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12 April 2022*

NOTICE OF MEETING

A meeting of the **BUTE AND COWAL COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP** will be held by **MICROSOFT TEAMS** on **TUESDAY, 19 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. **MINUTES** (Pages 3 - 8)
Meeting of the Bute and Cowal Community Planning Group held on 1 February 2022
4. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR OF THE BUTE AND COWAL AREA COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP** (Pages 9 - 10)
Report by Committee Manager, Argyll and Bute Council
5. **COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE** (Pages 11 - 16)
Report by Committee Manager, Argyll and Bute Council
6. **PARTNERS UPDATES**
 - (a) Police Scotland Update (Pages 17 - 18)
 - (b) Live Argyll - Community Learning Service Update (Pages 19 - 20)
 - (c) Argyll and Bute Citizens Advice Bureau Update (Pages 21 - 22)
 - (d) Community Development Officer - Shaping Places for Wellbeing Programme Update (Pages 23 - 24)

- (e) Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership - Public Health Update (Pages 25 - 28)
- (f) Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Update (Pages 29 - 36)
- (g) Department for Work and Pensions Update (Pages 37 - 44)
- (h) Skills Development Scotland Update (Pages 45 - 56)
- (i) Opportunity for verbal updates from Area Community Planning Group Partners

7. COMMUNITY FOCUS

- (a) Police Scotland Fraud Discussion (Pages 57 - 62)

Presentation by Partnership Liaison Officer, Police Scotland

8. CLIMATE CHANGE

- (a) Minutes of the Climate Change Working Group meeting held on 17 February 2022 (Pages 63 - 64)
- (b) Opportunity for updates on community based initiatives

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place at 10am on Tuesday, 16 August 2022.

Bute and Cowal Community Planning Group

Contact: Stuart Mclean, Committee Manager - 01436 658717
Iona Campbell, Senior Committee Assistant – 01436 658801

**MINUTES of MEETING of BUTE AND COWAL COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP held via
MICROSOFT TEAMS
on TUESDAY, 1 FEBRUARY 2022**

Present:

Charles Dixon-Spain (Chair)
Councillor Jean Moffat – Argyll and Bute Council
Councillor Liz McCabe – Argyll and Bute Council
Councillor Jim Anderson – Argyll and Bute Council
Councillor Audrey Forrest – Argyll and Bute Council
Councillor Jim Findlay – Argyll and Bute Council
Councillor Gordon Blair – Argyll and Bute Council
Stuart McLean – Committee Manager, Argyll and Bute Council
Rhona Grant – Community Learning & Development Officer, Live Argyll
Ailie Law – Community Development Officer
PI John Forrest – Police Scotland
PC Laura Evans – Police Scotland
Iain Cameron – Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Barry Colvan - Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Susan MacRae – Area Manager, Skills Development Scotland
Sue Wallis – Volunteer Cowal South West Group
Ann Campbell – Dunoon Area Alliance
Lucy Sumsion – National Farmers Union Scotland
Fiona Gillespie – Bute Resilience
John Weir – Bute Business Improvement District
Janice McGarva – Department of Work and Pensions
Robin Miller – Cowal Elderly Befrienders

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Vice-Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group.

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Alastair MacGregor – Argyll Community Housing Association.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Audrey Forrest declared a non-financial interest in relation to item 6 (b) Community Learning Service Update, as detailed on the published agenda, as a board member of Live Argyll. Having taken note of the updated Standards Commission Guidance in relation to declarations (issued 7 December 2021) with specific reference to section 5.4(c) she did not consider that she had a relevant connection and as such would remain in the meeting and take part in any discussion.

Councillor Jim Anderson declared a non-financial interest in relation to item 6 (b) Community Learning Service Update, as detailed on the published agenda, as a board member of Live Argyll. Having taken note of the updated Standards Commission Guidance in relation to declarations (issued 7 December 2021) with specific reference to section 5.4(c) he did not consider that he had a relevant connection and as such would remain in the meeting and take part in any discussion.

Councillor Liz McCabe declared a non-financial interest in relation to item 6 (d) Isle of Bute Business improvement District (BID), as detailed on the published agenda, as a board member. Having taken note of the updated Standards Commission Guidance in relation to declarations (issued 7 December 2021) with specific reference to section 5.4(c) she did not consider that she had a relevant connection and as such would remain in the meeting and take part in any discussion.

Councillor Jean Moffatt joined the meeting during the forgoing item.

3. MINUTES

(a) Meeting of the Bute and Cowal Community Planning Group held on 2 November 2021

The minutes of the Bute and Cowal Community Planning Group meeting held on Tuesday 2 November 2021 were approved as a correct record.

The Vice-Chair ruled, and the Group agreed, to change the order of business to facilitate Partners' attendance. The items were discussed in the order in which they are minuted.

4. AREA COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP GOVERNANCE

(a) Appointment of Chair of the Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group

The Group considered a report providing information relating to the appointment of a Chair of the Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group. The Committee Manager invited nominations from those in the meeting.

Decision

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

(Reference: Report by Committee Manager, dated 1 February 2022, submitted)

(b) Area Community Planning Group Governance Arrangements

The Group reviewed the current Terms of Reference, membership and meetings up until May 2023.

The Committee Manager encouraged partners to consider and nominate other groups that meet the criteria for membership.

