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19 April 2022*

NOTICE OF MEETING

A meeting of the **MID ARGYLL, KINTYRE AND THE ISLANDS AREA COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP** will be held by **MICROSOFT TEAMS** on **TUESDAY, 26 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**
 - (a) Meeting of the Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group held on Wednesday, 2 February 2022 (Pages 3 - 16)
- 4. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR OF THE MID ARGYLL, KINTYRE AND THE ISLANDS AREA COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP** (Pages 17 - 18)
Report by Committee Manager, Argyll and Bute Council
- 5. PARTNERS UPDATES**
 - (a) Transport Scotland Update
 - (b) Architecture and Design Scotland Update (Pages 19 - 20)
 - (c) Police Scotland Update (Pages 21 - 22)
 - (d) Caledonian MacBrayne Update
 - (e) Live Argyll - Community Learning Service Update (Pages 23 - 24)
 - (f) Argyll and Bute Third Sector Interface Update (Pages 25 - 26)
 - (g) Argyll and Bute Citizens Advice Bureau Update (Pages 27 - 28)

- (h) Campbeltown Community Council Update (Pages 29 - 30)
- (i) Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership - Public Health Update (Pages 31 - 34)
- (j) Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Update (Pages 35 - 40)
- (k) Department for Work and Pensions Update (Pages 41 - 48)
- (l) Skills Development Scotland Update (Pages 49 - 60)
- (m) Tarbert and Skipness Community Trust Update (Pages 61 - 62)
- (n) HM Coastguard Update (Pages 63 - 88)
- (o) Opportunity for verbal updates from Area Community Planning Group Partners

6. COMMUNITY FOCUS

- (a) Police Scotland Fraud Discussion (Pages 89 - 94)

Presentation by Partnership Liaison Officer, Police Scotland

7. FUEL POVERTY - ARGYLL, LOMOND AND THE ISLES ENERGY AGENCY (ALI ENERGY) (Pages 95 - 108)

Presentation by Manager, ALIEnergy

8. CLIMATE CHANGE

- (a) Minutes of the Climate Change Working Group meeting held on Thursday, 17 February 2022 (Pages 109 - 110)

9. COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE (Pages 111 - 116)

Report by Committee Manager, Argyll and Bute Council

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, 31st August 2022 at 10am.

Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group

Contact: Iona Campbell, Senior Committee Assistant; Tel: 01436 658 801

**MINUTES of MEETING of MID ARGYLL, KINTYRE AND THE ISLANDS AREA COMMUNITY
PLANNING GROUP held by MICROSOFT TEAMS
on WEDNESDAY, 2 FEBRUARY 2022**

Present: Ian Brodie (Chair), East Kintyre Community Council
Shona Barton, Committee Manager, Argyll & Bute Council
Councillor John Armour
Councillor Anne Horn
PC Laura Evans, Police Scotland
Cathy Cameron, Time for Change Argyll and Bute
Alyson MacGillivray, South Islay Development
Barry Colvan, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Dhonna McCallum, Argyll College UHI
Ness Wright, Architecture and Design Scotland
Neil MacFarlane, Transport Scotland
Kerry Baxter, Fyne Homes
Brian Smith, Live Argyll
Sandra MacIntyre, We Are With You
Sergeant Matthew Shaw, Police Scotland
Caitlin McNeill, Colonsay Community Development Company
Valerie Nimmo, Campbeltown Community Council
Jen Broadhurst, Citizens Advice Bureau
Jennifer Dryden, NHS Highland
Heather Thomas-Smith, Argyll and Isles Tourism Co-operative
Lucy Sumsion, National Farmers Union Scotland

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made. The Committee Manager outlined the procedure for the meeting.

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of:

Councillor Donald MacMillan BEM;
Councillor Sandy Taylor;
Antonia Baird, Argyll and Bute Council;
Charles Reppke, Tarbert and Skipness Community Trust;
Inspector Paul Collins, Police Scotland;
Teresa (Tracy) Robertson, Fyne Homes;
Caitlin Quinn, Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks;
Susan MacRae, Skills Development Scotland;
May Cross, Department for Work and Pensions;
Jeni West, Forestry and Land Scotland; and
Hazel Fuller, Dunadd Community Council.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES

(a) **Meeting of the Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning**

Group held on Wednesday, 3rd November 2021

The minutes of the meeting of the Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group held on Wednesday, 3rd November 2021 were approved as a correct record.

4. PARTNERS UPDATES

(a) Transport Scotland Update

The Group considered an update from Neil MacFarlane, Transport Scotland, who provided information around scheduled trunk road projects including an imminent signing strategy for Cairndow; vegetation clearance between Inveraray and Cairndow; and overnight resurfacing projects being undertaken throughout April and May at Brenfield Bay, South of Arrochar, North of Carrick Cemetery, and North of Drumore.

Neil noted that repairs to the Inveraray sea wall had been ongoing for some time, with the majority of the work having now been completed and traffic lights removed. He confirmed that the small section still requiring repair would be revisited by BEAR Scotland in due course.

Neil provided an update on the improvement works to Kinloch Road, Campbeltown, particularly highlighting the technical challenges involved with improving drainage. He noted that investigations were underway involving relevant parties to ensure that the best possible solution was implemented. Discussion took place around the build-up of mud and difficulties in cleaning the existing drains, and Neil confirmed that he would consult with BEAR Scotland and provide an update to the Group following the meeting on when the drains had most recently been cleaned.

Discussion took place around overgrown trees and vegetation at Barmore Road, Tarbert, and Cairndow, with it being noted that the A83 had been blocked over the weekend at various times due to fallen trees. Neil advised that there were annual programmes in place to identify dangerous trees and vegetation but BEAR Scotland's Landscaping Manager had confirmed that they would be undertaking investigations along the A83 on 2nd February, following a number of adverse reports over the weekend. He confirmed that a programme of works would then be implemented, with works being prioritised where there was an immediate danger to the trunk road.

Councillor Armour requested an update on the plans for the junction between Burnbank Street and Kinloch Road, Campbeltown. Neil advised that designers were of the opinion that the solution to reported issues would be a permanent build out, and Councillor Armour noted that cars were already having to move further out onto the carriageway to get a clear view of the road.

Councillor Armour requested an update on works still to be completed on Hall Street, Campbeltown. Neil confirmed that this work would usually be completed during the Spring or Summer due to the requirement for good weather, however he was awaiting an official date for the works to be carried out from BEAR Scotland.

Councillor Armour advised that there had been some flooding issues at the end of Hall Street, Campbeltown, near the ferry terminal, and these had been raised with the Council's Head of Roads and Infrastructure Services. Neil noted that he was

unaware of these issues but he would be happy to ask his colleagues at BEAR Scotland to investigate this further.

Councillor Armour noted that resurfacing works were scheduled for the area North of Drumore and advised that a culvert collapse at Kilmichael Farm had previously been repaired temporarily with tar, however this had started to sink again and it was not clear whether further work had been scheduled to repair this. Neil advised that he was unsure if work had been specifically scheduled for the culvert repair but he would raise this issue with his BEAR Scotland colleagues following the meeting.

Lucy Sumsion asked Neil to investigate the possibility of implementing lighting at the junction to Cairndow, noting that Police Scotland had been supportive of this in the past. She provided examples of other areas where lighting had been put in place on a trunk road, and noted that there had been a tragic accident previously at the junction and locals were keen to see lighting put in place to avoid any future accidents. Neil confirmed that he would investigate this following the meeting.

Decision

The Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group considered and noted the information provided.

(Reference: Report by Neil MacFarlane, North West Area Manager, 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 Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands for the period 2021-22. Barry Colvan highlighted the decrease in accidental dwelling fires; work being carried out to assist and support other agencies; an increase in Home Fire Safety Visits; and the use of local staff and social media to share important messages.

Barry advised that advice was available from SFRS staff but emphasised that it was the responsibility of the home owner to ensure that home smoke detector systems complied with the new legislation which had come into effect in early 2022.

Decision

The Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands 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 Sergeant Matthew Shaw, Police Scotland, which highlighted information relating to the aims of the festive policing campaign; work around the identification and prevention of road traffic offences and speeding; a focus in the Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands (MAKI) area on combating drug related activities and the ways in which communities could provide intelligence to

Police around this to allow them to act; the recent prevalence of COVID-related absences across the service; the introduction of 5 new officers to the local area; and the increase in local specially trained officers carrying Tasers.

PC Laura Evans provided an update on the Keep Safe initiative and the ways in which the 53 Keep Safe Places in MAKI could be identified and accessed; the implementation of the Herbert Protocol to assist those living with dementia; and continued work to highlight and reduce incidents of fraud. She also provided information around ways in which partners could become involved with the Keep Safe and fraud prevention initiatives.

Discussion took place around vandalism and anti-social behaviour at Blarbuie Woodlands, Lochgilphead, with Sergeant Shaw noting that he was aware of this and it had been placed on the local patrol strategy. He advised that due to resource restrictions, there weren't always as many patrols in the area as he would like, however he would continue to monitor this. He noted that the implementation of CCTV may assist the situation, however this could be a matter that would divide public opinion, and he would have to investigate this further. Lucy Sumsion suggested that the Police Scotland representative who had been involved in a recent online rural crime event may be a good resource for information around CCTV.

Councillor Armour highlighted parking issues in Campbeltown which were resulting in junctions being obstructed, in particular at the junction of Burnbank Street and Kinloch Road. Sergeant Shaw confirmed that he would raise this with local officers and ensure that they were monitoring this during their shifts.

PC Evans also highlighted the new Dogs (Protection of Livestock) (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 2021 legislation, which would result in harsher penalties for livestock worrying. She noted that although this was a Scotland-wide piece of legislation, local events were being planned to increase the focus on education and to assist in avoiding incidents. Sergeant Shaw noted that a press release was being circulated by Police Scotland in relation to this, and further information would be provided to Community Councils and via social media campaigns in the near future.

Decision

The Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group considered and noted the information provided.

(Reference: Report by Inspector Paul Collins, Police Scotland, submitted)

(d) Architecture and Design Scotland - Climate Action Towns Project Update

The Group considered an update from Ness Wright, Architecture and Design Scotland, in relation to the progress of the Climate Action Towns Project. The update provided information around the aims of the Project; the selection of Campbeltown as one of 7 Climate Action Towns across Scotland during the pilot project; work to assist with the development of the Campbeltown Community Action Plan (CAP); and details of potential future funding for the Project.

