keilator Farm; North of Ardlui; and south of Arrochar. Neil confirmed that formal notification of these projects would take place in due course.

#### **Decision**

The Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group considered and noted the information provided.

(Reference: Update by Neil MacFarlane, Transport Scotland, tabled)

### **(b) Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Update**

The Group considered a report highlighting the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service's (SFRS) FQ3 review of local performance across Helensburgh and Lomond for the period 2021-22. The report included information around incidents during this period; recent community safety activity; and new smoke detector legislation. Barry Colvan provided an overview of the report, and also highlighted ongoing partnership working on water safety; the Covid-19 testing facility at Arrochar Fire Station; the Seasonal Community Action Calendar; and restrictions still in place due to the Covid-19 pandemic which impacted on the level of community engagement work which could be carried out. He encouraged anyone who had any concerns relating to fire safety to get in touch.

Discussion took place around new smoke detector legislation, and it was noted that it was the responsibility of property owners to ensure that they complied with this, however guidance was available through the Scottish Government and SFRS. The Chair agreed to distribute a briefing note to the Group following the meeting which provided further information around this.

## **Decision**

The Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group considered and noted the information provided.

(Reference: Report by Barry Colvan, Watch Commander/Local Authority Liaison Officer, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, submitted)

### **(c) Police Scotland Update**

The Group considered an update from Inspector Roderick (Roddy) MacNeill, Police Scotland, which highlighted information relating to the appointment of a new Divisional Commander; work carried out over the festive period; the prevalence of COVID-related absences across the service at the beginning of the year and subsequent improvements in this; the appointment of a new Youth Engagement Officer; work being carried out with other agencies to prepare for the Spring season and an anticipated increase in visitors to the area; measures to tackle speeding, including the planned installation of a static speed camera in Cardross; and the future re-implementation of the Police Scotland Youth Volunteer group. Inspector MacNeill also introduced temporary Inspector Alan Heron, noting that he would be one of the Group's Police Scotland contacts during Inspector MacNeill's upcoming period of absence.

Discussion took place around youth anti-social behaviour in the area, and it was agreed that a partnership approach to discuss diversionary tactics should be explored. It was agreed that, following the meeting, representatives from Police Scotland, Live Argyll's Community Learning Service, the Royal Navy's Family and People Support and the Ministry of Defence Police should meet to discuss ways to improve the situation. It was also noted that the promotion of Police Scotland and SFRS youth groups could be beneficial when both services were up and running again, with possible links between the two being investigated in due course.

Further discussion took place around youth anti-social behaviour at Hermitage Park, and Inspector MacNeill confirmed that an action plan was in place to address this and he would be happy to note any suggestions for other actions which could assist. Sephton MacQuire noted that there were issues with youths climbing on the old school roof and advised that other housing associations had seen success with the use of increased signage. Fiona Baker enquired about the use of CCTV in the park, particularly following the fundraising efforts by the Friends of Hermitage Park, and Inspector MacNeill confirmed that he was already in discussion with the Council around this and would copy Fiona into further discussions related to the funding of CCTV.

Inspector MacNeill also highlighted a new livestock worrying campaign being launched in Kintyre, noting that new livestock legislation would be relevant to the whole of Argyll and Bute and beyond. He advised that PC Laura Evans would provide documentation around this to be distributed to the Group following the meeting.

Information was also provided in the written update in relation to the Keep Safe initiative and the ways in which the 4 Keep Safe Places in Helensburgh and Lomond

could be identified and accessed; the implementation of the Herbert Protocol to assist those living with dementia; continued work to highlight and reduce incidents of fraud; and the ways in which partners could become involved with the Keep Safe and fraud prevention initiatives.

### **Decision**

The Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group:

1. considered and noted the information provided; and
2. noted that an update on partnership working in relation to youth anti-social behaviour would be provided at the next meeting.

(Reference: Report by Inspector Roderick MacNeill, Police Scotland, submitted)

#### **(d) Community Learning Service Update**

The Group considered an update from Brian Smith, Live Argyll - Community Learning Service, which included information around the election of three new local Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament (MSYPs). The update also included information in relation to Youth Action Groups; the outcome of support for learners provided through the No One Left Behind (NOLB) initiative; and the results of the recent HMIE inspection of the Community Learning and Development team. An overview of the Youth Work Recovery Education Programme was also included in the update.

Brian highlighted a consultation being undertaken to identify the provisions required for adult learning, and encouraged people to provide input which would inform future strategies. He confirmed that he would circulate details of the appropriate officer to contact for any support to the Group following the meeting. Discussion took place around the increase in the digital divide since the beginning of the pandemic, and Brian noted that it would be useful if issues such as this could be communicated through the consultation. He confirmed that the Community Learning Service had been involved in projects around this previously and would be happy to provide more support in future.

### **Decision**

The Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group considered and noted the information provided.

(Reference: Update by Brian Smith, Team Leader – Community Learning Services, Live Argyll, submitted)

#### **(e) Destination Helensburgh Update**

The Group considered an update from Fiona Baker, Destination Helensburgh, which included information around the aims of the organisation in promoting the Helensburgh and Lomond area and the ways in which this was being achieved; the organisation's links and partnership working; the success of the Visitor Information Centre as a central point to access local information; and the synergies between the aims of Destination Helensburgh and the Argyll and Bute Outcome Improvement Plan (ABOIP).

Information was also provided in relation to the HELLO Winter and HELLO Adventure campaigns; the ongoing assessment of visitor numbers and demographics to inform future strategies and projects; and the level of outreach which had been achieved during the first six months of Destination Helensburgh's operation.

Fiona advised that she would be happy to promote information provided by the Group through Destination Helensburgh's social media channels.

### **Decision**

The Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group considered and noted the information provided.

(Reference: Update by Fiona Baker, Destination Helensburgh, submitted)

#### **(f) Helensburgh Community Hub Update**

The Group considered an update from Gill Simpson, Helensburgh Community Hub, which provided an overview of the work which had been carried out during the Hub's first six months of operation. Information was provided in relation to the Hub's income generation; partnership working; the use of the main hall by a wide range of clubs and organisations; the success of the Hub's launch day; and the development of the 'Book Nook @ The Hub'. Gill also noted that there was a youth group available in Helensburgh Community Hub for children up to Secondary 4, and this may be of assistance with earlier discussions around youth disorder and diversionary options.

Gill highlighted activities taking place around the 'Kindness creates Connection creates Community' theme for 2022 and also noted that a Welcome Event would be held in March in advance of the Helensburgh Community Hub AGM in May. She advised that she hoped that the use of the Hub as a polling station on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022 would highlight the facility to more people locally.

### **Decision**

The Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group considered and noted the information provided.

(Reference: Update by Gill Simpson, Development Manager, Helensburgh Community Hub, submitted)

#### **(g) Helensburgh Community Council Update**

The Group considered an update from Sarah Davies, Helensburgh Community Council, which provided an overview of the Community Council's activities. Sarah advised that an exhibition to view the progress of, and inform the future of, the Vision for Helensburgh project was being held in March at the Victoria Halls and encouraged people to attend.

Sarah highlighted work with Plastic Free Helensburgh to examine litter issues; a Scottish Water briefing which had been provided to the Community Council around



the capacity of services and potential overflows leading to pollution; and the Community Council's involvement in the Empowering our Educators consultation.

The written update also provided information relating to Webinars taking place throughout February and March in advance of the opening of the John Logie Baird Innovation Hub; developments relating to Hermitage Park; various communication methods being used by the Community Council to ensure a high level of accessibility; and the Community Council's ongoing monitoring of the Helensburgh Waterfront Development project.

Discussion took place in relation to the Community Council's concerns around a proposed large-scale housing development at Helensburgh Golf Club, and Sephton MacQuire provided information on the social housing element of the development which is being progressed by Dunbritton Housing Association.

### **Decision**

The Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group considered and noted the information provided.

(Reference: Update by Sarah Davies, Helensburgh Community Council, submitted)

#### **(h) Fun First Update**

The Group considered an update from Sarah Davies, Fun First, which provided information in relation to Fun First's scheduled sessions and activities; future plans to celebrate Fun First's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary; a new Fun First Friends group; and an application to the Supporting Communities Fund in conjunction with Albatross Arts to develop a programme of arts and crafts activities for parents and children.

Sarah encouraged those attending the meeting who knew of anyone who may benefit from taking part in Fun First's activities to get in touch.

### **Decision**

The Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group considered and noted the information provided.

(Reference: Update by Sarah Davies, Fun First, submitted)

#### **(i) Arrochar and Tarbet Community Development Trust & Friends of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs Update**

The Group considered an update from Duncan MacLachlan, Arrochar and Tarbet Community Development Trust & Friends of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs, which provided an update on the Two Lochs Visitor Management Programme. A number of pictures of the 'Windows on the Loch' project and a copy of the Two Lochs Visitor Management Project Final Report were included in the agenda pack for the Group's attention.

Information was provided around the continued funding and success of the A82 layby litter scheme and partnership working to facilitate the Windows on the Loch project. Duncan highlighted that future plans for the 2022 season would likely be on

a reduced scale as the amount of available funding was likely to be considerably lower, however he was hopeful that it would be possible to build on the successful partnership working which had taken place during the 2021 season. A list of proposed elements of the Two Lochs Programme 2022 was included in the written update for the Group's information, with Duncan emphasising that these plans were subject to sufficient funding being successfully identified.

Duncan also provided further information in the written update to the Group in relation to the 'Adopt a Bonnie Banks Bin Scheme'; the 'Waste Warrior' litter collection scheme; plans to address site management issues at Tarbet Bay; and plans to provide assistance with improvements to the Luss village warden service.

Discussion took place around the success of the campaign to combat litter, and in particular the success in the amount of material which had been recycled.

### **Decision**

The Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group considered and noted the information provided.

(Reference: Update by Duncan MacLachlan, Arrochar and Tarbet Community Development Trust & Friends of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs, submitted)

#### **(j) Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Update**

The Group considered an update from the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park which provided information in relation to their Visitor Management Review of 2021, including the work of the National Park Safe Recovery Action Group (NPSRAG) and the implementation of a Joint Response Visitor Management Plan (JRVPM).

A copy of the notes of the most recent meeting of the West Loch Lomond Visitor Management Group were also provided in the agenda pack for the Group's attention.

### **Decision**

The Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group:

1. considered and noted the information provided; and
2. noted that in the absence of a representative from the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park (LLTNP), any questions could be forwarded to them following the meeting and any responses circulated to the Group.

(Reference: Update by Hannah Robinson, Sustainable Development Adviser, Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park, submitted)

#### **(k) Argyll and Bute Third Sector Interface Update**

The Group considered an update from the Argyll and Bute Third Sector Interface which provided an update on the progress of the Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund; the creation of a Third Sector Interface database to include the most up to date information for local organisations; the success of the Argyll

Community Lottery; and the completion of the Inveraray Hub as a facility for use by members which includes capabilities for hybrid working.

## **Decision**

The Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group:

1. considered and noted the information provided; and
2. noted that in the absence of a representative from the Argyll and Bute Third Sector Interface, any questions could be forwarded to them following the meeting and any responses circulated to the Group.

(Reference: Update by Paula Darbyshire, Service Advisor, Argyll and Bute Third Sector Interface, submitted)

### **(l) Opportunity for verbal updates from Area Community Planning Group Partners**

John Lewis, Males Tales & Females Tales

John Lewis advised that a Wellbeing and Community Day would be held at the Drumfork Centre on 14<sup>th</sup> May and invited any groups that would like to promote their services at the event to contact him at [malestales@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:malestales@yahoo.co.uk) . He agreed to provide further information to the Group in relation to the event in due course.

Shona Barton, Committee Manager, Argyll and Bute Council

Shona Barton highlighted that there may be some vacancies for election staff in the Helensburgh & Lomond area for the Local Government Election on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022, and anyone who was interested in putting themselves forward for these roles could contact [electionstaffing@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:electionstaffing@argyll-bute.gov.uk) .

David Moore (Chair), Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

The Chair noted that it was clear from the partner updates which had been provided that there was a lot of great work being carried out by partners, and suggested that it may be beneficial to collate a directory of these services to be shared with the Group. John Lewis noted that he was also working on the launch of a Helensburgh and Lomond Health and Wellbeing directory, in conjunction with other partners. Fiona Baker advised that Destination Helensburgh kept a list of all local organisations and they would be happy to promote any new directories which were available.

Shona Barton agreed to collate a directory, in discussion with the Chair, Vice-Chair and partners, which provided details of the local groups and events which had been highlighted.

The Chair advised that anyone who may be looking for volunteers, or to publicise events in the area, could upload details to the Group's Basecamp site or forward information to Iona Campbell or Shona Barton for onward dissemination to the Group.

### Angela Anderson, Plastic Free Helensburgh and Time for Change Argyll and Bute

Angela Anderson advised that a written update on the activities of Plastic Free Helensburgh and Time for Change Argyll and Bute would be circulated to the Group following the meeting. She highlighted work which was being undertaken alongside Helensburgh Community Council to investigate the issue of litter and also noted that regular beach cleans were scheduled. It was noted that the next beach clean was scheduled for 13<sup>th</sup> April 2022, and Angela suggested that this may be a good diversionary tactic for youths following earlier discussions. Angela advised that volunteers for beach clean events were always welcome, and encouraged any groups who may wish to take part to get in touch.

Angela also highlighted work which was planned in advance of the Local Government election in May to encourage voter turnout and provide a platform for prospective Councillors to give their views on the climate emergency.

### Jayne Burnett, Visiting Friends

Jayne Burnett advised that Visiting Friends were continuing to provide befriending services to the community, and were always looking for volunteers. She noted that there had been a large increase in the number of referrals to the service, particularly those with complex mental health issues, and the level of service which could be provided was dependent on the number of volunteers the organisation had.

Jayne advised that she would be happy to attend a future meeting to discuss the work of Visiting Friends in more detail, and noted that she would also be interested in attending the Wellbeing and Community Day mentioned by John Lewis.

### Kirsty Moyes, Community Development Team Lead, Argyll and Bute Council

Kirsty Moyes highlighted a support session taking place on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2022 which was aimed at community organisations and would provide information around how best to support people in engaging with the upcoming Census. She confirmed that key population groups who may have difficulties taking part in the Census were being targeted for support, in conjunction with other agencies.

Kirsty advised that she would provide further information in relation to this to be circulated to the Group following the meeting.