Decision

The Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group;

1. considered and adopted the Terms of Reference as attached to the report (Appendix 1) and agreed that they be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure their ongoing currency and appropriateness for the work of the Group as it develops over time;
2. considered and agreed the membership of the Group as attached to the report (Appendix 2) with the addition of the Department of Work and Pensions;

3. agreed that the membership of the Group be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure currency and appropriateness for the work of the Group as it develops over time; and
4. noted the meeting schedule and dates submitted in the report.

(Reference: Report by Committee Manager, dated 1 February 2022, submitted)

5. FARMING UPDATE (Pages 9 - 26)

The Group considered a presentation, as attached to this minute, from Lucy Sumsion, National Farmers Union Scotland (NFUS), in relation to climate change and farming for the future.

Discussion focused on the diverse nature of farming in Argyll which includes large areas of extensive grazing. The Group noted that many lambs require to be moved to other areas of the country to be 'finished', currently this can only be achieved on a small scale in Argyll. The Group also noted there was a need for more collaborative working with farmers and local food initiatives to develop a consistency in supply.

Partners also focused on the two abattoirs in Argyll; one on Mull, which is operated by a collaboration of farmers, and one on Islay which had potential for improvements. The Group noted that the challenge nationally was to ensure economies of scale to be able to support all sectors involved.

In respect of funding since the withdrawal of the UK from the EU, the Group noted that as agriculture is a devolved issue the Scottish Government had given a commitment to retain support until 2024. It was hoped that new support schemes would be developed to target activity rather than land area which was the focus of EU funding. This approach was being supported by the NFUS along with climate change and biodiversity.

Decision

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

(Reference: Presentation by Lucy Sumsion, National Farmers Union Scotland dated 1 February 2022, tabled)

6. COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Group considered a briefing note which provided an overview of the discussion which took place at the Community Planning Partnership Management Committee held on 8 December 2021.

Decision

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

(Reference: Briefing note by Committee Manager, dated 1 February 2022, submitted)

7. PARTNERS UPDATE

(a) **Scottish Fire and Rescue Service - Cowal, Isle of Bute and Dunoon - Q3 - 2021/22**

A report highlighting the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service's (SFRS) Q3 review of local performance within Cowal, Isle of Bute and Dunoon for 2021-22 was considered by the Group.

The Group noted that should any household require advice on the smoke detector legislation, then they should contact SFRS directly.

Decision

The Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group reviewed and noted the contents of the report.

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

(b) **Community Learning Service Update**

The Group considered an update from Argyll and Bute Council's Community Learning Service (CLS) which included detail on the new Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament, Youth Action Groups, Adult Learning and the Youth Work Recovery Outdoor Education Programme.

Decision

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

(Reference: Update by Community Learning and Development Assistant, dated 1 February 2022, submitted)

(c) **Department of Work and Pensions**

Partners considered an update from the Department for Works and Pensions (DWP) which detailed data on the number of customers and various initiatives they are involved in including Flexible Support Fund, Dynamic Purchasing System, Access to Work grants and support for people with a physical or mental health condition or disability.

Decision

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

(Reference: Update by Customer Service Leader - Department for Work and Pensions, dated 19 January 2022, submitted)

(d) **Isle of Bute Business Improvement District (BID)**

The Group considered an update from the Isle of Bute Business Improvement District which included details on the initiatives being developed to help increase

visitors to Bute.

Decision

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

(Reference: Update by John Weir – Manager, Isle of Bute Business Improvement District, dated 1 February 2022, submitted)

(e) Opportunity for verbal updates by Community Planning Partners

Skills Development Scotland

Susan MacRae, Skills Development Scotland, advised that school leaver destination data would be available for the next meeting and that career advisors were now back in schools from January 2022 and that the Queens Hall in Dunoon was open for appointments.

Police Scotland

PI Forrest advised that after a busy festive period Police Scotland were now targeting doorstep crime bogus callers as well as poor driver behaviour in specific localities. PI Forrest further advised that younger Officers were being trained in using speed device equipment; checks of road worthiness of vehicles was ongoing; summer secondments for Dunoon would be advertised soon and a Youth Engagement Officer had been appointed to work with schools.

PC Evans advised that the Keep Safe initiative is aimed at increasing awareness of disability hate crime. The initiative is designed for residents and visitors with 12 business signed up in the Bute and Cowal area, all of whom are committed to creating safe spaces. Training can be provided online or face to face and takes around 20 minutes. In addition the Group noted that the Herbert Protocol supports families with elderly or dementia members to quickly respond should they go missing, by gathering information that the Police can quickly access and circulate.

The Group noted that the updated legislation Dogs (Protection of Livestock) (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 2021 had come into force and whilst there was a drive on educating people about dog worrying livestock the penalties had increased to maximum fines of £40,000 and up to 12 months imprisonment.

8. COMMUNITY FOCUS - COWAL ELDERLY BEFRIENDERS

The Group gave consideration to an update from Robin Miller regarding the work of the Cowal Elderly Befrienders. The Group noted that they were a volunteer led organisation which employs 6 staff and has 30 volunteers. The service is based on a traditional model of one to one and peer befriending and is tailored to the individuals' requirements. During 2021 272 people had been supported with 70% being referrals from the HSCP, there had also been a slow increase in the number of men engaging with them. The Group noted that the Befrienders work closely with partners as well as grass roots initiatives and have an umbrella project in Bute called Elderly Befrienders on Bute.