Ness Wright confirmed that there were opportunities for the involvement of local

partners and encouraged anyone who would be interested in this to get in touch with her.

Decision

The Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group considered and noted the information provided.

(Reference: Presentation by Ness Wright, Senior Design Officer, Architecture and Design Scotland, submitted)

(e) Campbeltown Community Council Update

The Group considered an update from Valerie Nimmo, Campbeltown Community Council. The update noted that a virtual presentation had been provided to the Community Council on the Empowering our Educators proposals and the Community Council were in the process of forming an official response to this. In addition to this, it was noted in the update that the Community Council had been generally impressed by plans for a Machrihanish Dunes expansion.

Valerie expressed concern during the update at the condition of the road along the Esplanade, as well as other local roads, and it was noted that this had been raised with the Council's Head of Roads and Infrastructure Services.

An update was provided on the progress of the Community Action Plan, which had been assisted by input from Architecture and Design Scotland. Valerie noted her particular thanks to Ness Wright and Chiara Fingland from Architecture and Design Scotland for their assistance with this.

Valerie raised concerns about storm damage to the sea walls at Low Askomil and the Esplanade, advising that she was unsure who would be responsible for these repairs. Councillor Armour confirmed that both of these issues had been raised with the Council and he had received assurance that they would be dealt with.

Decision

The Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group considered and noted the information provided.

(Reference: Update by Valerie Nimmo, Campbeltown Community Council, submitted)

(f) Forestry and Land Scotland Update

The Group considered an update from Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS). The update included information around the development of updated Land Management Plans; the status of a number of local Renewables sites; issues with the spread of disease among larch trees and the steps being taken to reduce the impact of this; and the progress of planned peatland restoration.

The update also included information around upcoming complex operations in the area and difficulties in recruiting staff to available vacancies, with particular concerns highlighted in relation to the lack of suitable housing around the Lochgilphead area.

Decision

The Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group:

1. considered and noted the information provided; and
2. noted that in the absence of a representative from Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS), any questions could be forwarded to them following the meeting and any responses circulated to the Group.

(Reference: Update by Jeni West, Planning Forester, Forestry and Land Scotland, tabled)

(g) Argyll College UHI Update

The Group considered an update from Dhonna McCallum, Argyll College UHI, which included confirmation that centres were entering into a period of phased return in line with government guidelines.

The update also provided information around newly available courses and courses which were starting in early 2022, alongside information on how to access these courses. It was noted that CSCS CITB tests were available at the Campbeltown and Dunoon Learning Centres, and that the UHI were offering free places on upskilling and reskilling courses. The appointment of a new Commercial Development Officer was also highlighted in the update, and Dhonna advised that she would be happy to pass on information to them about any particular local needs which were identified by Members.

Decision

The Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group considered and noted the information provided.

(Reference: Update by Dhonna McCallum, Learning Centre Manager, Argyll College UHI, submitted)

(h) Live Argyll - 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; a consultation being undertaken to identify the provisions required for adult learning; 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 Smith advised that he would be in discussion with the Council's Community Planning Manager soon to discuss what the MSYP's future involvement would be in the Community Planning Partnership Management Committee and Area Community Planning Groups.

Decision

The Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group considered and noted the information provided.

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

(i) **We Are With You Update**

The Group considered an update from Sandra MacIntyre, We Are With You, which included information around their blended approach to supporting clients; the impact of COVID-19 and self-isolation on staffing; a recent increase in Norovirus infections; the development of the service and new referral routes being sought; the identification of suitable local premises across Argyll and Bute which could be used to meet clients; and links being made and strengthened with a variety of organisations to progress future partnership working.

Sandra MacIntyre advised that the Live Argyll Community Learning Service had been very helpful to We Are With You, and had offered to do a beginners computer course with the Recovery Activity Group. She noted that there was also the possibility of a digital photography course in future.

Sandra advised that an application had been submitted to the Scottish Government for funding to assist with rehab requirements across Argyll and Bute, noting that Dunoon in particular had a high incidence of drug deaths and it was hoped that funding could be used to assist the Addictions team in employing staff to undertake pre-rehab work.

Decision

The Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group considered and noted the information provided.

(Reference: Update by Sandra MacIntyre, Team Leader – MAKI, We Are With You, submitted)

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

The Group considered an update from the 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 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; and the Scottish Broadband Voucher Scheme.

Decision

The Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group:

1. considered and noted the information provided; and
2. noted that in the absence of a representative from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), any questions could be forwarded to them following the meeting and any responses circulated to the Group.

(Reference: Update by May Cross, Centre Manager, Department for Work and Pensions, submitted)

(k) Citizens Advice Bureau Update

The Group considered an update from Jen Broadhurst, Argyll & Bute Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB), which included information relating to the planned reintroduction of face-to-face appointments for clients, as well as the continued provision of support by telephone, e-mail and video conferencing. The update also noted that CAB were in the process of recruiting volunteer advisers, and stated that training for new advisers was hoped to start shortly.

The update highlighted that advice required by most clients was in relation to welfare rights and debt, with particularly high levels of energy, catalogue and credit card debt at present. It was noted that the growing cost of living was resulting in increased pressures for many clients, and the CAB had been in regular contact with Home Energy Scotland around the significant increase in energy costs.

Jen highlighted that a number of protections for debtors which had been in place during much of the pandemic had now been removed, and this was resulting in an increased demand for advice. In order to assist with this, Jen confirmed that CAB were increasing their capacity to provide debt advice through their advisers and would also be raising awareness of the assistance that they could provide via social media and at local events.

Decision

The Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group considered and noted the information provided.

(Reference: Report by Jen Broadhurst, Bureau Manager, Argyll and Bute Citizens Advice Bureau, submitted)

(l) Tarbert and Skipness Community Trust Update

The Group considered a written update from Tarbert and Skipness Community Trust. The update included information around the progress of the Tarbert and Skipness Community Trust Housing Project and the outcome of a community meeting held by the Trust on 18th November 2021 to seek updated feedback from the community and local business owners.

The update also included information around an awareness campaign which had been undertaken to encourage families with unmet housing needs to register this on HOMEARGYLL; the Trust's representation on the first meeting of the Community Housing Network Group; and the development of plans for the Skipness area to maximise the benefit to the community.

Decision

The Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group:

1. considered and noted the information provided; and
2. noted that in the absence of a representative from Tarbert and Skipness Community Trust, any questions could be forwarded to them following the meeting and any responses circulated to the Group.

(Reference: Update by Charles Reppke, Tarbert and Skipness Community Trust, submitted)

(m) **Dunadd Community Council Update**

The Group considered a written update from Dunadd Community Council, which noted that a Council decision on the next steps for the C38 road was expected in February or March 2022, with work also being undertaken with the Council's roads team to progress the appropriate traffic calming measures following the completion of a speed survey in Kilmartin.

The update also advised that the Community Council were liaising with TSL around moneys awarded to the community which were proposed to be used for the purchase of new picnic benches on Kilmartin Green.

The update provided further information on recent activity at Dunadd Community Council's meetings, which included a presentation on the Glasvaar windfarm proposal; a discussion around the reintroduction of lynx; and regular updates being provided in relation to the Kilmartin Quarry Extension and Kilmartin Museum projects.

Decision

The Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group:

1. considered and noted the information provided; and
2. noted that in the absence of a representative from Dunadd Community Council, any questions could be forwarded to them following the meeting and any responses circulated to the Group.

(Reference: Update by Hazel Fuller, Dunadd Community Council, submitted)

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

Ian Brodie, East Kintyre Community Council

Ian Brodie advised that East Kintyre Community Council were involved in discussions around a number of projects, including battery storage development at Carradale Sub Station; West Torrisdale Wind Farm; the Scottish and Southern Energy Network (SSEN) Inveraray to Crossaig pylon project; and plans for a new SSEN power cable from Carradale to Arran.

Lucy Sumsion, National Farmers Union Scotland

Lucy Sumsion provided further information in relation to the new Dogs (Protection of Livestock) (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 2021 legislation which had been put in place to protect livestock from attack and strengthen penalties for those who did not comply. Lucy noted that a launch event to provide local education on this was being planned, with further events expected to take place across the local area in due course. Councillor Armour asked if it would be possible for him to be invited to the launch event, and Lucy confirmed that she would enquire about this.

Lucy also provided information in relation to an online rural crime event which had taken place, with a particular emphasis on the east side of Kintyre which had seen an increase in crimes such as quad bike thefts in recent times. She advised that a Police Scotland representative had attended the event to discuss prevention techniques to assist in avoiding future incidents. Lucy noted that it was hoped that a similar on-farm event would also be arranged in due course.

5. COMMUNITY FOCUS

(a) Colonsay and Oransay Community Plan 2022-2032

The Group considered a presentation by Caitlin McNeill, Colonsay Community Development Trust, in relation to the development of the Colonsay and Oransay Community Plan 2022-2023. The presentation provided statistics in relation to life on Colonsay and Oransay, as well as information on how the previous Community Plan had been used to assist with developments in a number of key areas such as housing and community ownership since 2012. The presentation also provided an overview of how the consultation was being undertaken; the key consultees who would be involved; and the input required from external shareholders and service providers.

Caitlin advised that she would appreciate any guidance or support from members of the Group in contacting the appropriate people to ensure that the views of all relevant parties could be included in the consultation. Ian Brodie confirmed that he would be happy to provide relevant contact details which may be of assistance to Caitlin following the meeting.

Decision

The Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group considered and noted the information provided.

(Reference: Presentation by Caitlin McNeill, Community Planning Officer, Colonsay Community Development Company, submitted)

6. CLIMATE CHANGE

(a) Time for Change Argyll and Bute

The Group considered a presentation by Cathy Cameron, Time for Change Argyll and Bute. The presentation provided an overview of the organisation's origin as a youth group and their development since then to include a wider member demographic; their purpose; the ongoing work which was being undertaken to combat the climate crisis and the ways in which the organisation were progressing

this; and details of the organisations achievements since 2019 and their plans for 2022. In particular, Cathy highlighted the Climate Change Summit in 2021 and two videos which were created locally and shown at COP26, with further information around this available on the Time for Change Website.

The presentation also provided information in relation to some terms relating to climate change, as well as details of useful resources for anyone who wished to seek further information around the climate crisis. Cathy noted that the organisation were able to assist with projects by grassroots organisations and the advertising of local activities on social media. In addition to the resources available in the presentation, Cathy also highlighted the Community Planning Partnership Climate Change Action Signposting, as well as the ACT Now Project and other local initiatives.