### Fiona Baker, Rhu and Shandon Community Council

Fiona Baker advised that the Community Council were particularly focused on matters around road safety, forestry and the Empowering our Educators consultation.

### Fiona Baker, Friends of Hermitage Park

Fiona advised that the sad decision to dissolve the charity had been made at the Friends of Hermitage Park AGM in December, following a breakdown in partnership working. She advised that she would be happy to take part in discussions with anyone who was interested in progressing the work of the group.

Alasdair MacCuish, Helensburgh Gaelic Group

Alasdair MacCuish provided information around an online Argyll Gathering event being held on the 12<sup>th</sup> of March, which would consist of a morning panel and an afternoon workshop.

The Chair advised that an online Gaelic language consultation was being undertaken by SFRS, and he confirmed that details of this would be circulated to the Group following the meeting.

Sephton MacQuire suggested that it may be beneficial to provide phonetic spellings for Gaelic, and Alasdair advised that this could be difficult with the Gaelic language pronunciation but he would take this into consideration. Alasdair advised that the Helensburgh Gaelic Group meet regularly on a Tuesday afternoon in the Parish Church and he would encourage anyone interested to come along.

Sophia McArdle, Royal Navy Family and People Support

Sophia McArdle highlighted the youth group which was available from 3:30pm in the Cabin, noting that she would provide further information around this to the Group following the meeting and efforts were also being made to promote this within schools.

Sophia also noted that the Base Warrant Officer, Robert (Bobby) Rennie, for HM Naval Base Clyde, hoped to join the Group at the next meeting.

(m) **Department for Work and Pensions Update**

The Group considered an update from Rita Easterbrook, Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), which included statistical information on clients receiving Universal Credit and other benefits across the Argyll and Bute area, as well as information on various initiatives that the DWP were involved in. The update also included information relating to changes to the various support and benefits which were available, and the processes for accessing these.

Information was also provided in the written update relating to action being taken to help to prevent pension scams; the tax liability of coronavirus support schemes; advice available for households experiencing financial difficulties; the Scottish Broadband Voucher Scheme; and an ongoing Early Learning and Childcare Consultation around data sharing.

Rita advised that the main focus for DWP at this time was assisting people in getting back into work and encouraging them to engage with services.

**Decision**

The Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group considered and noted the information provided.

(Reference: Update by Rita Easterbrook, Centre Manager, Department for Work and Pensions, submitted)

## 6. COMMUNITY FOCUS

### (a) Police Scotland Fraud Discussion

The Group considered a presentation by PC Laura Evans, Police Scotland. The presentation provided an overview of the work being undertaken by Police Scotland to highlight and reduce incidents of fraud.

Background information was provided around fraud and the increase in incidences of fraud since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic. PC Evans also highlighted the impact that being a victim of fraud could have on individuals, and emphasised that anyone could be a victim of fraud.

PC Evans provided further information about the various methods that were being used by fraudsters; the work which was being undertaken by Police Scotland to combat this increase in fraud activity; and the ways in which partners could assist to prevent fraud within local communities.

PC Evans encouraged people to sign up to Neighbourhood Watch Scotland and to complete the free training which was available. She advised that she would also be keen to hear from anyone who was able to offer their assistance with fitting call blockers, noting that she had already been in discussion with SFRS around this previously.

Kirsty Moyes highlighted that there would be people going door-to-door around the time of the Census and would circulate information around this following the meeting. She provided assurance that no one who was going door-to-door for these purposes would ask for entry into anyone's home.

Discussion took place around the importance of increasing awareness of fraud, particularly due to the underreporting of fraud, and a number of attendees agreed to contact PC Evans following the meeting to discuss what assistance they could provide. PC Evans agreed to forward links to relevant literature to the Group following the meeting.

PC Evans also confirmed that she would circulate details of a number of online events being hosted by Neighbourhood Watch Scotland to the Group following the meeting.

The Chair highlighted that SFRS would never cold-call people to fit smoke alarms, and noted that anyone who was unsure of whether an SFRS representative was genuine should ask for identification and phone their fire station for confirmation. He noted that there had been previous attempts to gain access to properties by impersonating an SFRS representative, and he would encourage anyone who experienced this to contact Police Scotland.

### **Decision**

The Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group considered and noted the information provided.

(Reference: Presentation by PC Laura Evans, Partnership Liaison Officer, Police Scotland, submitted)

## **7. CLIMATE CHANGE**

### **(a) Minutes of the Climate Change Working Group meeting held on Thursday, 16th December 2021**

The minutes of a recent meeting of the Climate Change Working Group, held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2021, were before the Group for noting and relevant discussion.

Angela Anderson, as the Group's representative on the Climate Change Working Group, provided additional information in relation to the work of the group in focusing on establishing a baseline and discovering the best ways to move forward. She highlighted that the group were hoping to draw on knowledge and experience from other local authorities to move towards their targets.

Angela advised that she would be happy to feedback any suggestions or concerns to the Climate Change Working Group.

#### **Decision**

The Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group:

1. considered and noted the minutes of the Climate Change Working Group meeting held on Thursday 16th December 2021; and
2. considered and noted the additional information provided by the Climate Change Working Group representative.

(Reference: Minute of the Climate Change Working Group, held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2021, submitted)

## **8. COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE**

The Group considered a briefing note which provided information around matters discussed during a virtual meeting of the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Management Committee, held on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

Shona Barton noted that difficulties in appointing office bearers to the Area Community Planning Groups (ACPGs) had been highlighted, and it was agreed that a video would be created to provide information about the roles and encourage people to put themselves forward. She noted that she was very pleased that the Chair and Vice-Chair positions had been filled on this Group, and advised that the project would still continue due to vacancies in other Area Community Planning Groups.

Shona also highlighted discussions which had taken place around the future operation of ACPGs following the upcoming Council election. She noted that other areas which may be of particular interest for Members were a presentation by Fergus Walker on Financial Inclusion which included information relating to the Flexible Food Fund and school clothing banks; ongoing work to refresh the Argyll and Bute Outcome Improvement Plan (ABOIP); and the ongoing work of the Recruitment and Retention Short Life Working Group.

The Chair noted that he would like to see more young people becoming involved in the Group, and Shona advised that the new MSYPs were scheduled to attend the next CPP Management Committee meeting and were likely to decide how they would input to the Area Community Planning Group meetings after this. Discussion took place around previous attendance by young people at Group meetings, and the Chair asked Shona Barton to investigate this and provide an update at the next meeting.

Further discussion took place around the timings of the meetings, and it was agreed that Shona Barton would discuss this with the Chair and Vice-Chair following the meeting.

Duncan MacLachlan noted that it may be helpful to have the chat function enabled for these meetings, and Shona Barton agreed to discuss this with the Chair and Vice-Chair in advance of future meetings.

### **Decision**

The Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group:

1. considered and noted the briefing note; and
2. noted that a further update would be provided around youth engagement with the Group at the next meeting.

(Reference: Report by Shona Barton, Committee Manager, Argyll and Bute Council, dated 10<sup>th</sup> February 2022, submitted)

### **9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Group noted that the next meeting of the Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group would take place on Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> April 2022 at 10am.



Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group

Actions from Meeting - 10/02/22

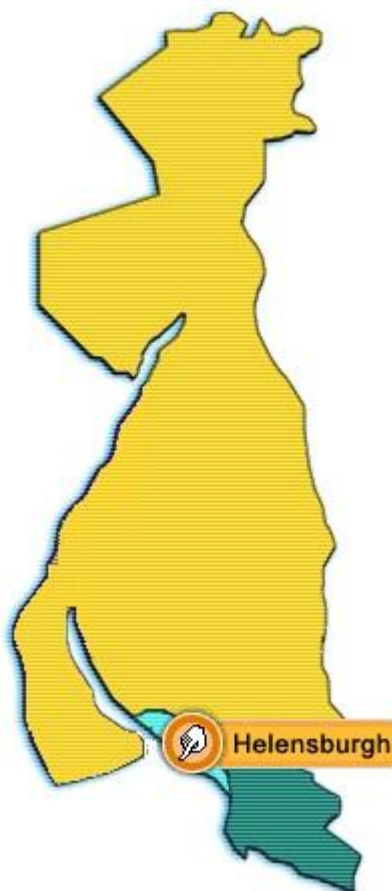
Agenda Item	Action	Responsible Person	Action Taken	Date Completed
4 (b)	Circulate future meeting dates to ask people to note them in their diaries.	Iona Campbell	Circulated in follow up e-mail to the Group.	10/02/2022
5 (b)	The Chair agreed to distribute a briefing note around new smoke detector legislation following the meeting.	David Moore	Circulated in follow up e-mail to the Group.	10/02/2022
5 (c)	Partnership working to take place relating to youth anti-social behaviour in the area between Police Scotland, Community Learning Service, RNFPs and MoDP. An update to be provided to the next meeting.	PS/CLS/RNFPs/MoDP	Appropriate contact details were shared between organisations. A further update is to be provided at this meeting during the Police Scotland partner update.	10/02/2022
5 (c)	PC Laura Evans to distribute information around new livestock worrying legislation and associated campaign.	PC Laura Evans	Circulated in follow up e-mail to the Group.	24/03/2022
5 (d)	Brian Smith to circulate details of the appropriate officer to contact for support re the online adult learning consultation.	Brian Smith	Circulated in follow up e-mail to the Group.	10/02/2022
5 (l)	John Lewis to provide further information in relation to a Wellbeing and Community Day on the 14th May for dissemination to the Group.	John Lewis	Circulated in follow up e-mail to the Group.	07/03/2022
5 (l)	Collate a directory of the local services which had been highlighted at the meeting to be shared with partners.	Shona Barton/Iona Campbell/David Moore/Sephton MacQuire	An e-mail has been sent to all partners to ask them to provide this information. Could those partners who have not yet responded, please do so as soon as possible to ensure that this can be completed and circulated to the Group.	
5 (l)	Angela advised that an update on the work of Time for Change/Plastic Free Helensburgh/Climate Change Working Group would be circulated following the meeting.	Angela Anderson/Iona Campbell	Circulated in follow up e-mail to the Group.	10/02/2022
5 (l)	Kirsty agreed to circulate further information in relation to a Community Event for Census support to the Group following the meeting.	Kirsty Moyes	Circulated in follow up e-mail to the Group and uploaded to Basecamp.	16/02/2022
5 (l)	The Chair agreed to distribute information in relation to the SFRS consultation on the Gaelic language following the meeting.	David Moore	Circulated in follow up e-mail to the Group.	10/02/2022
5 (l)	Sophia agreed to provide further information in relation to a youth group at the Cabin following the meeting.	Sophia McArdle	Circulated in follow up e-mail to the Group.	28/02/2022
6 (a)	Kirsty to circulate further information around door-to-door attendance during the Census.	Kirsty Moyes	Alongside national messaging, further information regarding a Census Information session was shared with the Group by e-mail.	16/02/2022
6 (a)	PC Evans agreed to circulate links to relevant literature and online events following the meeting.	PC Laura Evans	Circulated in follow up e-mail to the Group.	10/02/2022
8	Shona to investigate youth involvement in the Group and provide an update at the next meeting.	Shona Barton	Engagement has been ongoing with Live Argyll's Community Learning Service around the involvement of MSYPs. The newly elected MSYPs attended the most recent CPP Management Committee meeting, and we hope to invite them to attend a future meeting of the local ACPGs (following the exam period).	
8	Shona to investigate timings of meetings and the use of the Chat facility, in discussion with the Chair/Vice-Chair.	Shona Barton/Iona Campbell/David Moore/Sephton MacQuire	The chat function has been enabled for this meeting. Please note that these meetings are public meetings and any input to the chat box is publicly available and can be seen by anyone in attendance at the meeting. It is our intention to carry out a survey later in 2022 to ascertain the Group's views on timing of the meetings and how they are generally run. We will provide further information regarding this in due course.	

Complete
In progress
Outstanding

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# Helensburgh and Lomond Q4 Report 2021/22



## Helensburgh and Lomond Incidents Q4

H&LS – Helensburgh & Lomond South. HC – Helensburgh Central. LN – Lomond North

Incidents	H&LS 20/21	HC 20/21	LN 20/21	Total 20/21		H&LS 21/22	HC 21/22	LN 21/22	Total 21/22	=/-
Total	19	36	12	67		20	36	16	72	+5
Fire Fatalities	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0
Non-Fatal Fire Casualties	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0
Accidental Dwelling Fires	0	3	0	3		5	1	1	7	+4
<b>7KPI's</b>										
Deliberate Fires	5	0	1	6		2	1	1	4	-2
Accidental Fire	4	4	2	10		7	4	3	14	+4
Fatal and Non-fatal fire casualties	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0
Non-Domestic fires	0	0	0	0		0	1	0	1	+1
Special Services Incidents	3	7	0	10		4	9	7	20	+10
RTC Casualties	0	0	0	0		0	1	0	0	+1
False alarms	7	25	9	41		7	22	5	34	-7

**Incidents of Note****Primary Fires**

01/01/2022	Craigendoran Ave	L01:Helensburgh	Extinguished before arrival
14/01/2022	The Soundings	L21:Cove	Small electrical Fire in fusebox
17/01/2022	Crawford Dr	L01:Helensburgh	Small Fire within microwave
30/01/2022	Rosneath	L21:Cove	Boat Fire. Vessel in dry dock
31/01/2022	Grant St	L01:Helensburgh	1 Private Car
14/02/2022	Hope St	L01:Helensburgh	Grill Pan, Removed from heat source
15/03/2022	Lochranz Dr	L01:Helensburgh	Domestic appliance, Extinguished by removal
18/03/2022	Adelaid St	L01:Helensburgh	Unattended Food

**Secondary Fires**

12/01/2022	Courthill	L21:Cove	Grass fire
03/02/2021	Hillside Rd	L01:Helensburgh	Refuse
26/02/2021	A82 Ineruglas	L11:Arrochar	Refuse
27/02/2021	Sinclair St	L01:Helensburgh	Refuse
19/03/2021	Helensburgh Golf Club	L01:Helensburgh	Refuse
20/03/2021	Blackhill depot	L01:Helensburgh	Refuse
26/03/2021	Navy way	L21:Cove	Garden Fire
31/03/2021	Buchanan Rd	L01:Helensburgh	Refuse burning , spread to building