Decision

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

9. COVID-19 AND LONG-TERM COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Fiona Gillespie, Bute Resilience, spoke about their involvement in resilience projects, specifically during lockdown. It was noted that Bute Resilience, which comprises of 25 members, helped those receiving palliative care on Bute by driving them to Beatson in Glasgow; assisted 5,000 people with shopping, setting-up computers etc. to aid communication with families that were off the island, performed regular welfare checks, helped the Community Food Project with food parcel deliveries, medication runs and that they had now taken responsibility for the community emergency plan from the community council. The Group noted that Bute Resilience continue to be well supported by local councillors and the council as a whole.

Decision

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

10. CLIMATE CHANGE

(a) Appointment of Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group Representative to the Climate Change Working Group

The Group gave consideration to a report asking them to consider the nomination of a representative to represent the Bute and Cowal ACPG on the Climate Change Working Group.

Decision

The Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group nominated Charles Dixon-Spain as a representative to represent the Bute and Cowal ACPG on the Climate Change Working Group.

(b) Climate Change Working Group Minutes - 16 December 2021

The Minutes of the Climate Change Working Group Minutes held on 16 December 2021 were noted.

(c) Opportunity for updates on community based initiatives

The Chair stated that carbon offset was an important topic as parcels of land were being sold off to companies wishing to plant woodland in an act of greenwashing and that the Climate Change Working Group was looking to ameliorate the difficulties this presents. The Group noted that Argyll and Bute was closer to achieving net zero than many other regions and that the aim was to become carbon positive by 2045.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Group noted that the next meeting of the Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group would take place at 10.00am on Tuesday 19 April 2022 with venue details to be confirmed in due course

Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership**Bute & Cowal
Area Community Planning Group****19 April 2022**

Appointment of Vice-Chair of the Bute & Cowal Area Community Planning Group

Summary

The following report provides information relating to the appointment of a Vice-Chair for the Bute & Cowal Area Community Planning Group. It outlines the expected time commitment and also gives information on the role. The Area Community Planning Group is asked to consider making an appointment to the position of Vice-Chair.

1. Purpose

- 1.1 Following the appointment of Charles Dixon-Spain as Chair of the Bute & Cowal ACPG in February 2022 a vacancy has arisen as Vice-Chair. Members of the group are required to nominate and elect a new Vice-Chair from their number to carry out this role.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Area Community Planning Group is asked to consider the appointment of a Vice-Chair.

3. Background

- 3.1 Charles Dixon-Spain has served as Vice-Chair since 2 February 2021 and was recently appointed Chair of the Bute & Cowal ACPG. The Group is therefore required to nominate a member to take on the role of Vice-Chair.

4. Detail

- 4.1 According to the Terms of Reference the Vice-Chair, if elected, would serve for a term of 2 years with an option to be re-elected at the end of this time. However, no one person can serve for more than 2 consecutive terms.
- 4.2 In order to be considered as a candidate for the position of Vice-Chair the person must be a member of the Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group.
- 4.3 Some further information on the commitment required for the role:-
- Attend meetings of the Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group;

- Attend meetings of the Community Planning Partnership Management Committee or the Full Partnership, if the Chair is unable to attend;
- Time commitment of at least 4 CPG meetings per year in February, May, August and November and 4 pre-agenda meetings per year in January, April, August and October;
- To participate in any Short-Term Working Groups as required; and
- To engage with officers of the Council in terms of setting the Agenda for the CPG.

5. Conclusions

5.1 The ACPG is asked to consider the appointment of a Vice-Chair.

6. SOA Outcomes

6.1 This report does not link to any specific Outcome as it relates to the administrative arrangements.

For further information please contact:

Stuart McLean, Committee Manager (01436) 658717

Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership**Bute and Cowal
Area Community Planning Group****19 April 2022**

Community Planning Partnership Management Committee Update

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

Summary

The CPP Management Committee met on the 16th 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 3rd 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 4th 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

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Police Scotland Update
Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group – 19/04/2022

Youth Engagement

PC Mark Toner is now in place as Youth Engagement Officer covering Helensburgh and Cowal and has been working with the local schools to deliver inputs on Drugs, Internet Safety and has been building relationships with education staff, parents and carers.

Counter Terrorism Awareness

PC Dave Burton is our local Counter Terrorism Liaison Officer and has been providing inputs to local Housing Association 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 11th 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)

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>
 <<https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Fv%3DM0TmqVdyiQc&data=04%7C01%7CLaura.Evans%40scotland.police.uk%7Ce085c3cafebe49abe5e308da08092e01%7C6795c5d3c94b497a865c4c343e4cf141%7C0%7C0%7C637831132764013544%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLjBtIl6k1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=%2B%2BG8nd1oAc2LR8%2Fh2AjiXZ9sr9k99fmcvZ4d4siOdU4%3D&reserved=0>>
- Their Safety, Our Responsibility - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0CnFzGFPXGo>
 <<https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hKdmU7Y0fQk%2Fwatch%3Fv%3D0CnFzGFPXGo&data=04%7C01%7CLaura.Evans%40scotland.police.uk%7Ce085c3cafebe49abe5e308da08092e01%7C6795c5d3c94b497a865c4c343e4cf141%7C0%7C0%7C637831132764013544%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6I1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=TIqoPjxRQJdUPqhktVlwh0hfnZHRaRlV8LqpjsJUhec%3D&reserved=0>>

- Scams & Digital Footprint Awareness - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hKdmU7Y0fQk%2Fwatch%3Fv%3DhKdmU7Y0fQk&data=04%7C01%7CLaura.Evans%40scotland.police.uk%7Ce085c3cafebe49abe5e308da08092e01%7C6795c5d3c94b497a865c4c343e4cf141%7C0%7C0%7C637831132764013544%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6I1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=41H5O7W8%2FwJmyVbQdzE5WIJPzquFolibQZbHWdOxL6Y%3D&reserved=0>

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



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-establish 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.