Cathy outlined the ways in which the Group could assist Time for Change in their work and encouraged Members to get involved. She invited anyone who would like further information to contact Time for Change at timeforchangeargyll@gmail.com.

Decision

The Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group considered and noted the information provided.

(Reference: Presentation by Cathy Cameron, Time for Change Argyll and Bute, submitted)

(b) 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 16th December 2021, were before the Group for noting and relevant discussion.

Decision

The Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands 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. noted that any queries relating to the minutes could be raised by e-mail following the meeting, and any responses circulated to the Group.

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

7. 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 Management Committee, held on 8th 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.

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.

Decision

The Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group considered and noted the briefing note.

(Reference: Report by Shona Barton, Committee Manager, Argyll and Bute Council, dated 2nd February 2022, submitted)

8. MID ARGYLL, KINTYRE AND THE ISLANDS AREA COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP GOVERNANCE

(a) 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 up until May 2023.

Shona Barton confirmed that organisational contacts could be updated as required, and 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 Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands 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 and agreed that this would be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure currency and appropriateness for the work of the Group as it developed over time;
3. noted that the next meeting of the Group would take place on Tuesday 26th April 2022; and
4. noted the dates for future meetings of Wednesday 31st August 2022, Wednesday 2nd November 2022, Wednesday 1st February 2023, and Wednesday 3rd May 2023.

(Reference: Report by Committee Manager, Argyll and Bute Council, dated 2nd February 2022, submitted)

(b) **Appointment of Vice-Chair of the Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group**

The Group considered a report providing information relating to the appointment of a Vice-Chair of the Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group and outlining the expected time commitment and information about the role.

As there were no nominations for the role, it was agreed that the item would be continued to the next meeting of the Group and considered nearer the beginning of the agenda.

Shona Barton confirmed that contact would be made with members of the Group who may be interested in the role and that work around the creation of a video to assist with the recruitment of office bearers would also be progressed.

Decision

The Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group agreed to continue consideration of the appointment of a Vice-Chair to the next meeting of the Group.

(Reference: Report by Shona Barton, Committee Manager, Argyll and Bute Council, dated 2nd February 2022, submitted)

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Group noted that the next meeting of the Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group would take place on Tuesday, 26th April 2022 at 10am.

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Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership**Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group**

26 April 2022



Appointment of Vice-Chair of the Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group

Summary

The following report provides information relating to the appointment of a Vice-Chair for the Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands 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 This report asks the Area Community Planning Group to consider the appointment of a Vice-Chair.

2. Recommendations

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

3. Background

3.1 Rachel Whyte, who had served as Vice-Chair since 10th November 2020, submitted her resignation effective from 9th August 2021.

3.2 The Group subsequently considered the appointment of a Vice-Chair at the meetings held on 24th August 2021, 3rd November 2021, and 2nd February 2022 and it was agreed to continue the report to the next meeting of the Group, as there had been no nominations for the role. 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 Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group.

4.3 Some further information on the commitment required for the role:-

- Attend meetings of the Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group;
- Attend meetings of the Community Planning Partnership Management Committee or the Full Partnership, where the Chair is unable to attend;
- Time commitment of at least 4 Area Community Planning Group meetings per year ordinarily held in February, May, August and November and 4 pre-agenda meetings per year ordinarily held 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 Area Community Planning Group.

5. Conclusions

5.1 The Area Community Planning Group 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.

Name of Lead Officer

Patricia O'Neill, Governance Manager

For further information please contact:

Shona Barton, Committee Manager (01436) 657605

MAKI Community Planning Group update | 26th April 2022

Climate Action Towns is a Scottish Government pilot run by Architecture & Design Scotland. The pilot aims to support place-based climate action in a network of seven small Scottish towns, working collaboratively with local communities. From this, Architecture and Design Scotland will develop learning that can be applied in places across Scotland.

Campbeltown has been selected as one of the Climate Action Towns. The 7 towns were selected using a data-driven approach; firstly the Scottish Government's Urban Rural Classifications (2016) and Census data (2011) were used to identify 156 towns in Scotland with a population under 10,000. These 156 towns were then assessed against a number of indicators to narrow down to 7 Climate Action Towns - including the SIMD, flood risk, sea levels, receipt of Climate Challenge Funding and whether A&DS had previously engaged with the place.

We decided to focus our support around the development of the Campbeltown Community Action Plan, and ensure it considers future climate change and climate risks. Over the past 8 months we have helped involve local people and businesses in developing the action plan.

Since the last MAKI meeting we have worked with the Community Action Plan (CAP) team to:

- Publish and share the Community Action Plan, including a launch event in early March at the town hall.
- Printed copies of the Campbeltown Community Action Plan are available from the town hall, or online at https://www.inspiralba.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Campbeltown-CAP-Summary_Final-140222.pdf

Climate Action Towns was designed as a 3 year project, and we are excited to say our funding for Year 2 has been confirmed (April 2022 - March 2023). Over the next year we will be working with the CAP team to prioritise and implement the actions relating to climate change. Such as exploring the feasibility of a community owned wind farm, identifying funding for walking and cycling paths in Campbeltown and restarting local food growing. There is also an action in the plan to create a climate change initiative/group to start dialogue around what climate change means to Campbeltown and establish practical activities (tool libraries, rainwater harvesting, tree planting etc.).

If you'd like to get involved or find out more please email ness.wright@ads.org.uk

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Police Scotland - MAKI Area Community Planning Partnership Update for April 2022**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>
- 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.

Domestic Abuse Support for Holidaymakers

Last year there was a noticeable increase in the number of reports to Police of Domestic Abuse around the times of peak tourism. It was noted that due to increased alcohol intake, being contained within a holiday destination away from home and other stresses, couples visiting the area were having disputes, leading to domestic incidents.

Advice and guidance was available to hoteliers and licenced premises, requesting that they look out for the signs and contact Police.

In addition, a Police Scotland flier is now available for all premises where tourism will be a factor throughout the year, which can be displayed for visitors, providing them with support advice, should they fall victim to, or suspect someone of being victim of, domestic abuse.

Anyone interested in this can contact PC Evans, as above.

Rural Watch Signposting

In recent months there has been some good work across the partnerships in strengthening the Rural Watch scheme. Sgt Jon Watson-Russell, based at Campbeltown, is the Point of Contact for this scheme. He is currently enquiring about funding to have a number of signs posted along the A83 in MAKI and down the east side of the peninsula. It is requested that the group consider any available funding sources which could assist in the procurement of such signs.

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Be inspired, be you!

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.

ARGYLL AND BUTE THIRD SECTOR INTERFACE

Communities Mental Health & Wellbeing Fund

TSI has distributed in excess of £285K among 48 Third Sector groups throughout Argyll and Bute, supporting local, grassroot community activity that meets the overarching national ambitions for the fund and local priority areas.

Young Person's Guarantee

Due to current funding coming to an end for this project, we will be taking no more referrals at the moment. We are continuing to support 30 young people with mentors and volunteering placements and are looking to secure funding to be able to support more young people with volunteer placements in the future.

The Inveraray Hub

The Hub is the ideal place to hold hybrid meetings and is free for use by members of Argyll and Bute Third Sector Interface. Set up as a fully-functioning Teams room, the Hub is located at the Old Marriage Rooms, Front Street, Inveraray, and may be booked via our website.

Volunteer of the Year Awards 2022

We are delighted to partner with Live Argyll once again and this year's event will be held in the Queen's Hall in Dunoon, but will also provide the opportunity to attend online, giving us the chance to come together and celebrate.

The awards ceremony will be held on Friday the 3rd of June to coincide with Volunteers Week 2022 (1st - 7th June). With this in mind, we'd like to invite local people, organisations and groups to nominate the volunteers they think deserve recognition for their exceptional efforts. The Award categories are:

- Volunteer of the Year
- Young Volunteer of the Year
- Regional Heroes
- Lifetime Achievement Award
- Volunteer Sports Coach of the Year (Over 25)
- Volunteer Young Sports Coach of the Year (12-25)
- Community Learning Volunteer of the Year
- Emergency Service Volunteer of the Year (for example first responders, fire fighters, special constables, mountain rescue etc.)

Nominations should be submitted by 12 noon on Friday 29th April 2022.

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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 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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Campbeltown CC Report for MAKI

Community Action Plan

Campbeltown CC have now completed their Community Action Plan. Paper copies are available in the Town Hall, the Library, the Picture House and Keeping it Local. It is also available on the following websites, where you will find the summary plan and the extended version.

<https://www.campbeltowncommunitycouncil.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Campbeltown-Community-Action-Plan-Summary.pdf>

<https://www.skdt.org/campbeltown-community-action-plan-2022-2027/>

https://www.inspiralba.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Campbeltown-CAP-Summary_Final-140222.pdf

If links do not work, please copy and paste to your browser.

Campbeltown Community Windfarm Fund

Campbeltown CC is pleased to receive a share of the Community Benefit Fund distributed by Scottish Power Renewables (SPR) following the commissioning of Beinn an Tuirc 3 Windfarm. Councillors are grateful to East Kintyre Renewable Energy Group (EKREG) for all the work they have done in securing a lifetime community benefit agreement in relation to Beinn an Tuirc 3.

Inclusive Play Equipment

A new swing, which can accommodate wheelchair users, is to be installed at Jock's Adventure Playground. The manufacturers have promised to install the play equipment the week commencing 25th April. This follows a campaign by local Mum, Iona MacLean, supported by Campbeltown CC and South Kintyre Councillor Donald Kelly.

Platinum Jubilee Tea

Campbeltown CC are planning an "at home" afternoon tea for the elderly in the area. This will be distributed to them on the afternoon of the Queen's Jubilee.