**Special services**

03/01/2022	A83 Arrochar	L11:Arrochar	RTC
07/01/2022	Fire Station Helensburgh	L01:Helensburgh	Ring Removal
15/01/2022	Rosedale Gdns	L01:Helensburgh	Carbon Monoxide
26/01/2022	John St	L01:Helensburgh	Lift Realese
29/01/2022	West princess St	Arrochar	Assist SAS, Gaining Entry
29/01/2022	Artaarman Rd	L22:Garelochhead	Assist SAS, Person, lower limb trapped under tree
29/01/2022	Upland Rd	L01:Helensburgh	Making safe, Roof Tiles
30/01/2022	Cadross Rd	L01:Helensburgh	Fallen person with head injuries
03/02/2022	A818 Helensburgh	L01:Helensburgh	RTC
03/03/2022	Barrs Rd	L01:Helensburgh	Fallen Person
12/03/2022	Aitkenshaw Rd	L21:Cove	Assist SAS, Gaining Entry
12/02/2022	A82 Luss	L01:Helensburgh	Lift Realese
16/03/2022	Spys Lane	L01:Helensburgh	Occupants trapped in home due to storm damage
20/03/2022	Rest & Be Thankful	L51:Lochgilhead	RTC
22/02/2022	Tarbet Hotel	L11:Arrochar	Water Rescue, Inland
28/02/2022	West Princes St	L01:Helensburgh	Assist police, Elderly Female
02/03/2022	Sinclair St	L01:Helensburgh	Lockfast premises
02/03/2022	Station Rd	L01:Helensburgh	Flooding
11/03/2022	John St	L01:Helensburgh	Assist SAS & Police
15/03/2022	Carman Rd	L01:Helensburgh	RTC
20/03/2022	Station Bar	L01:Helensburgh	Person Trapped in toilet
29/03/2022	A817 Helensburgh	L01:Helensburgh	RTC
30/03/2022	Torr Cres	L01:Helensburgh	Carbon Monoxide

**Community Safety Activity - 1/1/21 to 31/3/21**

<b>Home Fire Safety Visits (Q4)</b>			
Station	Home Fire Safety Visits	High Risk Visits	HFSV with Smoke Detection Fitted
Helensburgh	103	47	41
Garelochhead	10	2	2
Cove	7	4	4
Lochgoilhead	1	1	1
Arrochar	2	2	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>50</b>

**Community Safety Activity**

- Post Domestic Incident Response (PDIR)
- Fire Safety Talks – Due to Covid-19 were unable to go into schools so we integrated our presentations into Education networks and remotely supported schools with the presentations
- Continue to deliver Fire Safety advice via telephone and provision of smoke detection where none is fitted. HFSV's are carried out where there is a threat of fire from criminal activity
- Represented on the MARAC for those affected by domestic Violence
- Covid-19 Testing implemented at Arrochar and Cove Community Fire Stations in the area.
- Continue to support "Make the Call" Campaign
- Additional CAT Members have joined the team and will assist & within the area.
- Support and assist Police Scotland with Call blockers training and fitting of units.
- Supporting PAWS group and engaging with the public, #RESPECTTHEWATER campaign.
- Week of action for partners with risk awareness training via MS Teams.
- Engaging with communities for Spring TAP safety advice.



**SCOTTISH**  
**FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**  
Working together for a safer Scotland

# Do you know someone **OVER 50** who **SMOKES?**

.....  
And do they meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Living alone?
- Mobility issues?
- Using medical oxygen?

THEY MAY BE AT **GREATER RISK OF FIRE**  
AND WE NEED TO REACH THEM!



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**OFFICIAL****Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group - Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2022****Police Scotland Report – Inspector Alan Heron****New Local Area Commander**

Chief Inspector Emma Grimason, the Local Area Commander for Cowal, Bute and Helensburgh, is imminently moving on to perform a national policing role. Her successor has been named as Chief Inspector Sam Glasgow who has spent the majority of her police career in the Argyll & West Dunbartonshire Division. Chief Inspector Glasgow, who has performed various uniformed and specialist detective roles, will be based at Helensburgh.

**Covid-19**

The majority of Coronavirus restrictions in Scotland ended on Monday 21st March 2022. A few of the restrictions, such as the compulsory wearing of face masks in certain places, continue to be in force. We have seen a return to complete normality in terms of how we perform our duties and engage with the public. There has been a noticeable spike in Covid-19 infection rates across the country in the past month and our particular area has not been immune to this trend. We still continue to take appropriate precautions in relation to our Covid-19 response but a number of officers have been infected resulting in them requiring to self-isolate for the mandated periods. This has led to reduced numbers of officers being available for duty although never to the extent that public safety nor our ability to respond to emergency situations has been compromised. I am pleased to say that the absence picture is vastly improving.

**Youth Engagement Officer**

In January this year PC Mark Toner from Helensburgh Police Station was appointed as a full-time Youth Engagement Officer. No officer had been performing this role since the start of the Coronavirus pandemic and it was something that was sorely needed in the local area. PC Toner works in close partnership with local schools, community groups and youth organisations to build relationships with the young people in our area. He is passionate about what he does and his aim is to build their trust and confidence in the police. A lot of his work is around making early interventions where young persons have started to offend with a view to diverting them away from such behaviour and providing them with more positive lifestyle choices. Recently he has been delivering inputs to secondary pupils on the subjects of internet safety, cyber bullying and drugs.

**Defence Community Police Officer**

The Ministry of Defence Police have recently appointed PC Drew Omand as their new full-time Defence Community Police Officer based at Churchill in Helensburgh. This is a post that had been lying vacant for over a year and he is a welcome addition to the policing family in Helensburgh. Although he is a Ministry of Defence Police officer whose focus will be on policing the defence estate where service families are housed we will regularly be working with him, as we did his predecessors, on the many matters of mutual concern.

**OFFICIAL**

### **Youth Disorder & Anti-social Behaviour**

Youth disorder and general anti-social behaviour were not major issues for us over the Winter months but that is what we would generally expect. With the lighter nights and improved weather we have seen a noticeable increase in youth disorder and general anti-social behaviour in the Helensburgh area. These instances of youth disorder tend to be confined to a handful of areas in Helensburgh and the surrounding area such as Hermitage Park, Churchill Square, Duchess Woods, Garraway Glen, Ben Bouie woodland and Cardross Beach. Officers continue to target those engaging in anti-social behaviour using the full range of sanctions they have at their disposal. In the coming months new CCTV systems are due to be installed in both Hermitage Park and Churchill Square which should act as a deterrent in these two sometimes problematic locations.

### **Road Crime & Road Safety**

Road Crime & Road Safety continues to be the focus of a large part of our operational activity. This is no surprise given the roads network in the Helensburgh and Lomond area. The first and only fixed site speed camera in Argyll & West Dunbartonshire Division has recently been installed on the A814 in the centre of Cardross. The camera should become operational by the end of April 2022 following a period of testing. The main aim of this speed camera is to positively influence driver behaviour and improve road safety. Depending on its effectiveness we will hopefully see more being rolled out elsewhere in Argyll in the future.

### **National Park Visitor Management Plan**

A new National Park Visitor Management Plan has been published for the coming season outlining how all relevant partner agencies will manage the high volume of seasonal visitors to the area. Since the start of the Easter holidays there has been a steady influx of tourists to Loch Lomondside and the surrounding areas placing a strain on local infrastructure. We have seen a corresponding increase in the demands placed on us as a result of this.

Police Scotland have stood up Operation Ballaton which is our response plan for dealing with anti-social behaviour and other issues unique to the National Park. This will see a number of officers specifically tasked to police the hotspot areas to mitigate against the greatest risks posed to individuals and the local communities. Planning is also underway to have specialist policing resources operating in our area at times of higher anticipated demand over the coming months taking account of local events and holidays.

In March 2022 a new national Water Safety Action Plan was launched in Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park. The aim of this action plan is to improve the safety around Scotland's waters following a number of tragic deaths both on Loch Lomond and elsewhere. New measures, a number of which have already been implemented in the National Park, include improved signage to raise awareness of the risks posed and more widely available rescue equipment. In addition to the National Park's Ranger Service the Police Scotland Marine Unit will also be undertaking work to raise awareness of and promote water safety.

### **Counter Terrorism Awareness**

PC Dave Burton is our local Counter Terrorism Liaison Officer and he has been providing inputs to local housing associations as an introduction to Counter Terrorism. This ensures that staff are aware of signs of radicalisation and any prevention work that can be done by them as a frontline measure.

### **Your Dog, Your Responsibility**

As lambing season is upon us, and with new legislation launched in relation to livestock worrying, our Divisional launch of this was held on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2022. The new legislation for livestock worrying now covers a wider range of animals including camelids and ostriches. The Dogs (Protection of Livestock) (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 2021 includes amendments to the penalties people can face which includes a fine up to £40,000 or 12 months imprisonment. The message is clear - it's your dog and it's your responsibility. Always keep your dog in sight and under proper control when near livestock and avoid fields with sheep particularly at this time of year when any stress may cause them to abort their young. Funding from National Farmers Union Scotland (NFUS) has enabled crime prevention packs for those involved in agriculture and forestry work to be printed and these will be available shortly. Waterproof fence posters will also be available from your local police station in the coming weeks which can be fixed to fence posts advising people of this legislation. If you would like to become involved in promoting this or helping to display the fence posters then please let us know ([Laura.evans@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Laura.evans@scotland.pnn.police.uk)).

### **Fraud Prevention**

To support Cyber Scotland Week 2022, Police Scotland in partnership with Neighbourhood Watch Scotland held a series of online seminars to raise awareness of scams and online safety. This is due to the increase in reported frauds we have seen since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic. There were 3 sessions held – General Online Safety Tips, Child Protection (their safety, our responsibility) and Scams Prevention and Awareness. Neighbourhood Watch Scotland have now uploaded each presentation to their YouTube Channel so that they can be watched and shared at any time. Here is the link to view each recording:

- Online Safety Awareness - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M0TmqVdyiQc>
- Their Safety, Our Responsibility - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0CnFzGFPXGo>
- Scams & Digital Footprint Awareness - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hKdmU7Y0fQk>

Inputs are continuing for community groups and call blockers continue to be installed for those most at risk of falling victim to scams.

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## Argyll & Bute Community Planning Partnership

**Area Meetings**  
**Date: April 2022**




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### Partner update – Public Health

The Argyll and Bute HSCP Public Health team is pleased to provide an update on three areas of work: Community Link Working, Living Well & the NHS Highland Director of Public Health report.

#### Community Link Working

Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership is pleased to announce the launch of a new Community Link Worker service in the region. The Community Link Worker service can be accessed through referral from 12 GP practices across Argyll and Bute.

Community Links Workers (CLW) can take referrals from GP teams and use a person-centred social prescribing approach to strengthen the link between primary care, other health services, and community resources. Community Link Workers recognise that social issues such as debt, relationships, employment and loneliness affect people's health and wellbeing, and will connect people to sources of support or resources within their community. The CLW works with an individual to identify underlying causes and stressors in their life, which are having a negative impact on their health. These causes and stressors are often complex socioeconomic issues which are more appropriately addressed by services other than primary care. The CLW supports individuals to set goals and to navigate barriers to accessing services. The aim is to support people in taking control over their own health and wellbeing, and includes referring them to community services which can support them in doing so.

The service has been developed in line with the modernisation and expansion of services delivered in GP practices, resulting in multidisciplinary teams working together to support people holistically and improve outcomes for patients.

We Are With You has been contracted to provide this service for Argyll and Bute. We Are With You have been working in Argyll and Bute since 2015 and have a strong understanding of the rural geography of our communities.

The service will cover patients registered at the following practices: Campbeltown Medical Practice, Dr G Hall & Partners, Church Street Surgery, Cowal Medical Practice, Bowmore Medical Practice, Port Ellen Practice, Rhinns Medical Centre, Lochgilphead Medical Centre, Lorn Medical Centre, The Bute Practice, Millig Practice, Dr B McLachlan & Ptnrs

At present, the service is targeted at patients who live in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) decile 5 or less. The service will cover 78% of the patients in SIMD decile 5 or less in Argyll and Bute and the remaining 22% have been marked as potential for future community link working services.

For more information you can email [argyllbutelinks@wearewithyou.org.uk](mailto:argyllbutelinks@wearewithyou.org.uk). Further information for the public and patients at these practices will be issued shortly.

## Living Well

The Argyll and Bute Living Well strategy was launched in September 2019 and makes a commitment to support people living with long-term conditions and those at risk of developing them. The strategy focuses on supporting people to manage their own health, and supporting communities to build groups and networks which can link people together.

The Living Well Implementation plan aligns to the HSCP strategic intentions under four themes:

- **People** – enabling and informing to ensure healthy living and self-management of long-term health conditions
- **Community** – joined up approaches to support for health living within communities
- **Leadership** – high level commitment within the HSCP to ensure investment in prevention of health and social care problems
- **Workforce** - supporting and educating frontline health and social care professionals to anticipate and prevent problems before they arise

The Living Well strategy incorporates work relating to physical activity, self management, type 2 diabetes prevention, link working, emotional wellbeing, suicide prevention, workforce development, and tobacco. More information about the Living Well strategy can be found at <https://www.ablivingwell.org/living-well-strategy>).

In addition, the Living Well self management grants are an opportunity for Third Sector organisations to fund projects that support the health and well-being of people living in Argyll & Bute, while aligning to the key priorities set out in the Living well Implementation plan. In years 1 and 2 of the Living Well strategy, £70,000 and £76,000 respectively were awarded to 3<sup>rd</sup> sector organisations. Year 3 of the grants saw £46,100 allocated to projects run by Argyll & the Isles Coast & Countryside Trust (ACT); Lorn and Oban Healthy Options Ltd; Dochas Carer Centre; Dunoon Community Development Trust; Jean's Bothy and Garelochhead Station Trust.

## Director of Public Health report – Suicide and Mental Health

Suicide is an important Public Health issue. The 2021 Director of Public Health Report addresses a number of issues relating to suicide, including mental health and illness, background influences such as adversity in childhood, poverty, and what is being done to improve mental health and reduce suicide rates across NHS Highland.

The report highlights that there is a consistently higher rate of deaths by suicide in the NHS Highland area than the Scottish average. The Argyll and Bute male rate was higher than Scotland, but the difference was not statistically significant. There are very substantial demographic and socio-economic inequalities in suicide risk. Suicide is more common in men than women, with men generally around three times more likely to die from suicide. Mental illness substantially increases the risk of death by suicide and most people who die by suicide are thought to have a mental illness at the time of their death. Suicide rates are higher in people who live in deprived areas. Adverse life events increase suicide risk and previous exposure to traumatic events, including sexual and interpersonal violence also increases risk. Some rural parts of Scotland have higher than average suicide rates and some occupational groups, including some rural occupations such as farming and forestry

have a higher proportion of deaths from suicide than average. Occupational risk may be partly due to access to lethal means of self-harm, but low-paying jobs probably contribute.