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 4th 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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Shaping Places for Wellbeing Programme

Context

The ambition of the Shaping Places for Wellbeing Programme is to change our collective approaches to the places where we live, work and play. To deliver upstream preventative interventions that reduce Scotland's significant health inequalities while delivering on the range of national ambitions around Covid recovery and climate action. Promoting strong partnership working around data driven knowledge on inequality with citizen involvement to create system change.

Shaping Places for Wellbeing is a 3 year programme, running until March 2024, which is being delivered by Public Health Scotland (PHS) and the Improvement Service (IS) jointly with local authorities and NHS boards. The programme will address the role of the place in improving wellbeing using a set of [Place and Wellbeing Outcomes](#). These are the characteristics of every place that, if we get them right, enable everyone in that place to thrive.

Programme Activity

With funding from the Health Foundation and Scottish Government, the programme will firstly provide support to four project towns to identify and focus on reducing the inequality being experienced. Second, working between the 4 project towns and a Local Learning Cohort of 10-12 local authorities, experience and learning will be continually shared. And finally, a National Leadership Cohort of Scottish Government representatives and each of COSLAs Boards provides a route to feedback on national issues, barriers and asks.

The 4 project towns will each receive staff support to be embedded between the Council and the local health board. Each town will also be supported by PHS and IS expertise. We will determine the demographic suffering the greatest inequality in that town. We can then use this knowledge as a lens to assess how current (and future) ambitions in policy and working practice within that town, and beyond, could better take account of delivering the Place and Wellbeing Outcomes for that demographic. The Programme will support system change to ensure policies and interventions to meet a range of national ambitions such as Scotland's National Outcomes Framework, climate action, Covid recovery plans, 20 minute neighbourhoods, a New Future for Scotland's Towns and Place-based funding consider their impact on this demographic.

We will also reach out to the identified demographic facing inequality, focus in on their needs from the place in which they live, work and play and add this into the lens for assessing current and future ambitions and delivering system change.

The programme recognises that much of the ability to make improvements in place sits with local councils and their partners as well as other sectors. It seeks to harness this to develop and evaluate new approaches that improve delivery of the Place and wellbeing Outcomes, and from which learning can be drawn and used more widely across Scotland.

Project Towns

The Programme will support 4 project towns: Clydebank, Alloa, Ayr and Dunoon. These 4 meet a set of consistent requirements to work in places that are willing to give an authorising environment to:

- Reduce inequality: a town experiencing bottom 20% in SIMD and a particular health inequality (or equivalent measure in rural areas)
- Collaborative, cross system partnership working: senior leadership level sponsorship within Local Govt and public health system to support an authorising environment for system change
- identified manager level project support and governance across Local Govt and the public health system
- capacity to commit and take part in the learning network and local project evaluation process

The selection of sites to support was shaped by the benefit of securing a range of site contexts to expand learning perspectives. Sites identified include a variety of:

- Town geographies: urban, urban/rural, rural/urban and rural
- other Place work already happening that the programme ambition, outcomes and principles can support. For example, working on Community Wealth Building Strategy, Wellbeing Economy, SURF Alliance for Action, PHS Local Information System Team development site.

Each site will be funded for 1.5 FTE posts, employed by the Improvement Service but embedded within the Council and Local Health Board. This will consist of 1FTE post to facilitate links between partners and 0.5FTE posts to work with the community and provide a bridge through to the partnership work. The specific actions which are undertaken by the staff members will be in line with the inequalities being addressed and the existing infrastructure available and will test co-designed solutions and deliver learning which can be replicated in other areas.

The programme will improve understanding of how partner organisations can implement the Place Principle and deliver improved Place and Wellbeing Outcomes using collaborative approaches where the learning can be scaled up and delivered in other areas facing inequalities.

Argyll & Bute Community Planning Partnership

Area Meetings
Date: April 2022



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. 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 3rd 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:

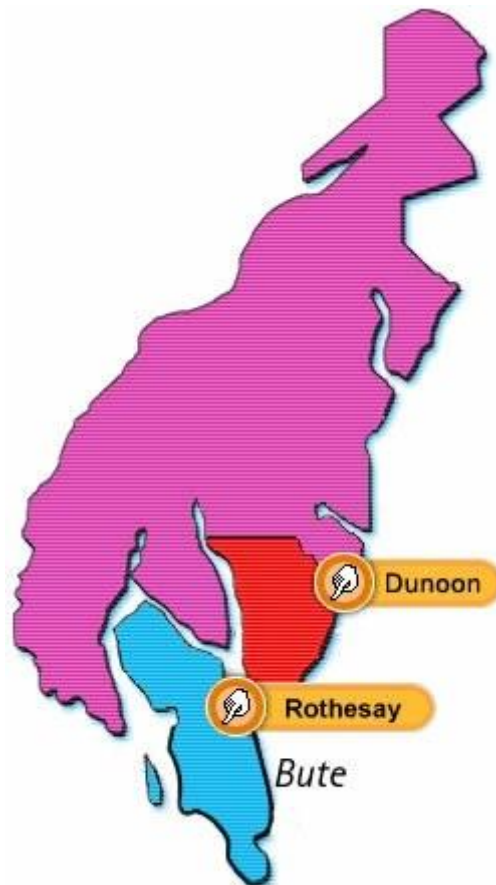
Name: Alison McGrory (Health Improvement Principal)