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:

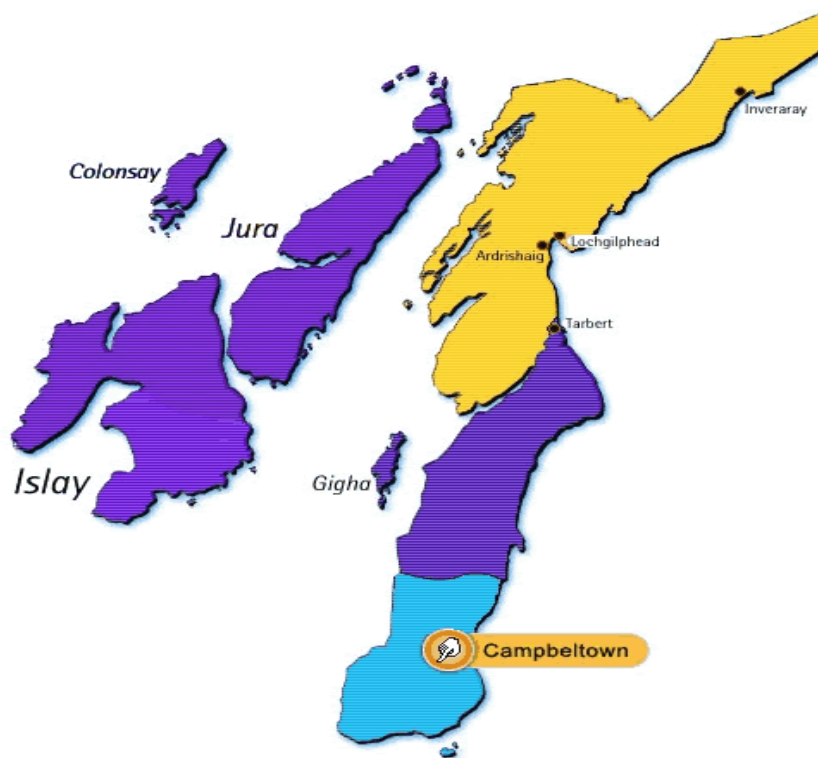
Name: Alison McGrory (Health Improvement Principal)

E-mail: alison.mcgrory@nhs.scot



Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Q3

01/01/22 to 31/03/21



Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Incidents 1/01/22 to 31/03/2022

Incidents	MA 20/21	K&I 20/21	SK 20/21	Total 20/21	MA 21/22	K&I 21/22	SK 21/22	Total 21/22	=/-
Total	41	36	15	92	25	22	30	77	-5
Fire Fatalities	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	-1
Non-Fatal Fire Casualties	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	-2
Accidental Dwelling Fires	2	2	2	6	0	0	2	2	-1
7KPI's									
Deliberate Fires	1	1	0	2	1	2	0	3	+7
Accidental Fire	4	5	3	12	3	2	5	10	-15
Fatal and Non-fatal fire casualties	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	2	+2
Non-Domestic fires	2	0	0	2	0	1	2	3	-3
Special services incidents	2	3	1	6	4	2	3	9	-6
RTC Casualties	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3	+3
False Alarms	34	27	11	72	17	16	22	55	+6

Unfortunately, an RTC incident on the A83 led to the death of an adult male during this period.

Incidents of Note

Primary Fires

02/01/2022	Tarbert	Tarbet	Fire, Wood burner Stove
10/01/2022	Inveraray	Foulis Rd	Fire
14/01/2022	Campbeltown	Calliburn Farm	Fire, Stone Crusher within Quarry
24/01/2022	Campbeltown	Musadale	Fire
29/01/2022	Campbeltown	Killean	Electricity Pole
03/02/2022	Lochgilphead	Cossack St	Lighting Pole
10/02/2022	Campbeltown	Castlehill	Fire Bedroom*
24/02/2022	Lochgilphead	Crinan	Fire, Hearth, Burn to hands

Secondary Fires

10/01/2022	Campbeltown	Campbeltown	Refuse/Accidental
01/02/2022	Lochgilphead	Cairnbaan	Refuse/Malicious
12/02/2022	Campbeltown	Stewart St	Ladder Rescue, Youth on roof
21/02/2022	Lochgilphead	Kilmory Campus	Refuse/Malicious
07/03/2022	Lochgilphead	A816 Lochgilphead	Grass Fire
09/03/2022	Lochgilphead	Ross Cres	Refuse/Malicious
19/03/2022	Lochgilphead	Duntrune Pl	Gorse Fire Accidental
22/03/2022	Campbeltown	Airport	Grass Fire Accidental
22/03/2022	Lochgilphead	Whitegates Rd	Grass Fire Malicious

Special Services

03/01/2022	Bowmore	Islay	Assist SAS
07/01/2022	Bowmore	Ballaygrant	RTC, casualty removed prior to attendance
21/01/2022	Campbeltown	B842 Pininver	SFRS Not required.
28/01/2022	Lochgilphead	Lochgiphead	*Male Within Vehicle
29/01/2022	Campbeltown	Longrow	Making Safe Christmas decorations
30/01/2022	Campbeltown	Longrow South	Unsafe Materials
04/02/2022	Lochgilphead	A816 Lochgilphead	RTC
09/02/2022	Port Ellen	Islay	Assist SAS
11/02/2022	Tarbet	A83, Tarbert	RTC Assist SAS
26/02/2022	Tarbert	A83, Tarbert	RTC
06/03/2022	Colonsay	Colonsay	Assist Police Helicopter Landing

Community Safety Activity

Station	Home Fire Safety Visits	High Risk Visits
Inveraray	3	2

Tarbert	5	3
Campbeltown	5	1
Bowmore	0	0
Jura	0	0
Port Ellen	0	0
Port Charlotte	0	0
Carradale	0	0
Gigha	0	0
Lochgilphead	10	9
Colonsay	0	0
TOTAL	23	15

- 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!



#MAKETHECALL

0800 0731 999

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

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
Rothesay	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	Rothesay	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

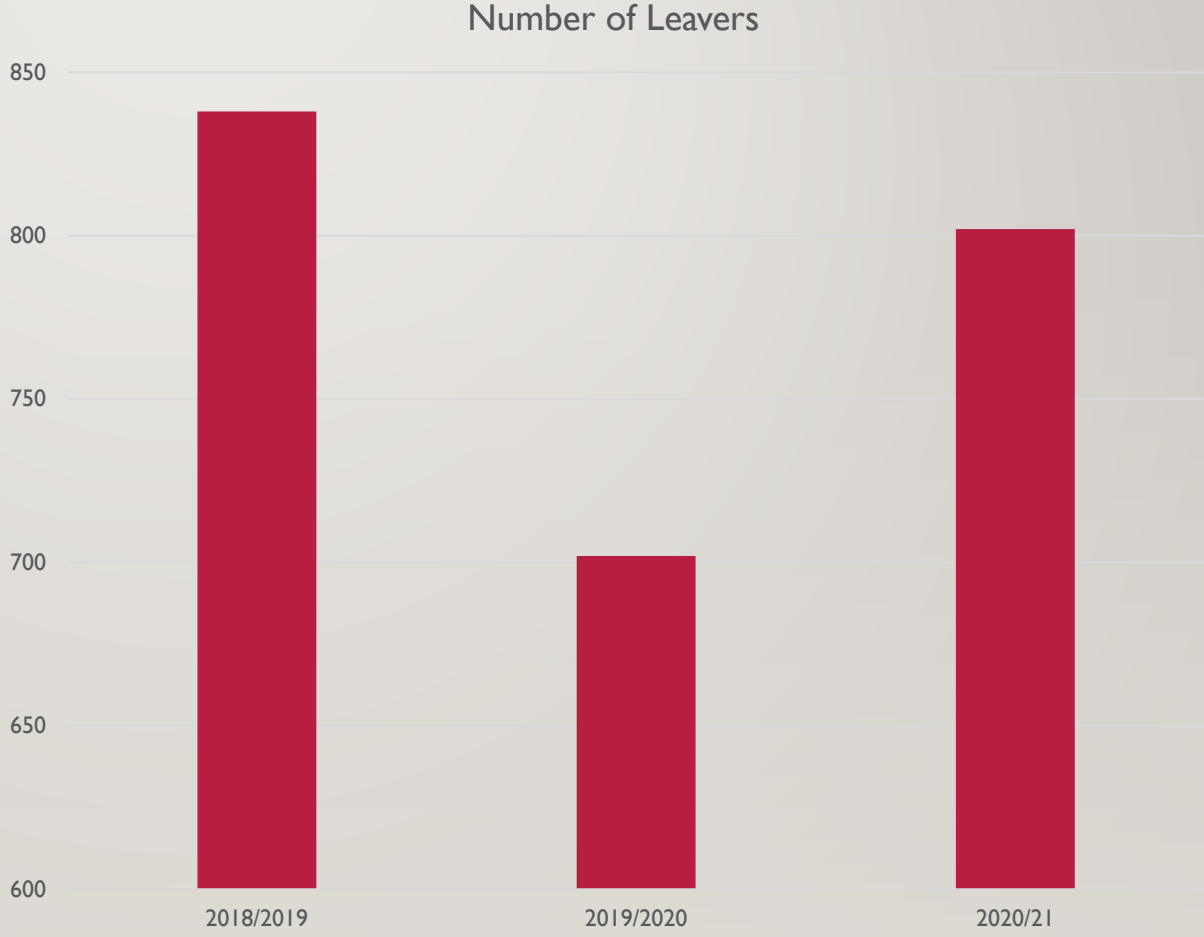
- **Scottish Government Initial School Leaver Destinations** - Snapshot first Monday in October of every school leaver in Scotland, published on Scottish Government website and their Insight Platform [Link to SG Publication here](#)