A public health approach to suicide and suicidal behaviour is important and is widely regarded as the approach that is most likely to achieve sustained reductions in suicide. A Public Health approach helps us understand the epidemiology, risk and protective factors for suicide both in the general population and in groups of people at elevated risk of suicide. It also helps us to understand how we can work to prevent suicide in the first instance and to improve support for those in crisis or bereaved.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on mental health is also discussed within the report. A high global prevalence of both depression and anxiety during the time of the COVID-19 pandemic has been reported. At country and regional levels a wide variance in the prevalence of these mental health conditions has been observed, making it difficult to accurately describe the impact of the pandemic on mental health and wellbeing at this point in time. The impact of COVID-19 on mental health has been described as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic, but also as a “concurrent epidemic”. Reported positive effects on mental health during the pandemic include having the opportunity to spend more time with family, to help others and make a positive contribution to communities, and enjoy a better work-life balance. The measures put in place to reduce the risk of COVID-19 spreading, such as physical distancing and quarantine measures are also likely to have taken their toll on mental health and wellbeing.

Good mental health is essential in achieving improved outcomes for individuals, families and communities. Good mental health is determined by a wide range of social, economic, environmental, physical and individual factors that operate throughout the life course. To achieve good mental health, we need to improve the circumstances in which people are born, grow, live, work and age. This report details a compelling case for gaining better understanding of and responding to the mental health needs of our population. Across Highland and Argyll and Bute there is already a great deal of work underway, but we will need sustained, coordinated action across agencies that is focussed on prevention and early intervention if we are to make a difference to the mental health of our population.

Current activity – page 46 of the report details a range of current activity around mental health, wellbeing and suicide prevention in Argyll and Bute. Some examples are provided below:

### *Argyll and Bute Suicide Prevention Strategy Group*

The local structure for suicide prevention is well established within Argyll and Bute and complements Scotland’s commitment to mental health and suicide prevention. The Argyll and Bute Suicide Prevention Strategy Group is a multi-agency and multi-disciplinary group with representation from Police Scotland, the Royal Navy, third sector partners, social work, child protection and other NHS Highland colleagues. Chaired by the Interim Chief Officer, Argyll and Bute HSCP, partners are committed to delivering a local action plan supporting the delivery of Scottish Government’s ‘Every Life Matters’, Scotland’s Suicide Prevention Action Plan 2018 – 20214. The group has developed programmes of work on data, communications, training and bereavement support to deliver a range of interventions to meet the needs of both adults and children. The Argyll and Bute Suicide Prevention Action

plan is being reviewed to take into account the unanticipated changes to our lives since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and supporting local consultation and planning for the new national strategy for suicide prevention anticipated to be published in 2022. The strategy group sits within the Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership structure, reporting to the Community Planning Partnership Management Committee

### *Child Suicide Prevention Training*

The Argyll and Bute Suicide Prevention Strategy Group identified a need for multi-agency and multi-disciplinary child suicide prevention training. The Lifeworks Assessing Suicide in Kids (ASK) Suicide Workshop programme was chosen to build workforce capacity, knowledge and skills. The programme focuses on children and young people aged five to fourteen years old. The workshops specifically address suicide risk in children and provides developmentally appropriate tools and strategies to identify, gather and organise key details needed to assess risk and inform safety planning. The course adopts a blended approach whereby participants individually complete online training modules before attending face-to-face sessions that are delivered using an online video platform.

### Recommendations

The report concludes with a number of recommendations, including:

- The work of the Highland Suicide Prevention Steering Group and Argyll and Bute Suicide Prevention Strategy Group should be supported and effective up to date strategies and action plans delivered across Highland and Argyll and Bute.
- Evidence on effective interventions for the prevention of suicide should be reviewed. Where services or interventions with good evidence exist but are not in place within NHS Highland, cases should be made for implementation.
- The relationship between poverty, deprivation and urban rural variation in suicide rates in Highland should be researched and the extent to which the Highland picture contributes to rural suicide rates in Scotland should be identified.
- Health intelligence should be prioritised to place suicide in a broader population mental health context that will inform local plans and strategies, including evidence on mental health hospitalisations, mental health prescribing and wider service access.
- Intelligence and evidence should be provided to support mitigation of the mental health impacts of the pandemic in NHS Highland.
- Preventative approaches that increase personal and community resilience should be prioritised.
- Available resources should be targeted towards groups experiencing multiple disadvantage to mitigate the mental health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The NHS Highland Director of Public Health Report 2021 is available to view in full here <https://www.nhshighland.scot.nhs.uk/News/Pages/DirectorofPublicHealthreportpublished.aspx>.

### **For more information contact:**

Name: Alison McGrory (Health Improvement Principal)

E-mail: [alison.mcgrory@nhs.scot](mailto:alison.mcgrory@nhs.scot)





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**Community Learning Service update**

**Youth Services:**

**Youth Action Groups** continue to meet across the Authority and are involved with the planning and discussions and promotion around activities being offered for the Easter Holiday GIVE Programmes being rolled out in each of the areas. Young people are being invited to sign up.

**Give Holiday Programmes** is a Youth Volunteering Programme and Young people are encouraged to get inspired through volunteering and engagement. It is a great way for young people to have fun, meet new people, help their communities, learn new skills, and gain Saltire Awards and volunteering hours.

**Transition and School Leavers Programmes** are currently being developed for Summer Leavers across Argyll.

**The New Youth Work Strategy** is due to be published and made available this late spring early summer 2022.

**Adult Learning:**

**Weekly Learning HUBS** are established in almost all of the areas now with the rest opening Mid-April 2022. The Learning Hubs will provide support to Adult Learners who want to work on a variety of topics such as basic IT, employability, accredited learning and confidence. The HUBs will be another gateway for Community Learning Adult Leads to engage with learners and identify learner needs which contributes to running specific courses. Initially the HUBs will also be supported by some Partners and Community learning is currently looking to expand support through recruitment of volunteers across the Community Learning areas.

**Adult Literacy and Numeracy Support** has been identified as a provision gap since June 2020. Now that Adult Learning is being re-established we are looking to recruit ALN (Adult Literacy and Numeracy) volunteer tutors to help with this support. Once recruitment, training and Induction have been completed we are looking for some ALN provision to be in place July 2022.

**The New adult Learning Strategy** is due to be launched and made available/ published in May 2022.

**New Scots and existing Refugee resettlement project/funded programme Bute.** This a Partnership based project involving Argyll and Bute Council, Mount Stewart Trust, Argyll College, and LiveArgyll—the aim is to provide structured volunteering opportunities, SQA Accredited Learning opportunities and cultural and leisure service opportunities to New Scots integrating into the community as well as existing Syrian families already living in the community. As well as Improving community links another aim is to improve on the language learned through ESOL classes.

LiveArgyll has recruited and is managing (through Community Learning Services) a Community Learning and Development Worker whose role is to recruit volunteer mentors to support New Scots, existing refugees and speakers of other languages to integrate and take up these opportunities. Some examples are an SQA in Horticultural being delivered by Argyll College, Tree planting and Gardening/grounds volunteering opportunities at Mount Stewart, continued ESOL Classes, and

complimentary /free LiveArgyll memberships to access gyms and leisure facilities to improve and enhance health and wellbeing for both participants and volunteer mentors. The project will run until end of November 2022.

Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) UpdateCapital Programme Update

Below is a brief summary of the agreed Capital Programme within Argyll and Bute:

<u>Local Authorities and Others Category 1 Projects</u>	
	<u>2022/23</u>
<b>Argyll and Bute</b>	<b>Total £000</b>
Bus Infrastructure Upgrades in Helensburgh Area	150
Helensburgh and Lomond Cycleways	90
Rosneath Cyclepath	150
<b><u>Total Category 1 Programme for Argyll and Bute</u></b>	<b><u>390</u></b>

<u>Future Years</u>		
<u>Local Authorities and Others Category 1 Projects</u>		
	<u>2023/24</u>	<u>2024/25</u>
<b>Argyll and Bute</b>	<b>Total £000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Bus Infrastructure Upgrades in Helensburgh Area	150	150
Helensburgh and Lomond Cycleways	80	400
Rosneath Cyclepath	30	250
<b><u>Total Category 1 Programme for Argyll and Bute</u></b>	<b><u>260</u></b>	<b><u>800</u></b>

SPT Work in Argyll and Bute:

Please see below a link to the recently published document which highlights key information about SPT's work in the Argyll and Bute Council area:

[https://www.spt.co.uk/media/xxopagqr/argyll-bute\\_councilreport.pdf](https://www.spt.co.uk/media/xxopagqr/argyll-bute_councilreport.pdf)

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## DWP Partner Update April 2022

### Count of customers – Universal Credit and Legacy benefits (Stats Xplore 12/04/22)

#### Universal Credit – Number of People on UC by Age Group at February 2022 (all conditionality groups)

<b>Jobcentre Plus</b>	<b>18 – 24</b>	<b>25 – 39</b>	<b>40 – 49</b>	<b>50 – 59</b>	<b>60+</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Campbeltown	111	337	183	151	92	874
Dunoon	148	450	246	219	97	1160
Helensburgh	169	476	244	194	110	1193
Oban	221	680	340	284	161	1686
Rothesay	76	232	139	123	79	649
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>725</b>	<b>2175</b>	<b>1152</b>	<b>971</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>5562</b>

#### Universal Credit – Number of People on UC by Conditionality Group at February 2022

<b>Jobcentre Plus</b>	<b>C'town</b>	<b>Dunoon</b>	<b>H'burgh</b>	<b>Oban</b>	<b>Rothesay</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Searching for work	234	355	275	526	18	1408
Working – with requirements	152	181	195	256	111	895
Working – no requirements	173	180	246	345	78	1022
No work related Requirements	279	370	392	459	226	1726
Planning for work	9	24	23	31	21	108
Preparing for work	34	59	54	82	31	260
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>881</b>	<b>1169</b>	<b>1185</b>	<b>1699</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>5419</b>

**Jobseekers Allowance as at August 2021 – Argyll & Bute**

Male	126
Female	73
<b>Total</b>	<b>199</b>

**Employment & Support Allowance as at August 2021 – Argyll & Bute**

<b>Phase of claim</b>	
Assessment phase	113
Work Related Activity Group	331
Support Group	2238
<b>Total</b>	<b>2682</b>

**Income Support as at August 2021 – Argyll & Bute**

<b>Statistical Group</b>	
Lone Parent	70
Carer	122
<b>Total</b>	<b>174</b>

**Way to Work** was launched on 28<sup>th</sup> January, a national drive to get half a million people who are out of work into jobs in the next five months. Nationally there are over 1 million vacancies to fill, so lots of opportunities, many of which need no prior experience.

Work Coaches are offering increased face-to-face time, tailoring support and improving the work coach's understanding of their customers needs and their suitability for certain roles.

Employer Advisers will be working closely with employers, providing a named point of contact within their local Job Centre and will work with employers to help fill their vacancies. This offer can include actively promoting vacancies to matching customers, pre-screening, offering Jobcentre Plus offices to conduct interviews as well as working with customers and employers to secure Sector-based Work Academy Placements, Work Trials or Work Experience where appropriate.

We are encouraging employers to make use of Job Centre facilities to promote their vacancies, introduce customers to employers. There is also space in each Job Centre for employers to conduct interviews.

We are also hosting Recruitment Events in Job Centres:

Oban has hosted events two date to support employers fill their vacancies which resulted in 9 possible job offers.

Campbeltown hosted an event on 31<sup>st</sup> March to gain some insight into the challenges they face in their recruitment and how we can support employers.

Dunoon Job Centre had a Recruitment Event on 7<sup>th</sup> April and Rothesay Job Centre will host an event on 14<sup>th</sup> April to support employers in those areas.

## **Provision**

DWP purchased provision for 10 customers via DPS to upskill them in customer service roles such as hospitality or retail which ran from 21<sup>st</sup> February to 11<sup>th</sup> March 2022. Through this provision, customers obtained certification in Food Hygiene, Personal Licence Holder, Health & Safety as well as accredited Customer Service Level 2. This provision was delivered remotely to customers across Argyll & Bute. A second 3-week course is due to start on 25<sup>th</sup> April for a further 6 customers.

DWP has also purchased provision a Construction course for 6 customers in the Helensburgh area which is started on 28<sup>th</sup> March and will run for 4 weeks. Through this, customers will have the opportunity to attain a CSCS card, Asbestos Awareness, Traffic Marshall and other certification to improve their prospects of finding work in this sector.

## Support for energy bills and the cost of living

This week, the Chancellor announced support to protect households from rising energy bills. Millions of households will receive up to £350 to help with the cost of living, following the rise to the energy price cap. All domestic electricity customers will get £200 off their bills, and 80% of households will receive a £150 Council Tax rebate from April. Factsheets on the support available can be found on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

## Helping parents and carers with their childcare costs

Thousands of families are using Tax-Free Childcare to pay for childcare and benefiting from the 20% government top-up. But there are thousands more families across the UK missing out on the chance to save money on childcare. The childcare top-up is available as part of the Government's Tax-Free Childcare scheme. Eligible working families can receive up to £500 every three months (or £1,000 if their child is disabled) towards the cost of accredited holiday clubs, before and after-school clubs, childminders and nurseries, and other accredited childcare schemes. Tax-Free Childcare is available for children aged up to 11, or 17 if the child has a disability. And for every £8 deposited into an account, families will receive an additional £2 in government top-up.

Parents and carers can check their eligibility and register for Tax-Free Childcare on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

### [Find out more](#)

A range of communications tools to help promote Tax-Free Childcare are available to [download](#). [Read the press release](#)

## Change to Permitted Period and Usual Occupation Rules

Previously, the permitted period a claimant could look for work in their preferred sector was for a maximum of 13 weeks. This has changed to a maximum of 4 weeks. [Press release on GOV.UK](#)



## **Special Rules for Terminal Illness update**

Fast-tracked access to benefits will be extended to a year from six months for people nearing the end of life, under changes due to take effect from 4 April. This means that people who are thought to be in their final year of life will be able to receive vital support through the 'Special Rules' and given fast-tracked access to Universal Credit and Employment and Support Allowance.