E-mail: alison.mcgrory@nhs.scot



Cowal, Isle of Bute and Dunoon

Q4 - 2021/22



C – Cowal D – Dunoon IofB – Isle of Bute

Incidents	C 20/21	D 20/21	IofB 20/21	Total 20/21	C 21/22	D 21/22	IofB 21/22	Total 21/22	=/-
Total	36	25	25	86	22	26	25	73	-13
Fire Fatalities	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	+1
Non-Fatal Fire Casualties	0	2	1	3	0	0	0	0	-3
Accidental Dwelling Fires	0	2	2	4	1	1	2	4	0
7KPI's									
Deliberate Fires	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	+1
Accidental Fire	5	3	3	11	2	2	2	6	-5
Fatal and Non-fatal fire casualties	0	2	1	3	0	0	0	0	-3
Non-Domestic fires	3	0	1	4	0	1	0	1	-3
Special services incidents	6	1	7	14	3	5	2	10	-4
RTC Casualties	2	0	0	2	2	0	2	4	+2
False alarms	25	21	15	61	17	19	20	56	-5

Unfortunately, SFRS attended a fire on 15/01/22 in the Dunoon area in which an adult female lost her life.

SFRS also assisted SAS to gain entry in the Dunoon area 15/02/22 & 07/03/22 in which 2 adults received CPR and further treatment by SAS

INCIDENTS OF NOTE**Primary Fires**

09/01/2022	L20:Dunoon	DUNOON
15/01/2022	L20:Dunoon	DUNOON
16/01/2022	L20:Dunoon	DUNOON
21/01/2022	L19:Rothesay	PORT BANNATYNE
25/01/2022	L20:Dunoon	DUNOON
16/02/2022	L73:Colintravie	COLINTRAVIE
22/02/2022	L52:Strachur	STRACHUR
15/03/2022	L19:Rothesay	ROTHESAY
22/03/2022	L52:Strachur	STRACHUR
26/03/2022	L19:Rothesay	ROTHESAY

Secondary Fires

11/01/2022	L20:Dunoon	DUNOON
17/02/2022	L19:Rothesay	ROTHESAY
21/02/2022	L20:Dunoon	DUNOON
25/03/2022	L19:Rothesay	PORT BANNATYNE
28/3/2022	L73:Colintravie	COLINTRAVIE

Special Services

17/01/2022	L20:Dunoon	INNELLAN
18/01/2022	L19:Rothesay	A844, KERRY CROY
23/01/2022	L20:Dunoon	KIRIN
11/02/2022	L20:Dunoon	DUNOON
15/02/2022	L20:Dunoon	CREGGANDARROCH
24/02/2022	L20:Dunoon	B836, GLEN LEAN
07/03/2022	L20:Dunoon	KIRN
12/03/2022	L19:Rothesay	BUTE
21/03/2022	L20:Dunoon	RANFURLY,
23/03/2022	L20:Dunoon	INNELLAN
28/03/2022	L19:Rothesay	ROTHESAY
30/03/2022	L19:Rothesay	ROTHESAY

Community Safety Activity

Station	Home Fire Safety Visits	High Risk Visits
Dunoon	21	13
Rothsay	3	1
Tighnabruaich	0	2
Strachur	1	1
Colintraive	0	0
TOTAL	25	17

- High risk visits within Argyll & Bute
- Fitting of linked detection to households that meet criteria within Argyll & Bute
- Fitting of deaf alerters following referrals from impairment team (Argyll & Bute Council) – vibrating pad under pillow and strobe light on bedside table connected to smoke detector
- Covid testing Dunoon – 1 day per week
- Brunch Club Garelochhead (mainly veterans) – due to give face to face talk/advice to members, instead gave advice remotely regarding referral process, new legislation, fire safety advice
- Ongoing advice to WT/RDS/VDS stations within area on detection, visits, engagement etc
- MARAC – visits and minor assistance with pre meeting research
- Social Work – continued communication/joint visits with Social work, assisting most vulnerable members of society
- PAWS group and water safety initiatives and engagement sessions.



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FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
Working together for a safer Scotland

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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!



#MAKETHECALL

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to book a free

HOME FIRE SAFETY VISIT

or text "**FIRE**" to **80800** from your mobile phone

New Smoke Detector Legislation



For information on the new detector standard that will be introduced in Scotland from February 2022:

Open the camera on your phone and fit the below QR code onto the screen. A link to the Scottish Government information will pop up on the screen



[www.](http://www.gov.scot)[Fire and smoke alarms: changes to the law - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)

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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)

Jobcentre Plus	18 – 24	25 – 39	40 – 49	50 – 59	60+	TOTAL
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
Rothsay	76	232	139	123	79	649
TOTAL	725	2175	1152	971	539	5562

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

Jobcentre Plus	C'town	Dunoon	H'burgh	Oban	Rothsay	TOTAL
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
TOTAL	881	1169	1185	1699	485	5419

Jobseekers Allowance as at August 2021 – Argyll & Bute

Male	126
Female	73
Total	199

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

Phase of claim	
Assessment phase	113
Work Related Activity Group	331
Support Group	2238
Total	2682

Income Support as at August 2021 – Argyll & Bute

Statistical Group	
Lone Parent	70
Carer	122
Total	174

Way to Work was launched on 28th 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 31st 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 7th April and Rothesay Job Centre will host an event on 14th 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 21st February to 11th 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 25th 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 28th 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.