DESTINATION GROUPINGS

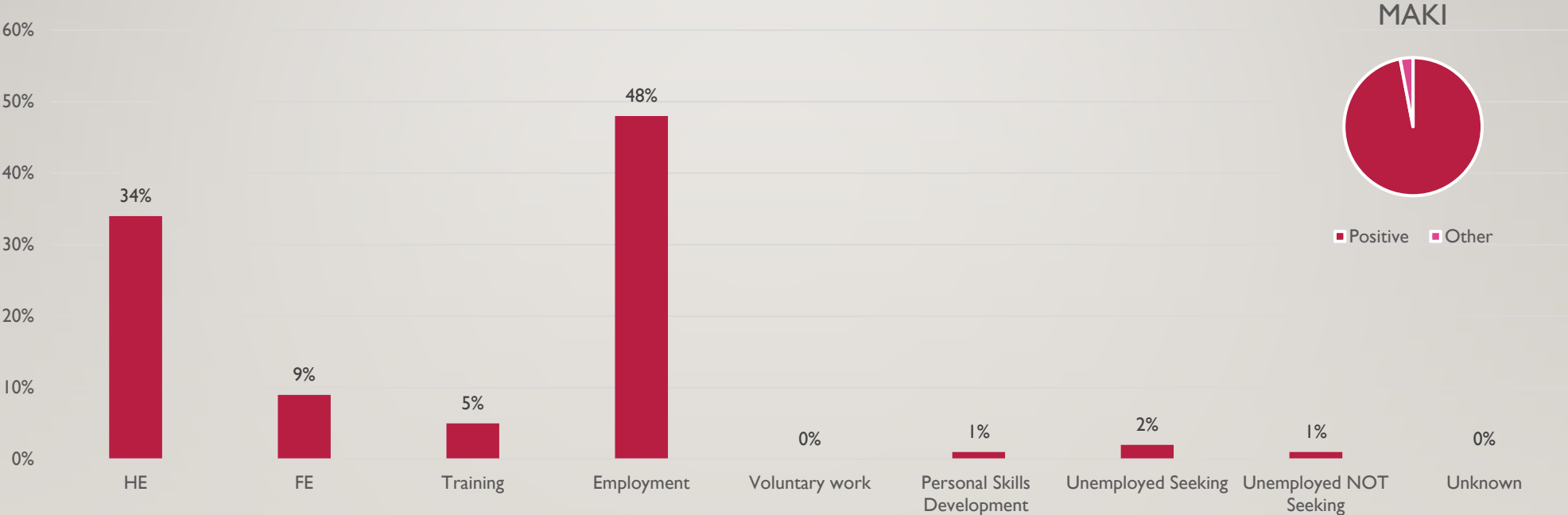


COHORT NUMBERS

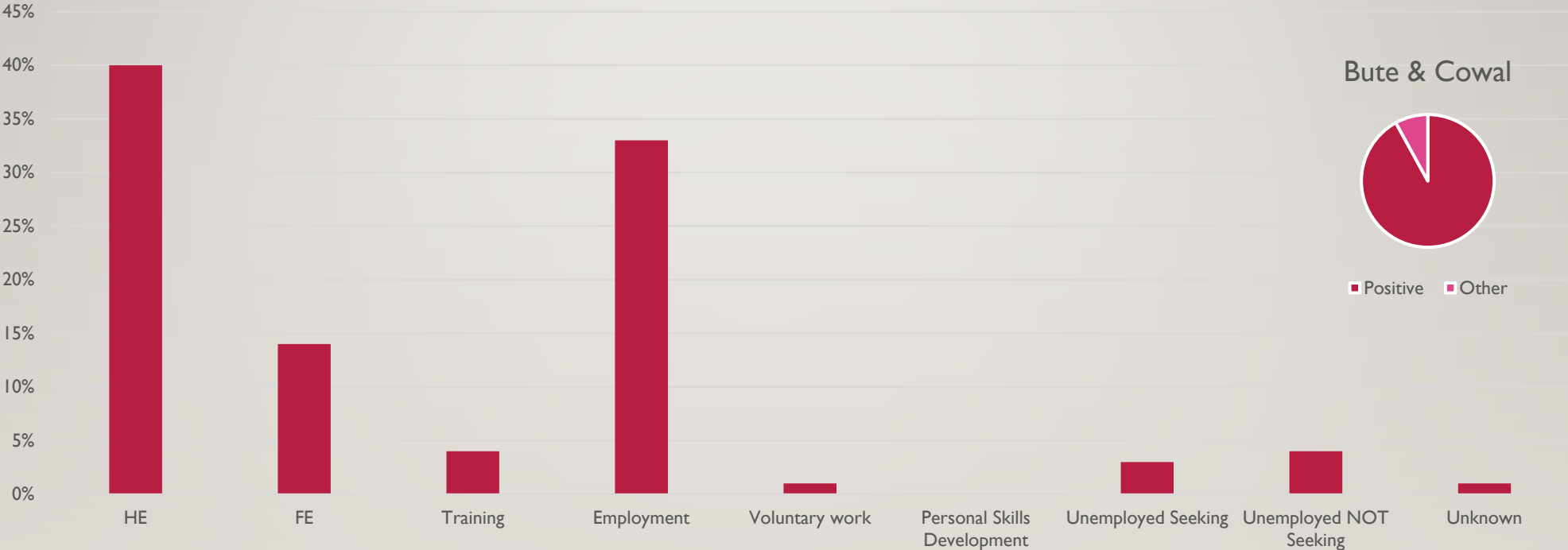
2020-21 – 802
LEAVERS IN
TOTAL



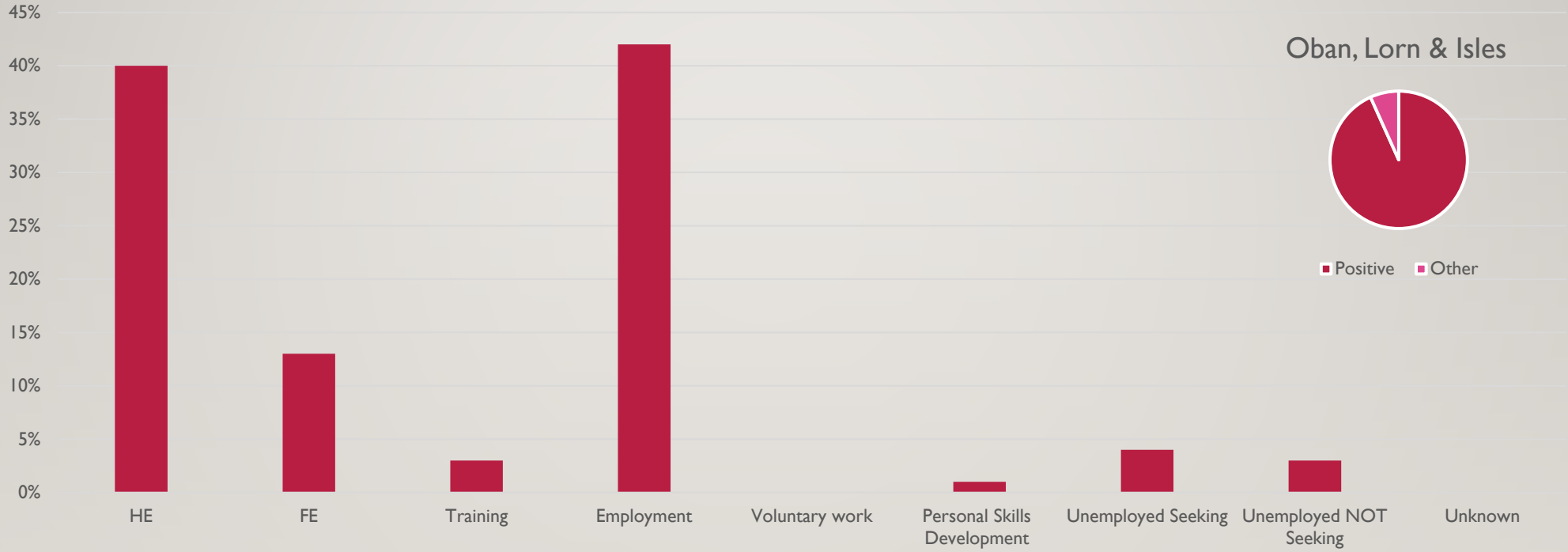
MAKI CPP AREA 2020-2021



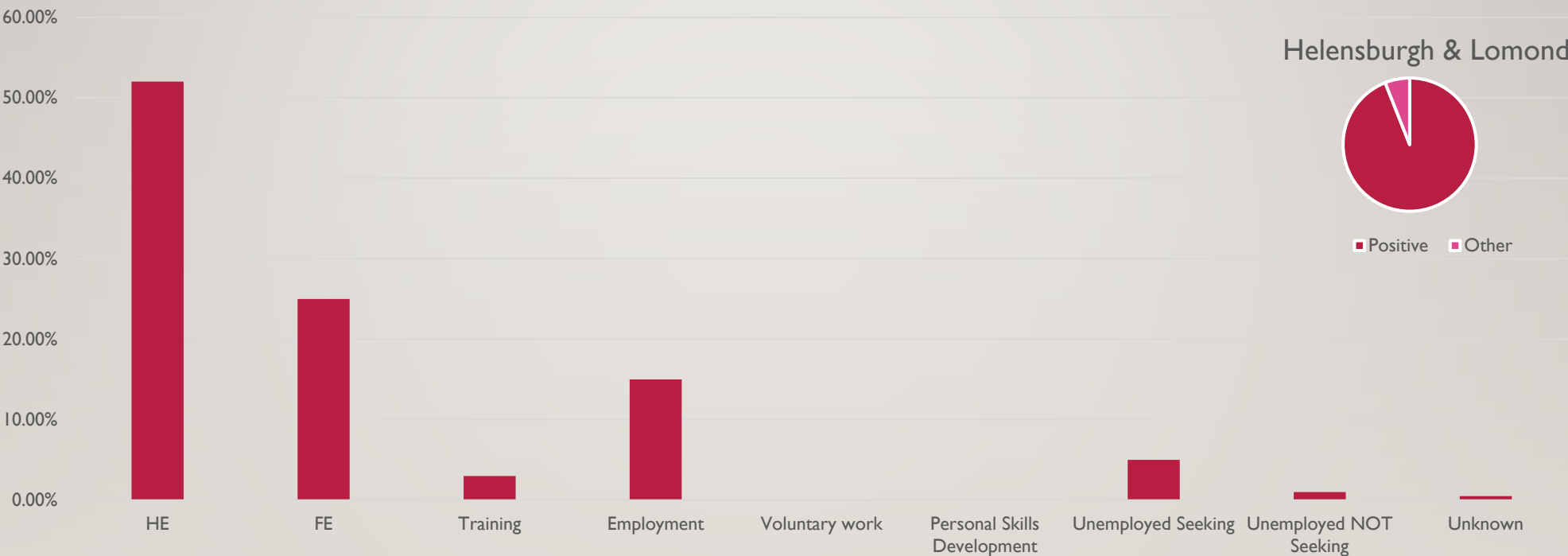
BUTE & COWAL CPP AREA 2020-2021



OBAN, LORN & ISLES CPP AREA 2020-2021

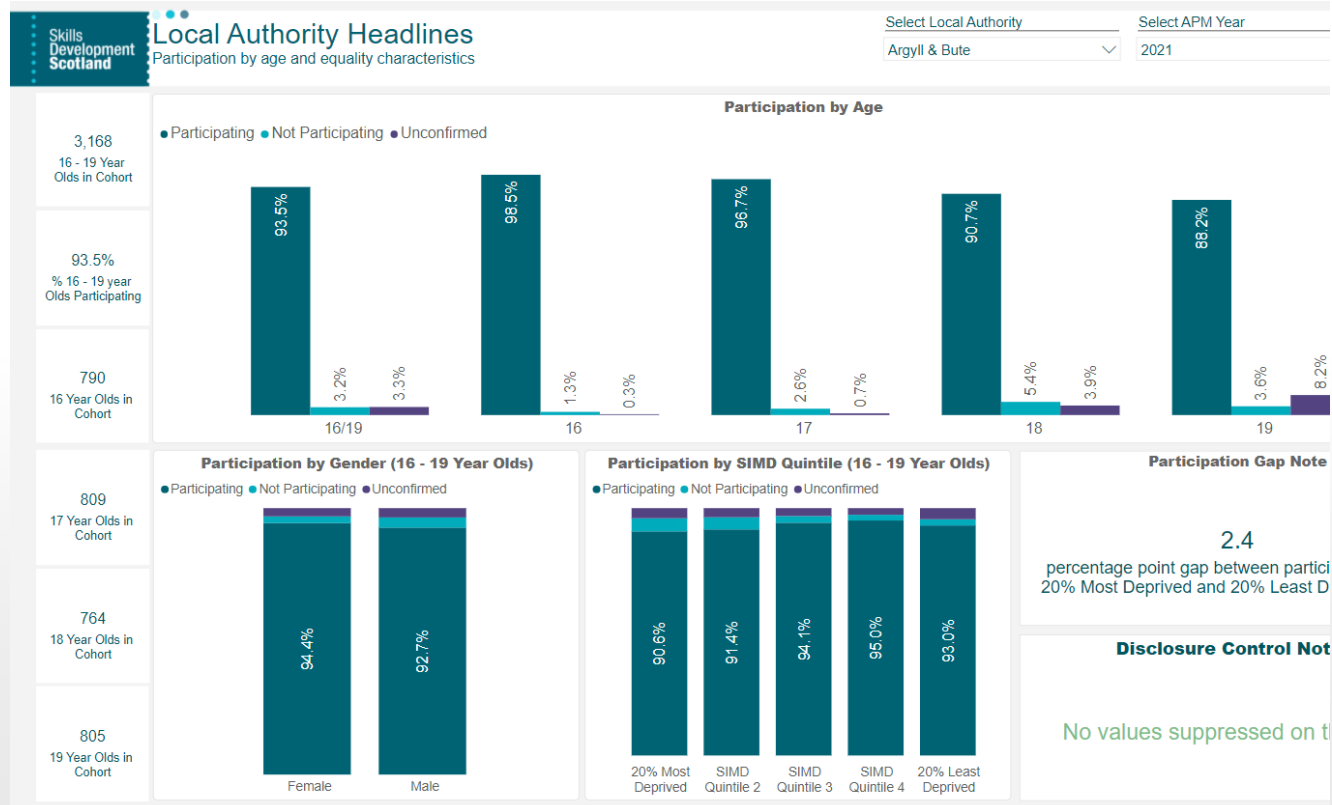


HELENSBURGH & LOMOND CPP AREA 2020-2021



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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TARBERT AND SKIPNESS COMMUNITY TRUST

UPDATE TO THE MID ARGYLL KINTYRE AND THE ISLANDS COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP

26th April 2022

Tarbert and Skipness Community Trust Housing Project continues to make progress and the consultants have reported on the feasibility of developing an area of land for new affordable homes and discussions are ongoing with the landowner. The Trust will provide a further update to the next meeting of this group.

The Trust was represented at the second meeting of the Community Housing Network Group organised by Argyll and Bute Council Housing team and there was a lot of interesting information shared amongst the representatives attending.

The possible community buy out in the village of Skipness is still paused as the alternative approach referenced in the last report is now in the advanced stage of development by a third party.

The Trust was represented at a very well attended community meeting organised by Tarbert Harbour Authority/UK Government on 23rd March and took the opportunity to speak to local residents who attended the consultation event. The meeting was arranged to consult on projects that might be developed for the village under the UK Community Renewal Fund around the themes of Recovery and Regeneration. The Trust have put forward a proposal to participate with a project to promote the delivery of a heritage experience to attract local residents and visitors to the village centre.

The Trust also participated in an online discussion organised by the More Homes division of the Scottish Government which was intended to allow community housing groups to share experience and issues to inform future thinking within government. There was considerable discussion on the new concept in National Planning Framework 4 of Local Place Plans and the concept of 20 minute communities which some representatives described as too urban centric.

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HM Coastguard Update

MAKI Area Community Planning Group – 26/04/2022

CG200

- On 15th January (HMCG's 200th birthday) an organised 'Cast a line' throwline event which took place at 1100hrs around the UK coast



- There are and will be various social media releases during 2022
- There is a celebratory function planned for later in the year open to all HM Coastguard staff and volunteers across the UK
- A commemorative magazine (attached) has been produced and distributed to Coastguard stations around the UK
- Locally will be holding an event in October to celebrate the milestone with our volunteers across Area 17 (Argyll and Arran)

Incidents

We responded to a recorded 569 incidents across Area 17 during 2021. They include responding to people in danger at the coast, accident prevention during high-risk periods (severe weather for example), responding to mutual aid requests from partner agencies meeting our responsibilities to the Civil Contingency Act during the pandemic, and we provided staff and volunteers for HMCG's accident prevention work at COP 26 in Glasgow.

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HM Coastguard
Saving lives for
200 years

HM Coastguard Saving lives for 200 years



An island nation

From protection to rescues

Training is gaining

Training is central to all we do

Fit for the future

Using cutting-edge ways to modernise search & rescue

Life as a Coastguard

Then and now

Two centuries of service