Those who are eligible will not be subject to a face-to-face assessment or waiting periods, and in most cases, they will receive the highest rate of benefits. [Read full press release](#)

## **Tax credits customers encouraged to check if they could be better off on Universal Credit**

A new Universal Credit campaign has been launched aimed at tax credit customers. The campaign aims to raise awareness that tax credits are ending in 2024 and that many tax credit customers could be financially better off on Universal Credit.

The campaign signposts to independent benefits calculators to help tax credit customers see if Universal Credit is right for them. It also encourages customers to seek independent advice before they apply. The campaign is being promoted through digital, social and radio advertising. A new webpage on the Universal Credit website for Tax Credit customers contains additional information to help people make the right decision for them.

Go to [Tax credits are ending - Understanding Universal Credit](#) for more details.

Eligibility criteria apply.

Further information about Universal Credit is being provided directly to tax credit customers as part of the tax credit renewals process. As with the campaign, the information signposts claimants to independent benefits calculators and encourages customers to seek independent advice before they apply to Universal Credit.

## National Go Live – Adult Disability Payment (Scotland)

Adult Disability Payment (ADP) is the replacement for Personal Independence Payment (PIP) for customers living in Scotland. It will be rolled out in phases:

- **21 March 2022** – Dundee, Perth & Kinross, the Western Isles
- **20 June 2022** – (in addition) Angus, North & South Lanarkshire
- **25 July 2022** – (in addition) Fife, North Ayrshire, East Ayrshire, South Ayrshire, Moray, Aberdeen City & Aberdeenshire

ADP will then be launched nationally, across Scotland, from **29 August 2022**. From 29 August 2022 customers living in Scotland should no longer claim PIP but instead claim ADP. For further information and how to claim visit [mygov.scot](https://mygov.scot).

## Support for those fleeing the conflict in Ukraine

People arriving in the UK from Ukraine can now find essential benefits information on a new web page set up by DWP.

The new web page is accessible via the Department's Understanding Universal Credit website, at [Support for those fleeing the conflict in Ukraine - Understanding Universal Credit](#).

People arriving in the UK from Ukraine because of the Russian invasion can apply for financial help immediately, as well as access tailored job support.

Ukrainians can apply for benefits and other types of financial support from the day they arrive in the UK. Translation services are available to help new arrivals with phone applications, and work coaches in DWP Jobcentres are on hand to support people making claims online.

DWP staff are also delivering additional face-to-face assistance to those who need it – including tailored support to find work and advice on benefit eligibility – and will continue to do so.

Also announced last week, people who sponsor a Ukrainian individual or family will not see their household benefit entitlements affected. [Read the full statement](#).

## **New money guidance from Money and Pensions Service**

The Money and Pensions Service (MaPS) has launched new guidance to help people manage changes to the cost of living. Its focus is on people who have not yet missed payments on their bills or credit commitments, but who are at serious risk of doing so.

The guidance on its [MoneyHelper](#) website helps people manage their money in uncertain times. These resources and tools are aimed at people who:

- Are [struggling to keep on top of their bills and payments](#)
- Have experienced a [reduction in income or squeezed budgets](#)
- Are [self-employed](#)
- Have been or are worried about being made [redundant or losing their job](#)

For people who are already missing payments on their bills or credit commitments, then free debt advice services are available via MaPS' advice [locator tool](#).

End

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**Argyll & Bute Citizens Advice Bureau Community Planning Partnerships Update Spring 2022**

Argyll & Bute CAB has continued to service communities across Argyll & Bute throughout the COVID pandemic and is now experiencing a high number of enquiries from clients looking for a range of advice topics. Welfare rights and housing enquiries constitute a large degree of advisers workload, however debt and in particular energy debt is an increasing theme for a greater percentage of our clients. As a result we have obtained funding to increase our debt support with a part-time energy debt specialist employed to support the workload.

Her Majesty's Court & Tribunals Services have communicated that they will recommence face to face sessions from 4<sup>th</sup> April and we have started to see an increase in numbers of clients looking for support to avoid evictions as a result also.

Our advisers are reporting a large increase in the numbers of clients reporting complex or multifaceted issues and an increase in mental health issues as a result. We are actively looking at funding opportunities to support vulnerable clients in these situations.

The bureau has begun its Spring 2022 Adviser training programme and has a target of recruiting 12 volunteer advisers each year – the next intake will be late summer 2022. All our volunteers are continuing to work remotely for the most part with advisers covering the entirety of Argyll & Bute.

We are currently running a consultation exercise with partner organisations in order to review the work of the bureau and would welcome CPP attendee's responses to this <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/ABCABCommunityPartnersSurvey/>

The bureau has been carrying out a small piece of research recently into the private rental housing market across Argyll & Bute and hopes to have the report on the impact of this sector on communities available early April for dissemination to partners.

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Report for Helensburgh and Lomond Planning Group April 2022

### Visions for Helensburgh

The HCC was delighted by the turn out and engagement at our public consultation event held on the 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> March. It presented a view of the future development of the town and highlighted a cross-section of the volunteer groups working towards this. More than a thousand local residents, spanning the age groups, attended and there was a buzz of positive feedback and healthy debate. It is the intention that the results of this consultation will go on to form a basis for a Local Plan. The whole event was a huge success and everyone who participated is to be congratulated. It demonstrated the best of Helensburgh with the local community coming together to solve problems and move forward after what has been a very difficult two years.

It was very clear from discussions and responses that the Waterfront Development is a huge issue on which the community wants further information and consultation. To this end the Community Council unanimously agreed at the March meeting to write to Argyll and Bute Council seeking an urgent meeting to discuss a way forward. In the meantime we propose that the area should be considered as stalled space until a cohesive, coordinated agreement can be made between Argyll and Bute and the Helensburgh Community following wide ranging consultation.

### Golf Club Housing Development

The Community Council Planning Group, consultation with the whole council, is currently working on our response to the planning application for 300 plus houses. We are working through the large amount of paperwork and intend to respond on four main issues.

Transport and Connectivity, Sustainability and the Environment, Local Infrastructure and Architecture and Design. There have been a number of local objections lodged, the majority relate to traffic difficulties, lack of infrastructure and environmental issues.

### Litter Bin Survey

We are continuing to work with Plastic Free Helensburgh on a litter bin survey to present to the Council. The provision of suitable bins, sited in the appropriate places with enough capacity for busy times is the obvious solution. We hope our hard work over the last two years will lead to positive discussions with Argyll and Bute and a permanent resolution to this matter.

### Beach Cleans and Colquhoun Shrub Bed Tidying

The Helensburgh Community Council and residents continue to demonstrate their commitment to the local environment by actively participating in clean ups and tidying projects. More than 30 participants took part in our recent Beach Clean which removed 80

bags of rubbish and a double sized skip full of contaminated seaweed, plus a trailer of driftwood from the Pier head litter sink following the winter storms.

A further group of 10 tidied the Shrub beds and litter picked Colquhoun Square to prepare it for the summer. Special thanks to the disbanded Friends of Hermitage who have now joined in this initiative.

### Education Consultation Empowering Educators

The Community Council engaged fully with the community and attended a number of briefings to inform ourselves further. It was our conclusion that the proposals were not fully thought through and would do little or nothing to improve the education of Helensburgh pupils. We found no support for them in the community and that the proposals were badly timed coming after all the disruptions of the pandemic. We therefore asked that they be withdrawn. Our response is on our website.

### Webinars

The HCC series of webinars planned on Enterprise and Entrepreneurship in February and March were well attended and thought provoking and even got a mention in the Scottish Parliament. . These are the precursor to the opening of the John Logie Baird Innovation Hub being promoted by the Helensburgh Community Council

### Hermitage Park

The HCC noted the disbanding of the Friends of Hermitage Park and thanked them for their hard work over the last ten years. We are particularly concerned that the Lottery Money allocated for project gets spent on the areas which were in the original bid eg the Memorial Garden at the war Memorial.

### Town Infrastructure Issues

We continue to engage with the council on issues regarding infrastructure maintenance in particular with roads and street lighting. These can be sources of frustration not only for us but for local residents. We will continue to look for solutions and work with the council , but hope that issues which have now been going on for far to long which include repairs to street lamps, provision of legible street signs, markings on the roads and potholes will come to a swift conclusion now normality is returning. We engaged with the community and tried to keep them informed during the recent refuse collection problems. This did inevitably cause a great deal of frustration and lead to an increase in litter around the town. We encourage residents to report problems on the website so that they can be logged. , but they are often frustrated, as are we by the lack of follow up and resolution to these issues.

### Plastic Free Helensburgh

We are pleased to announce that following excellent C'community engagement and hard work by local businesses, community groups, the community council and the PFH steering Group of volunteers, Helensburgh is now one of only nine Plastic Free Communities in Scotland. The work continues as we look to improve our water quality, marine environment and reduce the amount of packaging used by businesses and groups, in light of the upcoming single use plastic ban. This award demonstrates the community's very real concern for the environment and a willingness to do something about it.

Sarah Davies Helensburgh Community Council





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Report for the Helensburgh and Lomond Planning Group April 2022

### Sessions and Activities

Funtime Sessions continue to be held in Helensburgh Library, The Drumfork Centre, Gibson Hall Garelochhead, Colgrain House and The Helensburgh Community Hub. A new session will begin following the Easter Holidays in Rosneath to further support parents on the Peninsula. New blocks of Toddler and Parent Yoga and Baby Massage will begin mid April.

A successful Easter Party and Egg Hunt was held in James Street Community Garden.

It is fantastic to see that a small, local, organisation set up by a group of parents, who identified a need, continues to thrive and grow twenty years later.

The legacy of lockdowns and covid restrictions makes Fun First even more valuable, as it provides opportunities for parents, grandparents, carers, babies and pre schoolers to meet once again and socialise whilst enjoying stories, songs, rhymes, fitness activities and a chance to talk.

All of these carefully planned activities led by fully trained leaders are designed to enhance language development, parenting skills and aim to offer support to young families and decrease isolation.

We are very proud to have been one of two charities nominated for Military Charity of the Year at the first ever Celebrating Forces Families Awards 2022. We will travel to an award ceremony at The Victory Club in London. This is a huge achievement for a small local charity and is recognition of our continued support and hard work for families during the pandemic. Our application to the Supporting Communities Fund was successful and we received the full £2,500. We are grateful to Argyll and Bute Council for this support. We have also received funding from the Arnold Clark Community Fund and the Health and Wellbeing Fund.

Our current and previous managers are both taking part in the Kiltwalk to raise funds.

Morrison's continues to support our events and we will be holding a collection in store in April. We will also be participating in a Sustainable Parenting Event organised by the Helensburgh Napoy Library at the Community Hub and at the Males Tales Health and Wellbeing Event in May.

We are planning a celebration for our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Our new website has now gone live.

We held our AGM in March.

We continue to operate on a system of donations and paying what you can afford for our sessions ensuring that no one is excluded.

All sessions and up to date information are available on our Fun First and Fun First Babies facebook pages where free tickets can be booked.

We encourage anyone who knows young families who might benefit from our activities to encourage them to get in touch.

Sarah Davies Chair



### H & L Area CPP April 2022 Report: Time for Change Argyll and Bute

We continue with zoom meetings every second Monday and working groups taking on tasks.

- **Actions with MSPs and Scottish Government**
- We had a follow up meeting with Jackie Baillie and Andy Wrightman to discuss land use and local food and growing networks.
- We met with Louise Harvey (lead for the Scottish government community based approach to climate change) to discuss TfC setting up a Regional Climate Action Hub
- We also attended the Climate Action Hubs Regional Session - Argyll & Bute
- IPPC

Every day is a busy day with the Climate Challenge and the latest IPCC report lays this out in graphic detail. If we do not mitigate now we will be left struggling with adaptations to cope with massive changes.

We are currently bringing the IPPC report to our MP and 16 MSPs across West of Scotland and Highland and those standing for election in May and also to all of you who are kind enough to read this.

- [https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/apr/04/why-are-the-three-ipcc-working-group-reports-significant?CMP=Share\\_AndroidApp\\_Other](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/apr/04/why-are-the-three-ipcc-working-group-reports-significant?CMP=Share_AndroidApp_Other)

“Greenhouse gas pollution must peak “at the latest before 2025” to keep targets alive, the IPCC scientists write”.

- **Consultation Responses**
- NPF4 should bring an improvement but as lay group this was a difficult consultation to respond to. We are concerned that there is a rush for planning approval to beat the in coming regulations for building standards.
- Marine Litter
- Litter and Flytipping
- **Actions with Council and in A & B**
- Presentation to CPP Area Committee Climate Change Group
- Voter Turn Out

We are an apolitical group but it is politics and politicians who set the changes and many of these changes in Argyll and Bute are in the hands of the Council.

We are concerned that voter turn out in local elections is low. We interviewed independent Councillor for Lochgilphead, Douglas Philand and produced a video explaining the system and encouraging voting.

<https://www.facebook.com/timeforchangeargyllandbute/videos/511530127025181>

We are also exploring a video hustings, although this is more difficult than National elections, with 11 wards and 124 candidates.

- Carbon Literacy

Carbon Literacy, the council agreed to promote and deliver training and we are pleased that some Councillors and staff have undertaken training. We are exploring ways to encourage carbon literacy

training for Community Councils and Carbon Literacy Toolkits for Schools. ACT are currently delivering to Community Leaders.

- **Planning Applications Mitigations and Adaptations**

We have responded to a number of planning applications either in favour or against in relation to the seriousness of climate change emergency declared by the Council and the positive or negative effect in terms of mitigation or adaptation of the proposal.

On land we are particularly concerned that the current planning regulations are behind and out of step with what is recognised as necessary, particularly where land and habitat that holds water and mitigates flooding and drought is given over to hard run-off from roofs and roads.

On sea of the pollution effects from fish farm expansion.

- **Communication**

Communication runs through and binds everything.