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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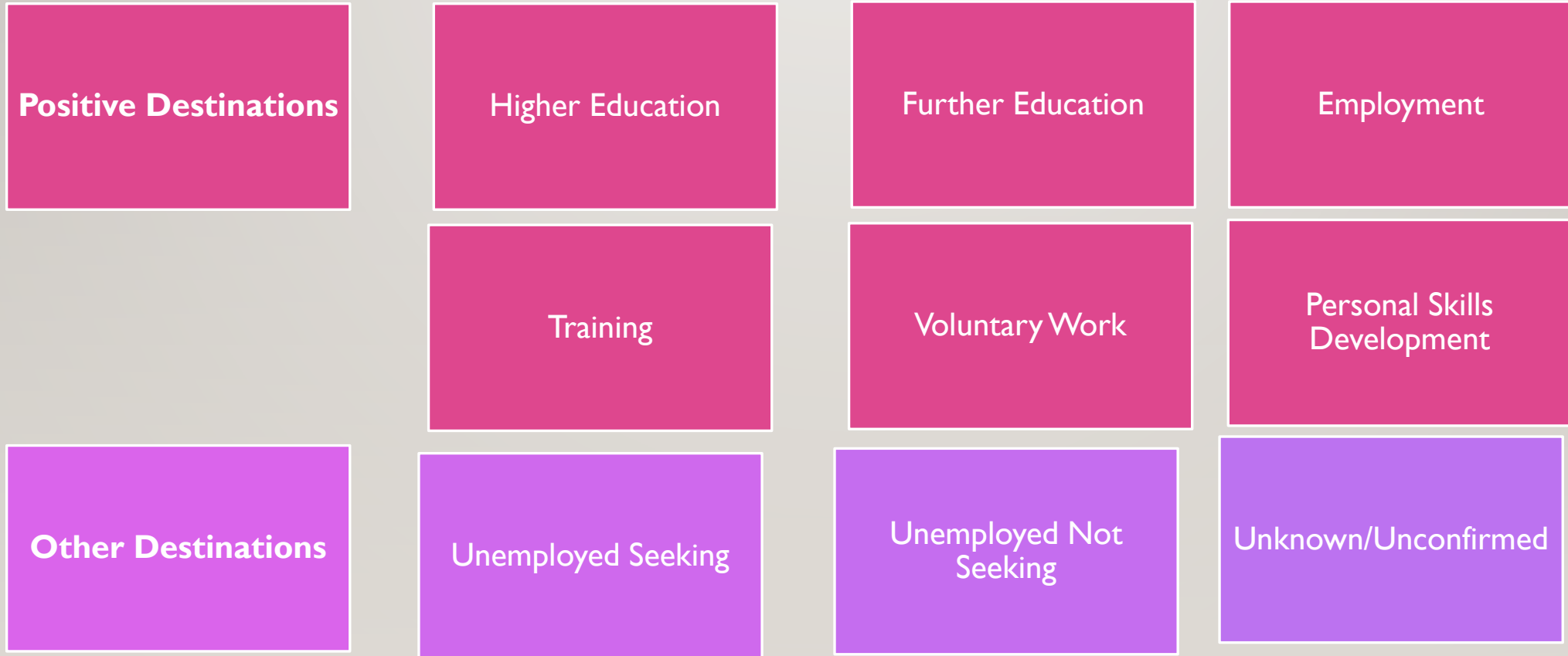
INITIAL SCHOOL LEAVER DESTINATIONS APRIL 2022