Welcome to this very special commemorative magazine as we celebrate Her Majesty's Coastguard's 200th birthday.



Operating the winch on a Coastguard Land Rover pre 1979. Credit: David M.Jones

This amazing and major milestone is a fantastic moment for our organisation and we all look forward to being involved in an exciting programme of events across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland this year (2022).


As Chief Coastguard, it has given me great pleasure to use this opportunity to look back through our distinguished history books and I am sure many of you have also been able to recall noteworthy memories and experiences.

Our commitment to keeping the public safe at the coast has not wavered one bit over the course of the past two centuries and this rich responsibility is on all of us to uphold for the next 200 years, ensuring HM Coastguard is front and centre, embedded and supporting local coastal communities throughout the UK.

Each day, I feel immense pride to be working with dedicated colleagues and fantastic volunteers as we drive safety standards and provide, as a frontline UK emergency service, our 24/7, 365-days-a-year search and rescue service to save lives at the coast and at sea.

Our wide-ranging and often complex work does not come without its challenges but is possible thanks to the magnificent and selfless acts of service by so many highly-skilled individuals thriving in specialist roles. These roles include those who are part of the Coastguard Rescue Service, helicopter and lifeboat crews and other rescue partners.

Coastguard 200 is an opportune moment to recognise all of these immense contributions made by people connected to HM Coastguard past and present.

Building on these water-tight foundations and in the years to come, we will continue to invest in our staff and volunteers, as well as in new technology and innovation, so that HM Coastguard is able to fulfil its role of saving lives. Public safety is what we do and that will never change. 

PETE MIZEN
CHIEF
COASTGUARD



Courtesy of:
Poole
Coastguard
Rescue Team

See for yourself

During 2022, our bicentennial is being marked in many different ways across the country. Including special exhibitions at the National Emergency Services Museum

in Sheffield, Falmouth's National Maritime Museum and St Barbe in Lymington. Follow us on our social media channels to keep up to date with the latest news and activities!



FOLLOW US

 @MCA

 @MaritimeCoastguard

 @HMCoastguard

 /MaritimeandCoastguardAgencyUK

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Fit for the future
 Using cutting-edge ways to
 modernise search & rescue

An island nation

From protection to rescues.

HM Coastguard is now a world class leader in maritime search and rescue, on call 24/7 to send help to anyone in difficulties around our coasts, every day of the year. We know what we need to do, the resources we need and how to respond quickly. Protecting and saving lives is what we do, but did you know that our origins lie in the protection of a different sort involving violent clashes and illegal trade?

As an island nation, the highly prized goods that are now a regular part of our daily lives once had to make perilous journeys across the oceans on sailing ships. Tea, wine, spirits, silks and lace were the treasures that caught the attention of smugglers. Their mission was to secretly land their treasure on secluded parts of the coastline in a money-making bid to avoid paying customs duties and taxes.

In 1784 the Prime Minister William Pitt the Younger, suggested that of the 13 million lbs (nearly 6 million kilos) of tea consumed in Britain, only 5.5 million had been brought in legally.




Smuggling – a threat to the UK's economy and security

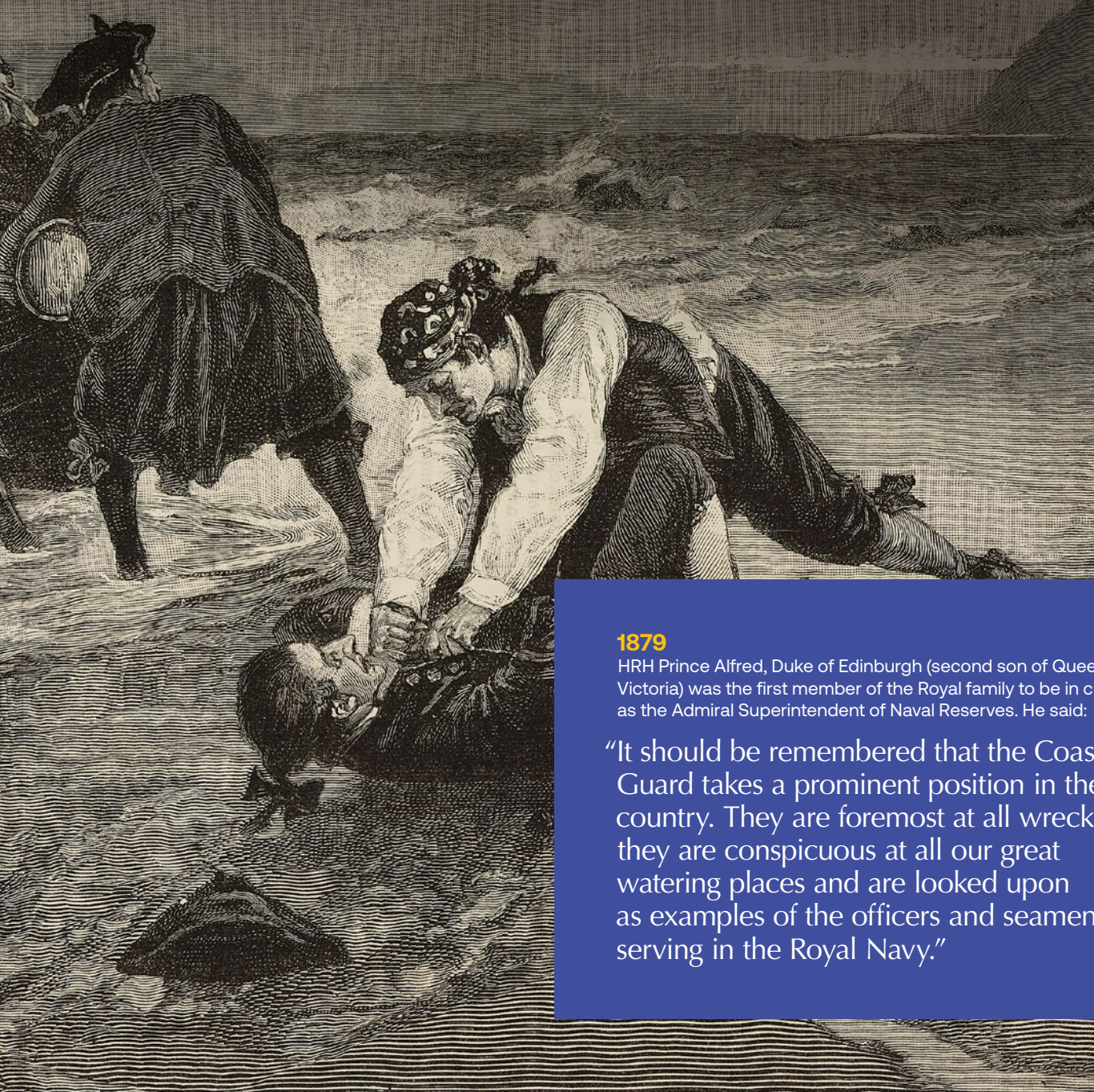
The scale of the problem during what's known as the golden age of smuggling was huge and the Government was determined to tackle it.