- Facebook

Keep up to date with our Facebook page [https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=time for change argyll %26 bute](https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=time%20for%20change%20argyll%20bute)

- TfC email address [timeforchangeargyll@gmail.com](mailto:timeforchangeargyll@gmail.com)
- How we work
- Bi-weekly Zoom meetings
- Bi-weekly email newsletter
- Slack workspace split into channels
- Social media structure
- Monthly newspaper column
- Regular emails/meetings with MP, MSP and certain Councillors
- Website information hub (currently being restructured)
- Consensus decision making
- How we work
- Bi-weekly Zoom meetings
- Bi-weekly email newsletter
- Slack workspace split into channels
- Social media structure
- Monthly newspaper column
- Regular emails/meetings with MP, MSP and certain Councillors
- Website information hub (currently being restructured)
- Consensus decision making

**H & L Area CPP April 2022 Report: Plastic Free Helensburgh.**

Steering group meets on zoom once a month and additionally as required.

Contact [plasticfreehelensburgh@gmail.com](mailto:plasticfreehelensburgh@gmail.com) new members welcome.

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=plastic%20free%20helensburgh%20-%20community>

As a Surfers Against Sewage (SAS) Community,

- **Plastic Free Helensburgh has achieved accredited Plastic Free Town Status.**

We are the 9<sup>th</sup> community in Scotland to attain this status.

PFH accomplished, this by working with some 30 plus businesses and 20 plus community groups to reduce their single use plastics and become more sustainable, running events and working with Helensburgh Community Council. We work with partners throughout Helensburgh and Lomond.

**Meetings**

- With Helensburgh Community Council and Scottish Water
- With Jackie Baillie to discuss how our group works, general matters and the high number of overflows and combined sewer overflows (CSO) from the sewage system in Helensburgh.
- On the 8<sup>th</sup> of April (report to follow) with Jackie Baillie, Scottish Water, SEPA and Marine Scotland to discuss the origins of sewage related litter and litter sinks, the safety of the water quality for bathing and marine leisure and the strategy to keep our beaches clean and disseminate our findings from our clean up work and observations, over the year, to facilitate a strategic plan.
- **Work Shop.** Keep Scotland Beautiful and Scottish Water. "litter and its impact on the marine environment"

**Work and Projects**

- **Public Litter Bins** on Sea front. Following our bin usage survey last summer we are working with HCC on the state and suitability of the public bin provision and monitoring over flow. We have a very high regard for the care and from attention Paddy and the local street gang, however bin provision is woefully inadequate for the number of visitors.
- **Take A Ways.** We are continuing last years work with the local take a ways surveying and giving information on the legislative change banning single use plastic items such as cutlery, cups and polystyrene food boxes. We will also distribute the leaflets produced by A&B through the GRAB Trust.
- **Litter Picking Station** installed at Stepping Stones Nursery. More two minute pick stations to come, in conjunction with the GRAB Trust.
- **Water Fill Up Station**, this is still waiting on work completion at the pier.

**Events**

- Stall at Vision for Helensburgh, There was a high degree of interest in what we are doing in the community and with beach cleans.
- And announcement to the hall of accredited town status and presentation by Jackie Baillie.

**Beach Cleans**

- **Pier to Henry Bell Monument.** Monthly beach cleans with HCC.

**10.00 12.00 every last Saturday in the month from March to September.** All helpers welcome.

**Around 30 TONS of DEBRIS** in March.

For the March clean around 30 people using PFH and GRAB Trust litter pickers, filled 80 bin bags weighing around 960kgs of mainly old plastic litter and filled a 6ft by 12 foot trailer with driftwood including pier timbers that required the fork attachment of the Drumfork Farm tractor to lift.

With the tractor, David Howie then cleared the plastic choked seaweed and filled the 20 Ton Skip provided by the council and pushed another half load against the pier wall.

It should be noted that due to the high equinox-al tides and still air a large portion of the marine litter that had pushed up over the winter had floated back into the Clyde at the beginning of March.

- **East Bay** In conjunction with our Plastic Free Communities Champions Jean's Bothy and the Community Hub **second Saturday of the month, 9<sup>th</sup> April, 11<sup>th</sup> June and 10<sup>th</sup> September.** East Bay meet across from Tesco Garage refreshments afterwards at the Hub.

- **Around the town, beaches and roadsides.**

There is a host of people throughout the area litter picking on beaches, verges, open and public spaces. Follow us or post your picks on the Helensburgh Litter Pickers facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/729373511080067>

#### **Work with Other Organisations**

- **We share litter collection data with Beach Watch and KSP Clean Up Scotland**
- **The Big Plastic Count 16<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> May**

We are encouraging everyone to sign up and collect, count and report the plastic they have used in a week. Collated by Green Peace, this helps inform big business, retailers and decision makers on and the public on the volume of plastic used and needing dealt with.

[https://thebigplasticcount.com/sign-](https://thebigplasticcount.com/sign-up)

[up?source=FB&subsource=OCPOPSOAFB02KQ&utm\\_source=Facebook&utm\\_medium=Thank+you+page+share&utm\\_campaign=BPC+-+Household+sign+up++OA+20220221](https://thebigplasticcount.com/sign-up?source=FB&subsource=OCPOPSOAFB02KQ&utm_source=Facebook&utm_medium=Thank+you+page+share&utm_campaign=BPC+-+Household+sign+up++OA+20220221)

#### **Consultations and Planning Responses**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/marine-litter-strategy-scotland-consultation/>

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-litter-flytipping-consultation/>

Locally on fish farms and wetland.



## Males and Females Tales updates

1. We are hosting a free wellbeing and community day on the 14<sup>th</sup> of May in the Drumfork Community Centre from 10 – 3. There are over 20 local groups signed up to be represented. There will also be taster sessions from some groups and a refreshments stall run by Helensburgh CO-OP on the day.
2. Females Tales are entering into a partnership with the Helensburgh Community Hub to run a menopause café from April 22.
3. We are actively recruiting volunteers to run our peer support groups in Helensburgh and as we look to expand into Garelochhead by the end of the summer. We are running peer 2 peer training on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April and 21<sup>st</sup> of May in the Drumfork Community Centre. Anyone who would like to volunteer and conduct the training please contact us on [malestales@yahoo.com](mailto:malestales@yahoo.com).
4. Work has now started on the production of the Helensburgh and Lomond wellbeing directory. We hope that this will be online by June/July. Anyone who wishes their groups details to be on the website again please email [malestales@yahoo.com](mailto:malestales@yahoo.com).

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**Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park**  
**Update to Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group**  
**21<sup>st</sup> April 2022**

We have a couple of updates for our partners update on Mission Zero and Visitor Management by way of board papers considered at our March Board meeting:

Visitor Management – [Draft Joint Response Visitor Management Plan](#)

Mission Zero - [Mission Zero Board update papers](#), for further information on this the contact is Charlotte Wallace, Climate Action Manager [charlotte.wallace@lochlomond-trossachs.org](mailto:charlotte.wallace@lochlomond-trossachs.org)

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# INITIAL SCHOOL LEAVER DESTINATIONS APRIL 2022

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SUSAN MACRAE – AREA MANAGER, SKILLS DEVELOPMENT SCOTLAND

# Initial School Leaver Destinations April 2022

- **Scottish Government Initial School Leaver Destinations** - Snapshot first Monday in October of every school leaver in Scotland, published on Scottish Government website and their Insight Platform [Link to SG Publication here](#)

# DESTINATION GROUPINGS

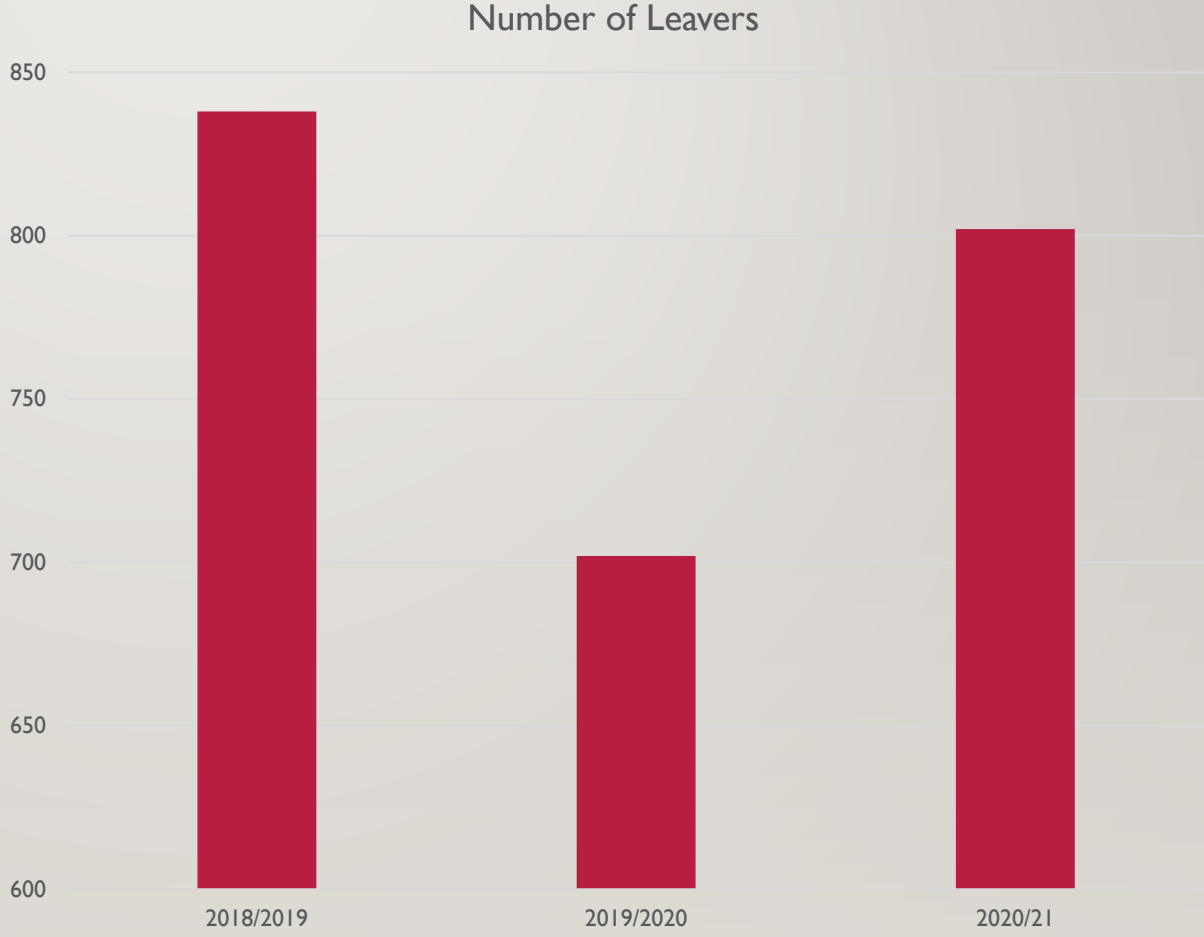
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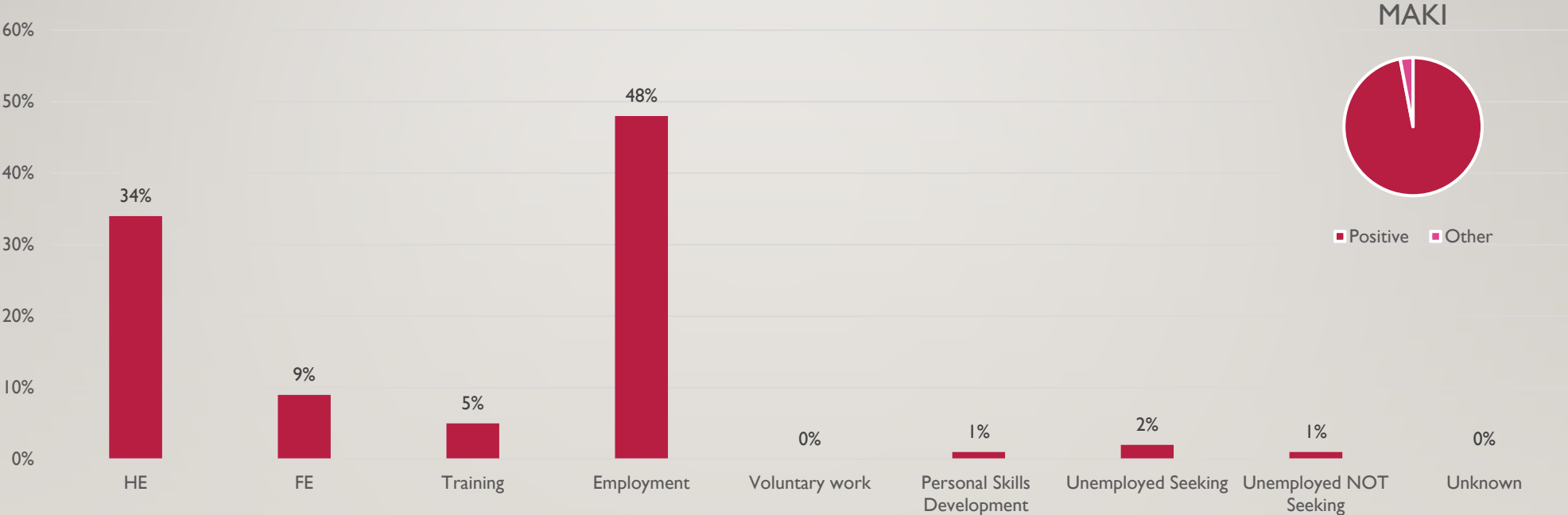
# COHORT NUMBERS