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

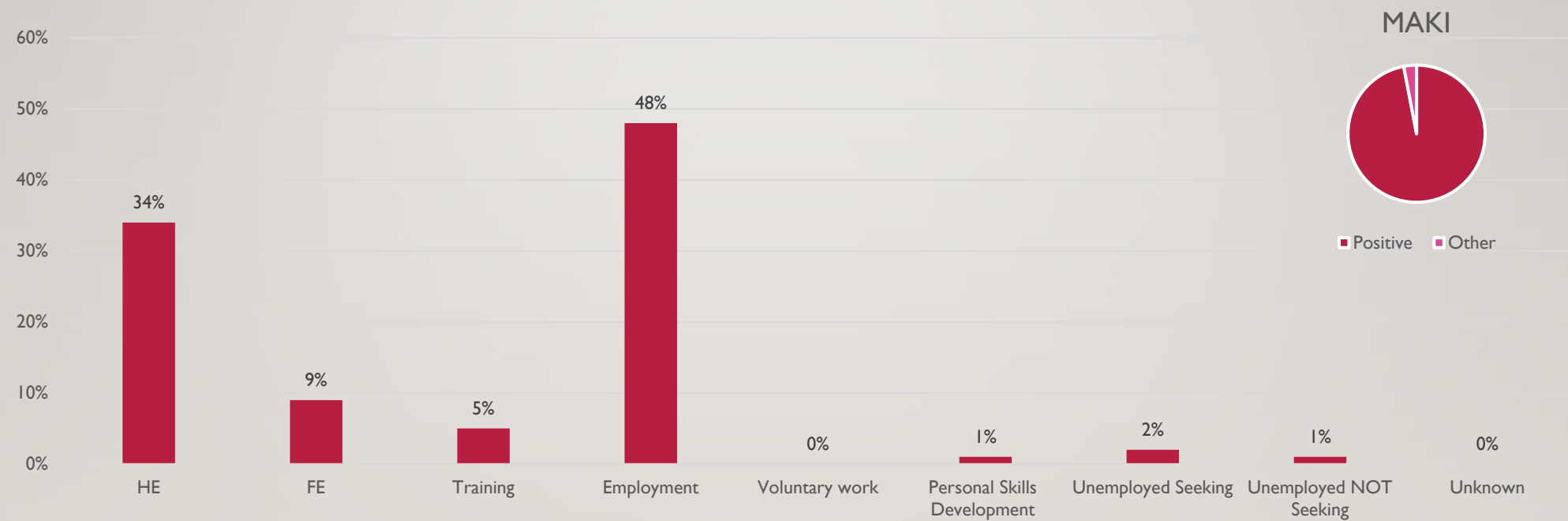


COHORT NUMBERS

2020-21 – 802
LEAVERS IN
TOTAL



MAKI CPP AREA 2020-2021



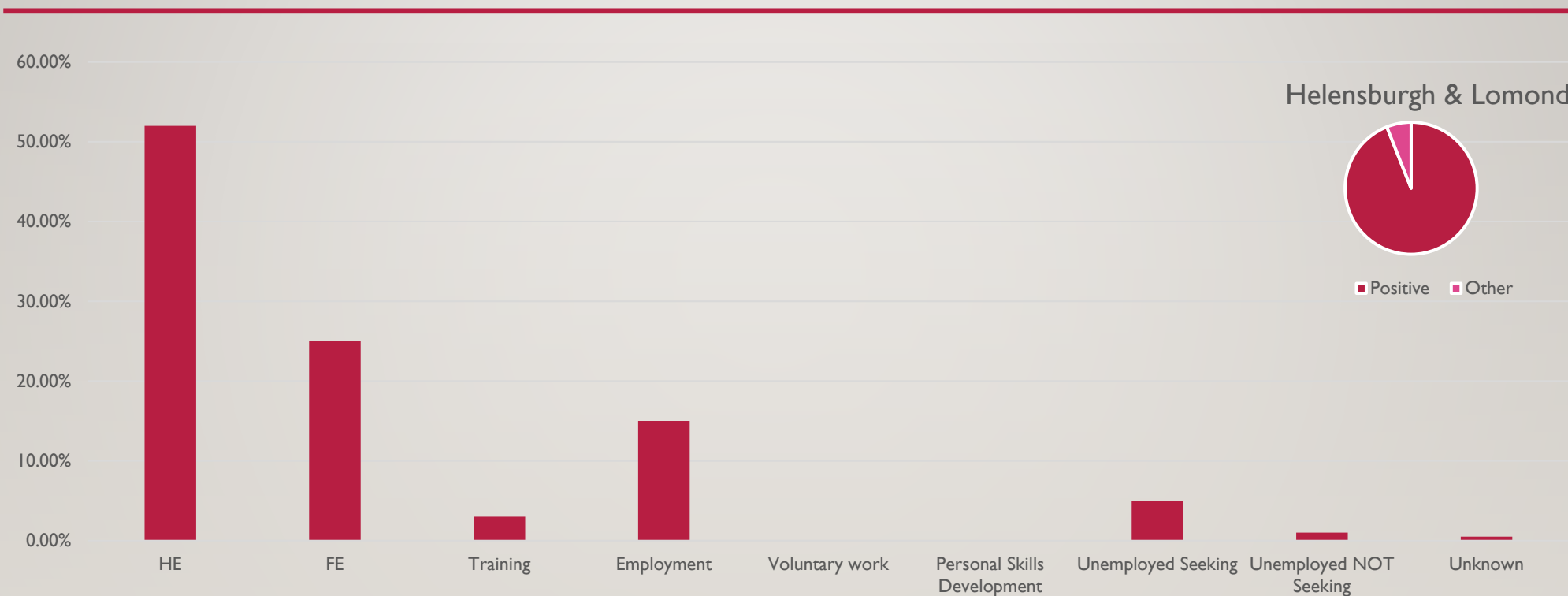
BUTE & COWAL CPP AREA 2020-2021



OBAN, LORN & ISLES CPP AREA 2020-2021

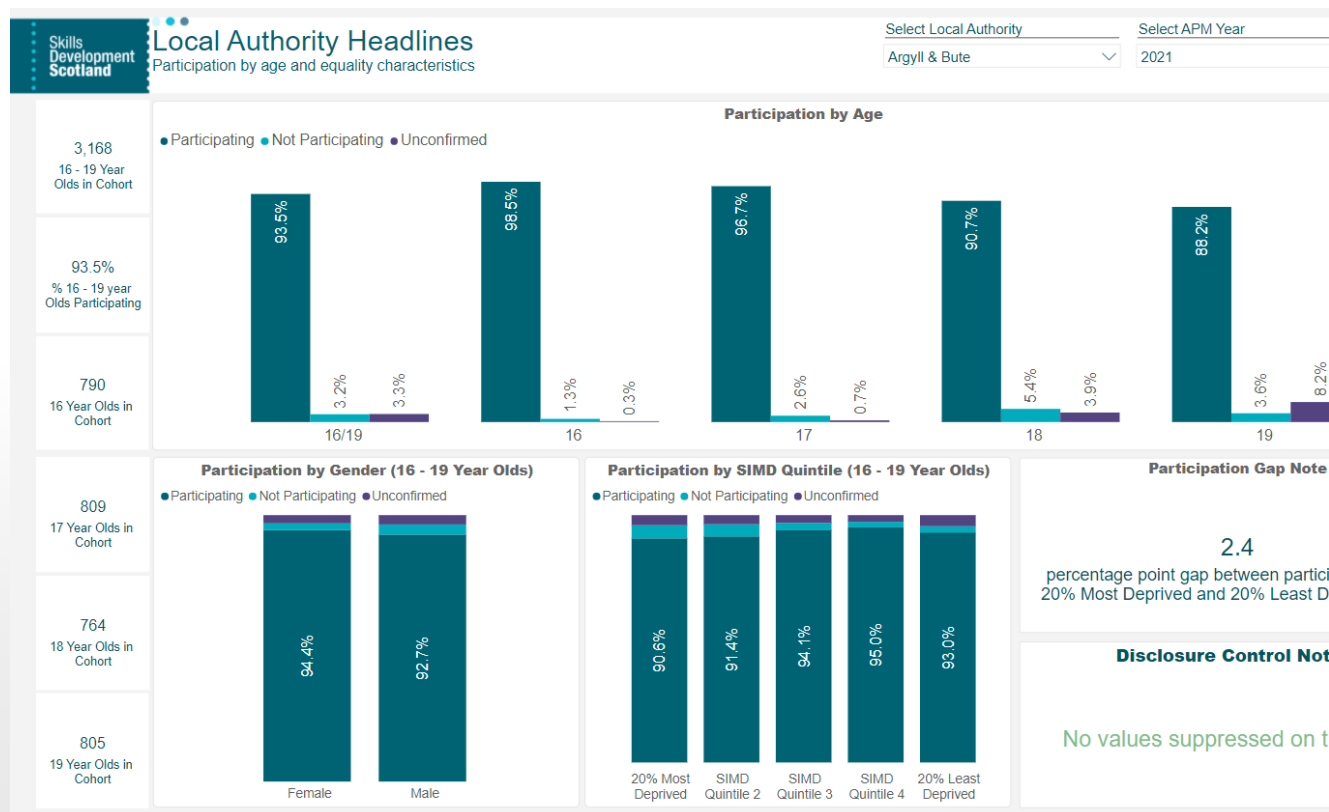


HELENSBURGH & LOMOND CPP AREA 2020-2021



ANNUAL PARTICIPATION MEASURE ARGYLL & BUTE

[LINK TO APM HERE](#)



CURRENT TRENDS

Higher positive
destination
across A&B

Smaller
number of
unknowns

ANY
FURTHER
QUESTIONS

Email: susan.macrae@sds.co.uk

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Community Focus Fraud Discussion

PC Laura Evans
Partnership Liaison Officer

| Fraud – the problem

- Covid 19 pandemic – an unexpected consequence?
- Increased online access by all
- Social isolation
- Anyone can be a victim
- Impact - Mental health and emotional wellbeing



Fraud – how is it happening?



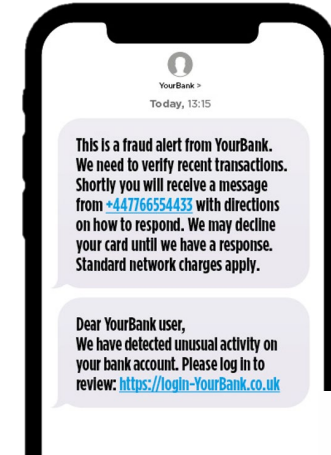
**POLICE
SCOTLAND**
Keeping people safe
POILEAS ALBA

Emails



Telephone Calls

Text/whatsapp message



Social Media

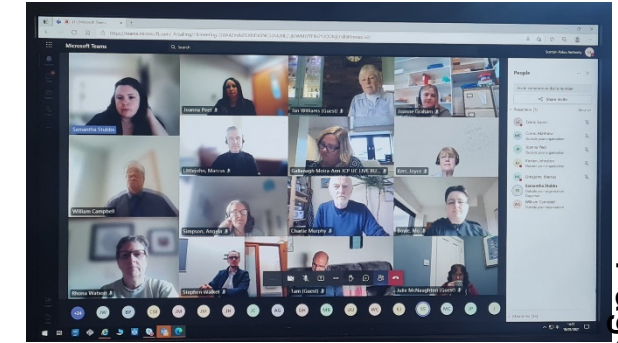


Bogus Callers



Fraud – what are we doing?

- Cared for at home network created
- Call Blockers and printed materials
- Regular Social media posts
- Alerts on Neighbourhood Watch Scotland
- Email of advice to victims of cyber-related scams



| Fraud – next steps

- Pledge to Stop Scams - “Ask” of each partner and community group to consider how they can help stop scams within our communities, including:
 - Complete the free online training to become a Friend Against Scams and encourage your staff, family and friends to do likewise.
www.FriendsAgainstScams.org.uk/elearning/ArgyllBute
 - Sign up Neighbourhood Watch Scotland to receive alerts for Argyll and Bute from your work account and share where possible. [:: Neighbourhood Watch Scotland Registration :: \(neighbourhoodalert.co.uk\)](http://neighbourhoodalert.co.uk)
- **WHAT CAN YOU DO to help??**



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Climate Change Working Group

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

Thursday 17th 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 17th March, 10:00-11:30.

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