It was a battle between the smuggling gangs and HM Customs. Teams of Government Preventive Officers patrolled the coasts, aiming to prevent or catch the smugglers. But there were not enough officers and the smugglers often avoided detection. Staff from the onshore Customs Houses were supplemented by Customs Revenue cruisers at sea watching the coasts and from 1698 riding officers on horseback joined in the coastal patrols.

Although many people enjoyed the illicit gains from smuggling, the reality was brutal. Local people were fearful of violent reprisals on informers, Revenue Officers were murdered and corruption meant that captured smugglers were able to avoid harsh punishments.

What was next?

In 1809, things became more serious. The Board of Customs introduced the Preventive Water Guard, a force which used nimble small boats to patrol the coasts. By 1816 the Guard was strengthened with 151 stations, organised into 31 districts. The chief officers were experienced naval seamen or fishermen and armed with ammunition, stores and oars for rowing, they were at sea as much as possible and on the lookout. 



1879

HRH Prince Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh (second son of Queen Victoria) was the first member of the Royal family to be in charge as the Admiral Superintendent of Naval Reserves. He said:

“It should be remembered that the Coast Guard takes a prominent position in the country. They are foremost at all wrecks, they are conspicuous at all our great watering places and are looked upon as examples of the officers and seamen serving in the Royal Navy.”

Timeline



17th & 18th Centuries

Smuggling was rife as people tried to avoid taxes. By 1743 it's estimated that half the tea drunk in Britain was illegally imported.

1713

Troops of dragoons had orders to assist customs officers.

15 January 1822

The Birth of HM Coastguard

Treasury adopts proposals from committee report. It was in effect the birth of HM Coastguard and brought together the Revenue cruisers, the Riding Officers and the Preventive Water Guard.

The Treasury Minute provides the first use of the term 'Coast Guard'. Approx 3,000 men made up the Coast Guard.

1854

Merchant Shipping Act. Board of Trade becomes responsible for issuing life saving equipment to the Coast Guard and later to the volunteer life saving brigades around the coasts.

13 June 1831

Admiralty publishes new regulations as part of plan for Coast Guard to become a reserve for the Royal Navy. It included payments and allowances. A salary of £10 for the chief boatman and £5 for a commissioned boatman.

1698

Riding Officers on horseback patrolled the coasts to stop smuggling.

1829

The first Coast Guard Instructions were published. They defined anti smuggling duties and the need to maintain good relations with other revenue protection organisations.

1856

Coast-guard Service Act (repealed in 1925) to make better provisions for the defence of our coasts, and be ready to assist HM Navy in war or emergency plus protection of the Revenue.

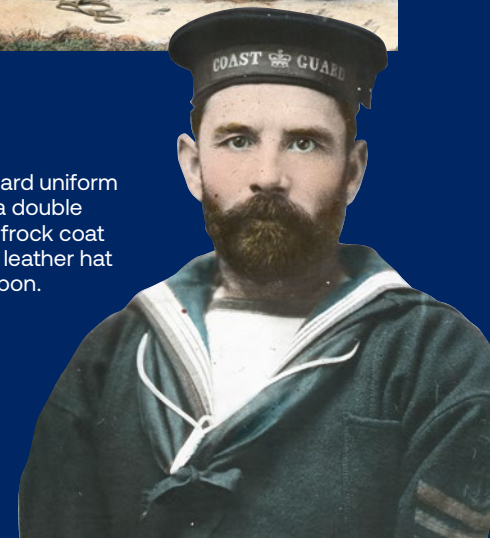
1809

Preventive Water Guard formed to stop smuggling, operating from 151 stations around the coast. Their cutlasses needed to be sharp. Their secondary role was to save lives if a ship was wrecked.



1832

(approx.) Coast Guard uniform became a double breasted frock coat and a flat leather hat with a ribbon.





1922

Wartime experience showed that a coast watching and life saving service was essential.



23 February

1970

Women allowed to become coastguards for the first time, entry age limit lowered to 16.

1998

Marine Safety Agency and The Coastguard Agency were joined to form MCA. In 1998 HM Coastguard reported to Parliament that it responded to 11,667 incidents in 1997.

1914–1918

World War 1 and the Coastguard was mobilised.

1939

WWII is coming. Under the National Service scheme, volunteers were invited to enrol as Auxiliary Coastguards. Training in signalling and protection against poison gas was given.

1960

Coastguards were now handling 2,000 incidents a year and 3,363 by 1967 – of the 1967 total, nearly half were pleasure vessels.

1971

HMCG contracted Bristow to supply a search and rescue helicopter.

2015

HM Coastguard takes over from Royal Air Force and Royal Navy to deliver the UK's search and rescue helicopter service.

1 October

1945

The Coastguard was released from Admiralty war duty and returned to a civilian service. The Auxiliary Coastguard was stood down.



Late

1940s

Military helicopters started to be used to assist with rapid rescue.

1 April

1994

The Coastguard Agency and the Marine Safety Agency were formed from the Marine Directorate and Surveyor General.

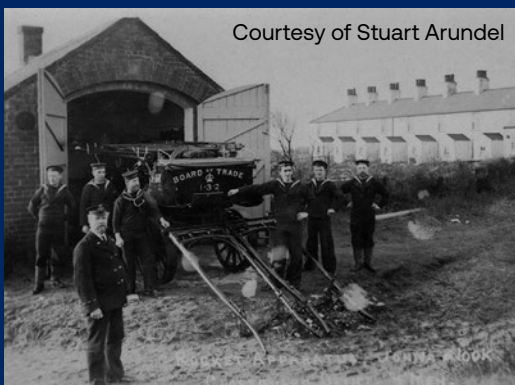
1 April

1923

The Government accepted the report and the Board of Trade assumed responsibility for the Coastguard. By Royal sanction the force retained the title of His Majesty's Coastguard. It was the first time Britain had a specialised staff devoted to coast watching and life-saving.

1964

The Coastguard was transferred back to the Board of Trade. Equipment now included Land Rovers and radio-equipped vehicles and many stations were part of the 999 telephone emergency service.



Courtesy of Stuart Arundel



Credit: John Nield

2020–2021

HM Coastguard responded to over 33,000 incidents (up from 31,234 in 2019) and the search and rescue helicopters were sent out 1,975 times from their 10 bases. And Coastguard teams and the helicopters also provided support to the NHS and others during the Coronavirus pandemic.

Saluting a new era

The 19th Century brought in a new era of changes in our society which saw the UK's population double, people moving from the countryside to find work in the new industrial age and the beginning of mass leisure as people started to enjoy music halls, great museums, public parks and seaside holidays. It was a new age of great change too around our coasts and in the evolution of what's now HM Coastguard.



On the coasts, the Preventive Water Guard (the Board of Customs force to fight smuggling) were instructed to safeguard shipwrecks from looters and the boatmen were also trained to use life saving equipment. The balance was shifting.

The birth of the Coastguard

In 1821 a government Committee of Enquiry looked into the Customs Service and determined that the Board of Customs should control the Preventive Water Guard, the Riding Officers and the Revenue's cruisers.

This new force was named the Coast Guard in 1822. But it was not until the twentieth century that the two words were joined.

In the Navy

The Admiralty stepped in and in 1831 won the right to appoint Coast Guard officers and select boatmen from paid off naval crews. This set the scene for the Coast Guard as a naval reserve and recruiting agency.

By the time Queen Victoria came to the throne in 1837, Coast Guard vigilance was praised for a great reduction in smuggling and the Admiralty gave the force naval style uniforms, drills and training on coastal defence. Life saving equipment was provided to the Coast Guard by the Board of Trade to fulfil its responsibility for safety at sea, set by the 1854 Merchant shipping act.

Admiralty – a new master

The Crimean War broke out in 1854 and every available coast guard was drafted in to help the Royal Navy, with almost 3,000 men serving. The war highlighted the problem of how to man the Fleet in time of war.