2020-21 – 802  
LEAVERS IN  
TOTAL

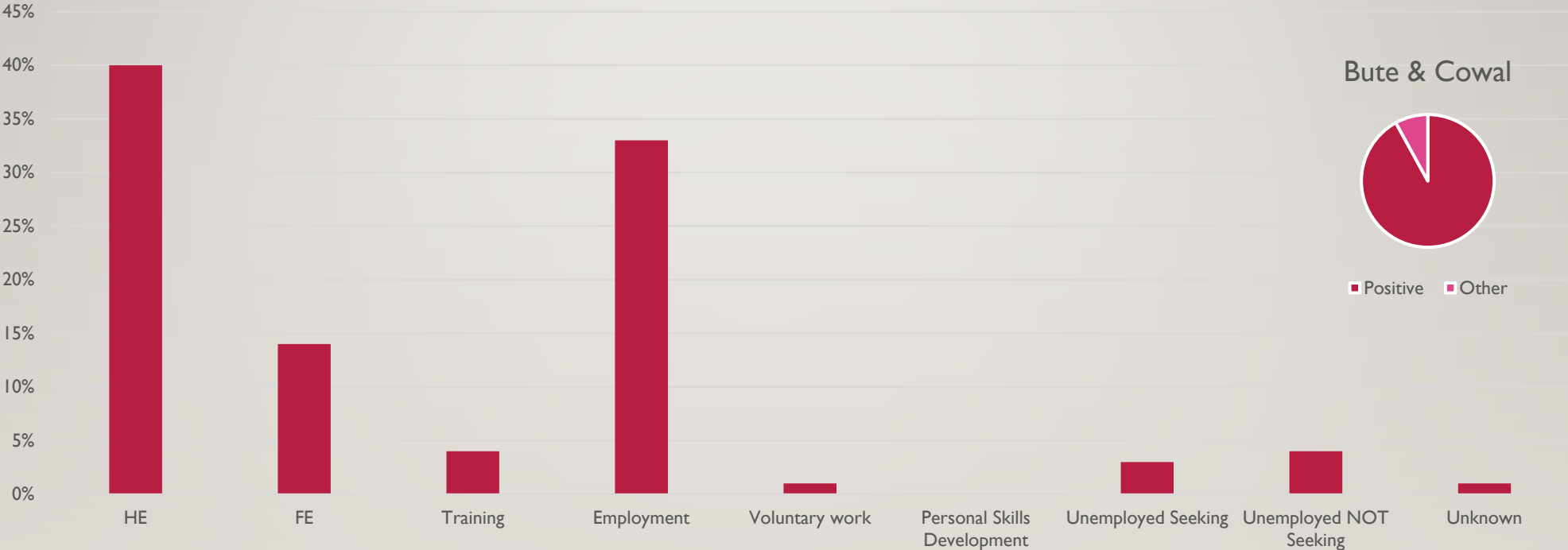




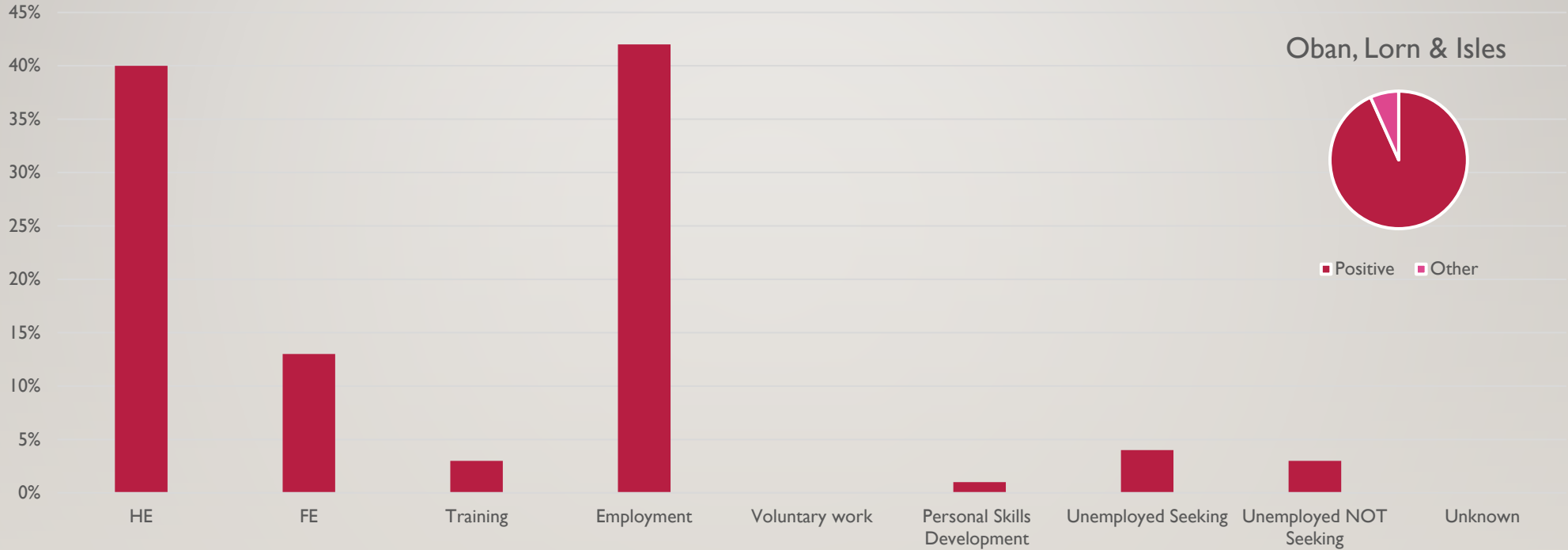
# MAKI CPP AREA 2020-2021



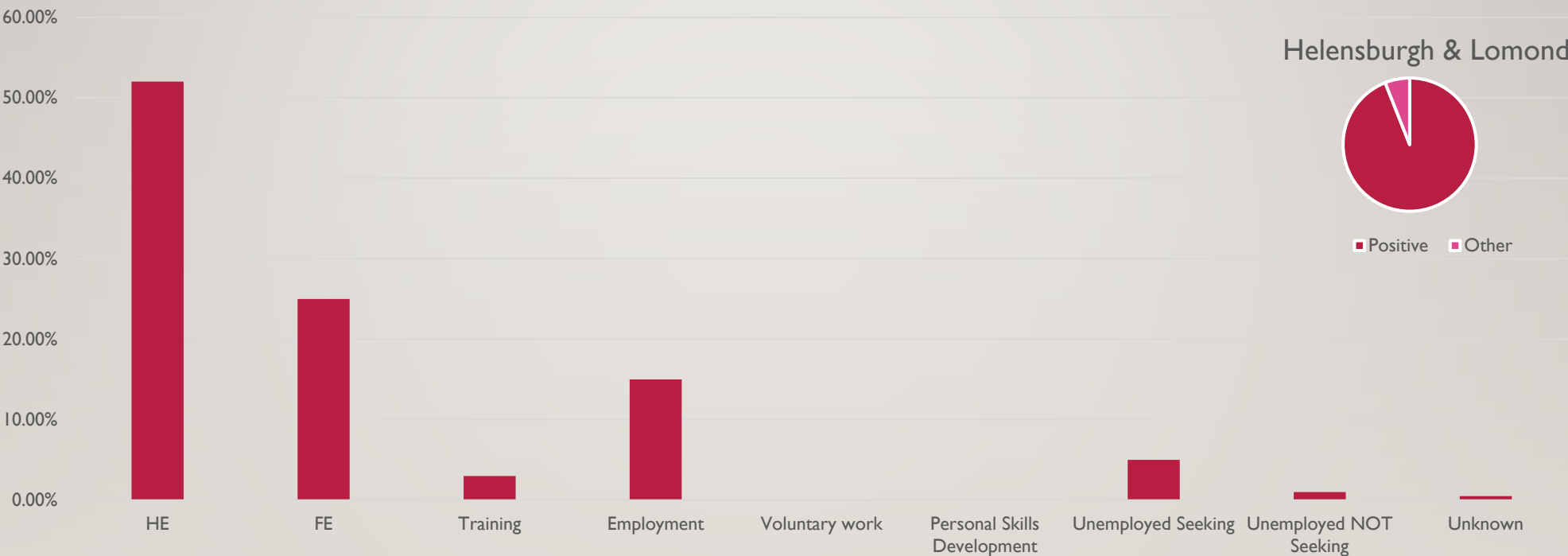
# BUTE & COWAL CPP AREA 2020-2021



# OBAN, LORN & ISLES CPP AREA 2020-2021

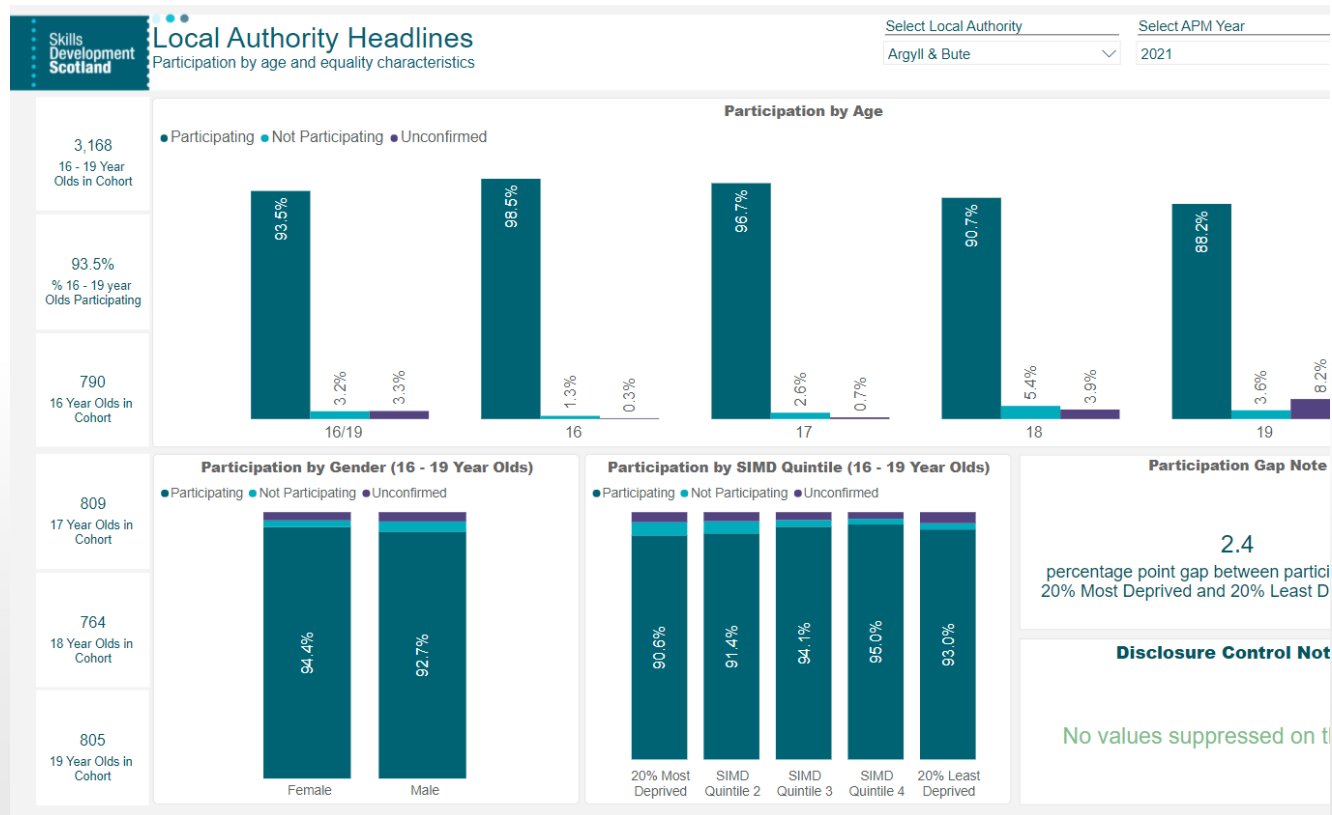


# HELENSBURGH & LOMOND CPP AREA 2020-2021



# ANNUAL PARTICIPATION MEASURE ARGYLL & BUTE

[LINK TO APM HERE](#)



# CURRENT TRENDS

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**Higher positive  
destination  
across A&B**

**Smaller  
number of  
unknowns**

ANY  
FURTHER  
QUESTIONS

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Email: [susan.macrae@sds.co.uk](mailto:susan.macrae@sds.co.uk)

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# Partnership Approach to Water Safety

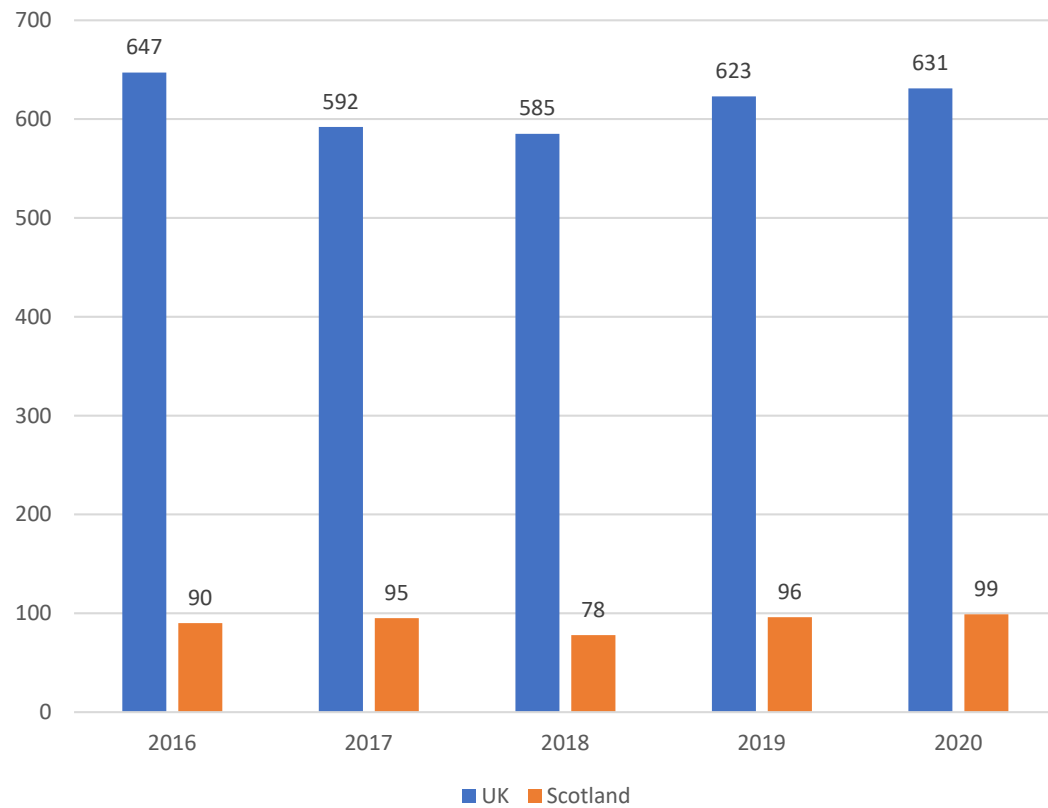


# What is PAWS

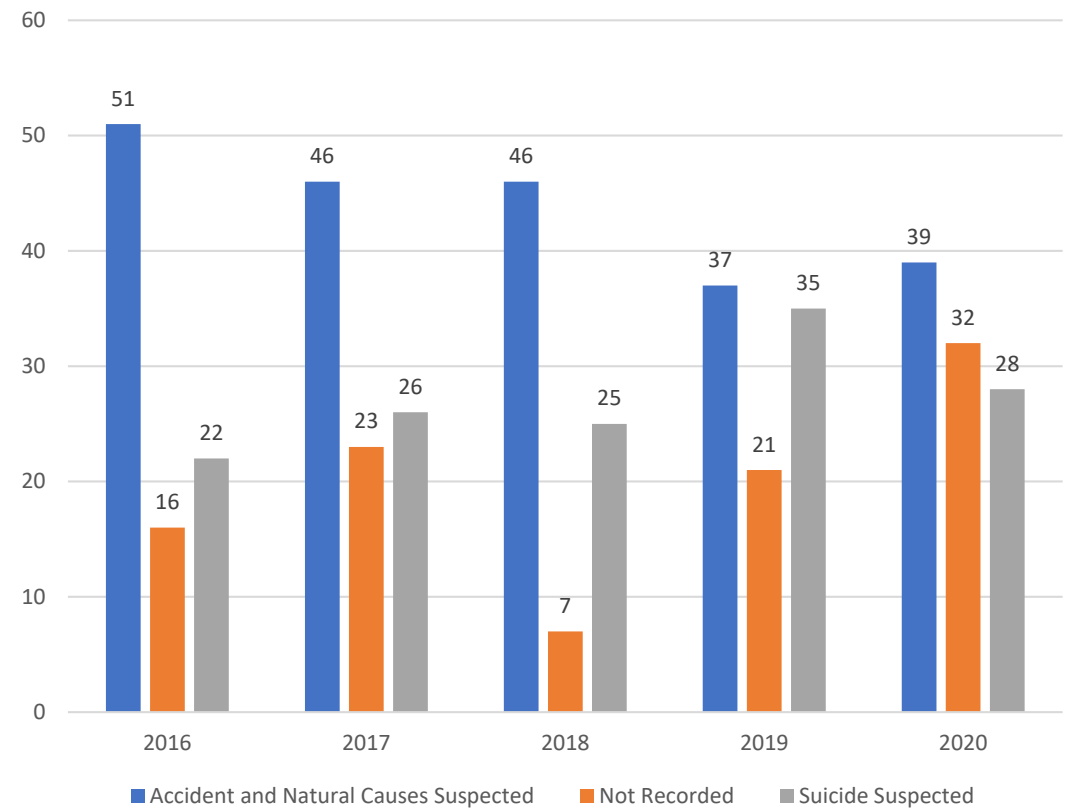
- A multi agency approach to raising water safety awareness that combines the knowledge and experience of those individuals and organisations in our communities that best understand the risks.
- Partnership of equals sharing the responsibility for delivering preventative measures and identifying and addressing water safety risks in the area.
- An opportunity to review incidents and make interventions to prevent reoccurrence of similar events and capture previously unavailable data.

# Statistics

## UK & Scotland Water-Related Fatalities



## Water Fatality Outcome - Scotland



The number of fatalities in Scotland is relatively low in comparison to the total number of UK fatalities. However, when taking into account the population rate, Scotland carries a disproportionate number of drowning fatalities with a rate almost double that of the UKs.

### Scotland Fatalities 2016 - 2020

<b>Accidental Suspected</b>	<b>219</b>
<b>Suicide Suspected</b>	<b>136</b>
<b>Crime Suspected</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Not Recorded</b>	<b>99</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>458</b>

# Scotland's Drowning Prevention Strategy

In recent years, water safety has gained increased focus both politically and publicly due to the 2018 release of Scotland's Drowning Prevention Strategy by Water Safety Scotland (WSS).

The strategy has two overall targets:

- **Reduce accidental drowning deaths in Scotland by 50 per cent by 2026 and reduce risk among the highest-risk populations, groups and communities**
- **Contribute to the reduction of water-related suicide.**

# PAWS Aims

- Build upon existing good practices currently undertaken in the area.
- Raise awareness of water safety to prevent incidents occurring.
- Assist in the delivery of emergency response to water incidents through multi agency exercises.
- Review incidents to understand and reduce local risks and gather incident data on behalf of WAID.
- Be consistent with the aims of Scotland's Drowning Prevention Strategy.

# Actions

- Draft plan submitted to partners for annual review
- Regular scheduled meetings (Monthly / Quarterly)
- Identify Local Risks (Geographic / Behavioural)
- Social Media
- Public Rescue Equipment (PRE)
- Leaflets
- School / Community Engagement
- Multi Agency Training
- Suicide Prevention
- Incident Reviews
- Report into Community Planning Partnership

# Partner Requirements

- Commitment from Partners to allow for joint and individual tasking of resource.
- Willingness to share existing resources between Partner Agencies to improve water safety.
- Effective communication to ensure that those agencies best placed to manage risk are kept informed of changing, new, or emerging hazards or trends.
- Willingness to contribute to incident reviews to reduce likelihood of reoccurrence and gather previously unavailable data.



Thank you

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**Climate Change Working Group**

(a sub-group of Argyll and Bute's CPP Management Committee)

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2022, 10:00 – 11:30

**Attending:**

Stan Philips, Operations Manager, NatureScot (Chair)  
Angela Anderson, H&L ACPG representative and Plastic Free Helensburgh  
Laura Corbe, OLI ACPG representative and Oban Community Council  
Theresa Correia, Scottish Enterprise  
Leigh Fraser, Senior Policy Officer, Scottish Environment Protection Agency  
Lucinda Gray, Highlands and Islands Enterprise  
Becky Hothersall, Community Development Officer (OLI), Argyll and Bute Council  
Jamie Joyce, Project Officer, Argyll Coast and Countryside Trust.  
Alison McGrory, Health Improvement Principal, NHS Highland  
Ross McLaughlin, Head of Commercial Services, Argyll and Bute Council  
Rachel Pate, Scottish Government  
Cathleen Russell, Chair of ColGlen Development Trust and Director of Scottish Rural Action

**Apologies received:**

Anne Horn, Councillor: Argyll and Bute Council (Kintyre and the Islands) and Chair, Argyll and Bute Windfarm and Renewables Trust

**1. Welcome and apologies**

Stan welcomed the group and introduced Barney Fryer, Loch Ken Trust Officer, and Iryna Zamuruieva, Climate Resilience Co-ordinator at SNIFFER/Adaptation Scotland (see Item 4).

**Items 2. (Minutes of last meeting)** and **3. (Funding)** were carried over to the next meeting along with the action grid.

**4. Climate Ready Ken session**

Barney and Iryna shared their experiences of working together on the Climate Ready Ken project: one of two Scottish Government funded projects under SNIFFER's Climate Ready Locality Programme, in which Adaptation Scotland worked with localities to help their communities plan for increased resilience in the face of climate change. Summary notes from the session will be circulated.

In closing the meeting, Stan suggested that conversations be continued using Basecamp to facilitate progression of actions before the March meeting.

**Date and time of next meeting:** Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March, 10:00-11:30.

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**Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership****Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group****21 April 2022**

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**Community Planning Partnership Management Committee Update**

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This briefing relates to the meeting of the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Management Committee which was held on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022. The briefing is for noting and relevant discussion.

**Summary**

The CPP Management Committee met on the 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022 with the meeting being held virtually given the current restrictions in place and in line with the Council's current approach.

This update provides an overview of the discussion which took place.

Reports which were discussed at the meeting can be found here [Browse meetings - Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership - Management Committee - Argyll and Bute Council \(argyll-bute.gov.uk\)](#)

**Highlights****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 2022. The meetings had been well attended with a variety of interesting presentations given.
- The Management Committee noted the current situation in regard to office bearer positions, noting that David Moore (SFRS) had been appointed as Chair of the Helensburgh Lomond Group with Sephton MacQuire (Dunbritton Housing Association) appointed as the Vice-Chair of the Group. The Chair encouraged all partners to promote the remaining positions (Bute and Cowal and MAKI Vice-Chair positions) within their respective organisations.
- The Chair paid tribute to Willie Lynch who had resigned from his position on the Bute and Cowal Group. He thanked Willie on behalf of the CPP for his dedication and support during the past 7 years.

## **Introduction to New Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament (MSYPs)**

The Chair introduced Chloe Meikle from Helensburgh & Lomond Youth Forum, Ryan MacIntyre from Dunoon Grammar and Baileigh McIntyre from Rothesay Academy to the Management Committee as the new Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament representing Argyll and Bute. Each of the MSYPs provided some information on their own interests and passions with it being noted that all three will be involved with the various Parliamentary Committees. It was agreed that the MSYPs would be invited to future meetings of the Area Community Planning Groups with August being the first meeting due to the upcoming examinations.

## **Cross Cutting Themes**

### **Climate Change**

The Chair of the Climate Change Working Group, Stan Philips provided the Committee with an update and referred to the recently published [Intergovernmental Report on Climate Change](#) which noted the need to go much further and faster on measures to mitigate climate change. The Group is working with a number of groups to see what is happening in other council areas. The Working Group have identified that it would be beneficial to engage a project officer to work up plans for adaptation, mitigation and engagement in relation to climate change and Stan highlighted the need for funding from across the CPP. It was agreed that all partners would work to identify possible funding sources which could assist in resourcing this post. It was noted that climate change affects everyone with a couple of recent examples of the impact being the issues on the Rest and be Thankful and a road washout on Bute. Partners were encouraged to look at the existing examples of work and good practice which can be found on the [CPP Climate Change website](#).

### **Child Poverty**

Fiona Davies provided the Committee with an update on the work of the Child Poverty Working Group and advised that they now have a part time project assistant who will concentrate on data and engagement. Updates were also provided on The Argyll and Bute Flexible Food Fund, Poverty Awareness Training, Money Matters Training and Leaflet and the activity around the implementation of school clothing banks across the Council.

### **Financial Inclusion**

Lorna Byrne provided some information around the Scottish Welfare Fund with it being noted that applications were still at high levels. It was noted that AliEnergy have supported 927 households in the most recent period to the end of January 2022 with a total client gain of £1.15m.

## **Community Wealth Building**

Takki Sulaiman from the TSI gave a brief update and explained the aim of Community Wealth Building is to make local financial power work for localities, keeping the wealth generated locally in the area. Work is ongoing in relation to the next steps in relation to this, with discussions around how the Building Back Better post can help in providing baseline data to support this.

## **Digital**

Nicola Hackett and Iain MacInnes provided an update on the work of the Digital Communities Group which includes representatives from Live Argyll, the Community Development Team, the Education Service, Health Improvement Team, HSCP, Argyll College, University of Highlands and Islands and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector. Draft Terms of Reference had been developed and would be shared with the CPP once approved. The main focus of the Group is to look at are accessibility to digital devices, supporting learners in communities to utilise devices effectively and work around digital infrastructure.

Information was also provided on some of the projects which are ongoing to provide internet access in rural areas with programmes such as the UK Gigahub programme being highlighted. The reuse of digital devices was also discussed with it being noted that there were some projects which would repurpose devices for distribution to those in need.

## **Building Back Better (Communities)**

Rona Gold updated on the work of the Building Back Better (Communities) Group with it being noted that the Building Back Better worker would commence in post in April 2022 (2 days a week for 18 months). The new post will look at creating guidance for community groups, build on community contacts and engage with and support communities.

Laura Evans (Police Scotland) provided information on the Scam and Fraud Prevention Project with it being noted that instances of fraud had increased dramatically during the Pandemic. It was noted that the CPP had supported funding to purchase 150 call blocking devices with 129 of these already installed for vulnerable residents,

## **Outcome 1**

### **Argyll and Bute Employability Partnership**

Ishabel Bremner provided an update on the progress with the Argyll and Bute Employability Partnership (ABEP) noting that work is ongoing and that the delivery plan will come to the next meeting of the Management Committee. Delegation for endorsement on the plan was given to allow for the timescales to be met. The delivery plan includes aspects such as interventions from the Scottish Government such as the Young Persons Guarantee and recruitment incentives.

### **Recruitment and Retention Working Group update**

Morag Goodfellow advised that the group had not met since December 2021, however they have commenced a project to look at mapping existing activities around recruitment and sharing best practice which will hopefully be reported to the Management Committee in June. The Settlement Project Support Officer (funded by HIE) is in post and will start work on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022 as part of the Council's Economic Growth Team.

### **Strategic Transportation Projects Review 2 (STPR 2)**

Fergus Murray provided an update on this project which will determine transport investment decisions in Scotland for the next 20 years. Specific targets for STPR2 for Argyll and Bute at the moment include a fixed link to Mull from Oban and the Rest and Be Thankful upgrade. Fergus noted that there were a number of issues which had been highlighted to the Government through the consultation response, which included:-

- (i) How the rural economy provides a great deal to the national economy via tourism, capital value, whisky, aquaculture etc. STPR focuses on population size rather than economic value;
- (ii) How Argyll and Bute connects to the central belt which could accelerate population drift to urban areas;
- (iii) Adaptations for climate change impacts;
- (iv) The impact of car reduction in rural communities when that is often the only option available; and
- (v) How Local Authorities can deliver on the STPR agenda without government support.



## **Outcome 4**

### **Corporate Parenting Board**

David Gibson provided an update on the Corporate Parenting Board, noting that the current Chair Councillor Mary-Jean Devon was standing down. He recognised the service of Councillor Devon and thanked her for her contributions and wished her well for the future. It was noted that a new Chair would need to be identified by May 2022 with it being agreed that the Children's Strategic Group would look at the appointment of a replacement Chair and would report back to the Management Committee once confirmed.

## **AOCB**

### **(a) Shaping Places for Wellbeing Programme**

Rona Gold noted that Dunoon has been selected as one of four case study areas for the [Shaping Places for Wellbeing](#). The case study will trial an approach over the next 3 years linking with Improvement Service in Scotland and Public Health Scotland. Most of the reporting from the steering group will go to ACPGs locally and will look at how to reduce health inequalities in Dunoon.

### **(b) Ukraine**

Kevin Champion asked what is being done from a strategic perspective on providing refuge for those fleeing Ukraine. It was noted that this was a fast moving and emerging situation but that the Council was liaising with the Scottish Government and CoSLA on how this can be supported. Morag Brown, who led on the Syrian and Afghan Refugee relocations is working towards updating information on the Council website and collating offers of accommodation.

### **For further information, please contact:**

Shona Barton, Committee Manager, Argyll and Bute Council (01436) 657605  
[Shona.barton@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:Shona.barton@argyll-bute.gov.uk)

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