By 1856 the Coast Guard Act meant that the Admiralty took charge of the Coast Guard from the Board of Trade. Coast Guards were trained as a naval reserve to supplement naval crews, provide help for vessels in danger, taking charge of wrecks, operation of life saving equipment and involvement with lifeboats. [CG](#)

What a life

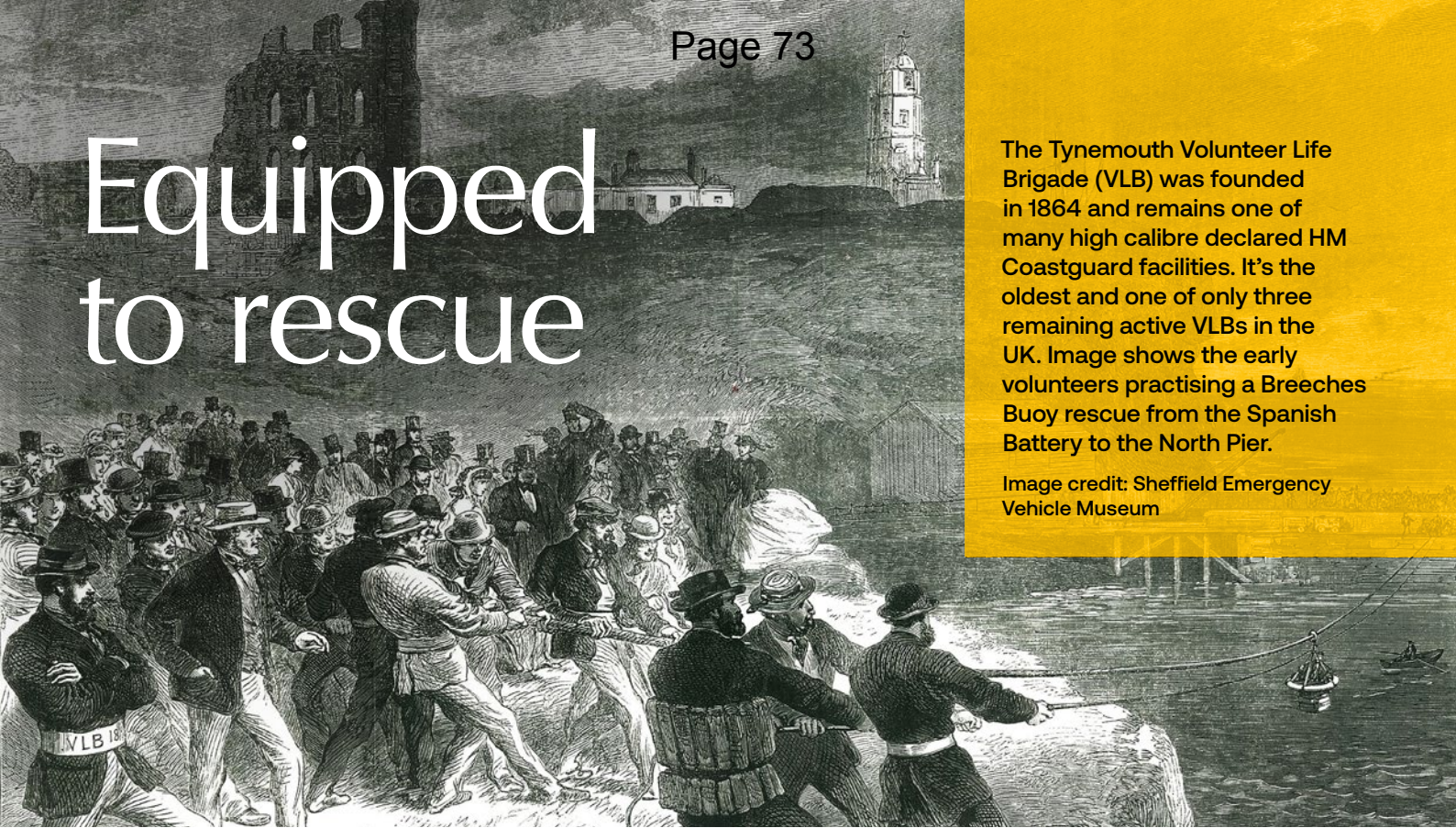
"The work was terrible. In winter we had to be on our guards by dusk and we never got back until eight next morning. The only nights we got in was when we got day watchman at the stations – about every 10 days. Even then we seldom got more than half the night off if smuggling boats were expected. I've often been that done up, I could scarcely walk home."

Memories of an old Coastguard from William Webb's history.

Equipped to rescue

The Tynemouth Volunteer Life Brigade (VLB) was founded in 1864 and remains one of many high calibre declared HM Coastguard facilities. It's the oldest and one of only three remaining active VLBs in the UK. Image shows the early volunteers practising a Breeches Buoy rescue from the Spanish Battery to the North Pier.

Image credit: Sheffield Emergency Vehicle Museum



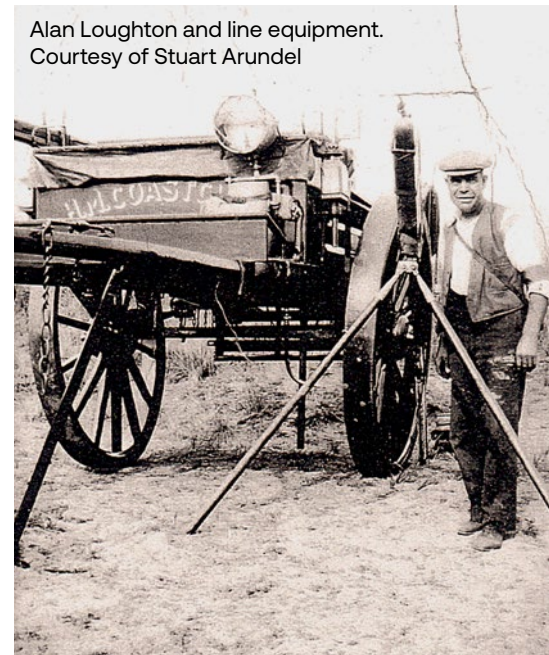
Saving lives has always been in the origins of HM Coastguard, even before it was formally adopted as a duty some 200 years ago. After all, helping others is a fundamental human instinct and humankind has always found ingenious solutions. We've taken a lookback at some of the rescue equipment of yesteryear.

Some of these early principles still exist today and they are part of a powerful combination of the use of latest technology, training, equipment and communications. See how we train for rescue success on page 12.

One of the first recorded maritime lifesavers was Captain Manby who experimented firing mortars to carry a line to a ship. His first rescue using 'Manby's Mortar' was in 1808 and by 1809, he'd added a 'cot' slung below the line which later evolved into the Breeches Buoy.



Breeches Buoy in action, Holyhead Coastguard and Auxiliary team. Credit: David Jones



Alan Loughton and line equipment. Courtesy of Stuart Arundel



Rocket crew getting ready to rescue from a stricken trawler. Courtesy of Stuart Arundel



Watchet Coastguard team in training with the Breeches Buoy in the 1990s. Credit Simon Bale

Manby's invention was officially adopted and the Preventive Water Guard were issued with his Life Saving Apparatus (LSA). Apart from rockets replacing mortars, Coastguard LSA supplied by the Board of Trade changed very little until the 20th Century brought electrically ignited rockets and lines of man-made fibre. [CC](#)

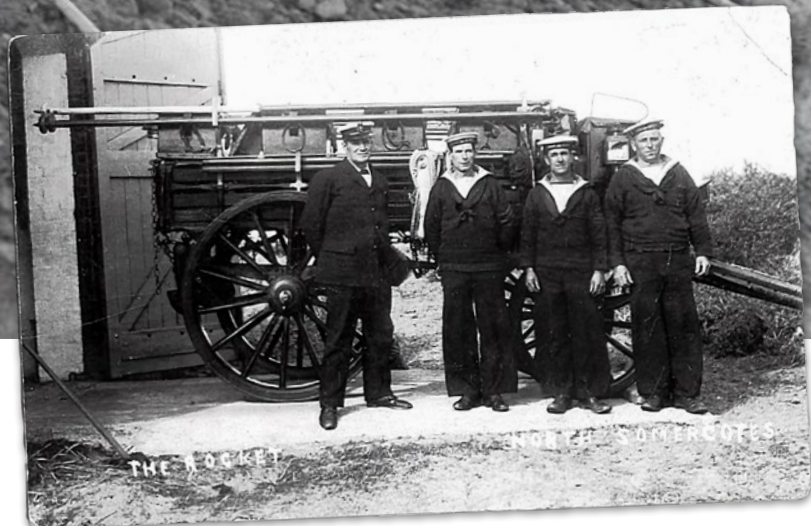
War & peace

The tragedies of the World Wars affected everyone and HM Coastguard remembers all those whose lives were lost to this day.

The German Bombardment of Whitby 16 December 1914. Coastguard Frederick Randall was killed in the attack. He left a wife and four children. Credit: Whitby CRT



Inset left: The Death Penny — a commemorative plaque in bronze given to the next of kin for those men and women whose deaths were due to the First World War of 1914–18



Donna Nook coastguards in the 1930s

Lives were turned upside down when Britain declared war on Germany in 1914 and as part of the Admiralty's naval reserve, it was just a matter of hours before coastguards joined the Navy ships.

Tragedy strikes early

The first tragedy struck in September of that year. The Cressy, Aboukir and Hogue were struck by a U boat on 22 Sept 1914. All three sank 2,200 men were on board and 1,400 were drowned, many of them coastguards. Other tragedies followed swiftly.

Ashore, coastguard stations were seriously undermanned and men were sent home to re-establish a coast watch against the enemy. Here they used their considerable skills in signalling, telegraphy and wireless to send information to the Admiralty.

Milestone moment

This wartime experience proved that a coast watching force was vital. And on 1 April 1923, the Board of Trade took responsibility for the coastguard.

By Royal sanction the force retained the title of His Majesty's Coastguard. This was the first time Britain had a specialised organisation devoted to coast watching and life saving.

The Coastguard Service Act of 1925 still allowed the Admiralty to control the Coastguard in time of national need. In May 1940, that happened as WWII approached and

4,500 Auxiliary Coastguards were recruited on National Service, in time for the start of war in September.

HM Coastguard was put on constant watch for any suspicious warship activity and 900 Auxiliary Coastguards were recruited under the National Service scheme. They had weapons, Army style khakis and courses in aircraft recognition.

Our teams played a key role during these war years. In 1945 the service was placed under the Ministry of War Transport before returning to the Marine Division of the Board of Trade in 1959. [CC](#)

Living memories

With the end of World War II, life changed for the better and so began a new era of change around our coasts. And for HM Coastguard, it was a further evolution into the full search and rescue service we're more familiar with today.



Credit: Poole Coastguard Rescue Team

Aviation now started to play a role as helicopters were becoming more widely used in the military and their ability to quickly pick up 'ditched' crews was recognised.

Upwards

By 1953, the Royal Navy started using their land-based helicopters for search and rescue. And by 2013, the Royal Navy had clocked up 60 years of helicopter search and rescue. It was time for the next phase as the Department for Transport signed a contract with Bristow Helicopters Ltd for the provision of search and rescue services to start from 2015. Responsibility for the service was fully handed over to HM Coastguard on 1 January 2016.



The Shipping Forecast

North Utsire, South Utsire, Forties...Dogger, German Bight. If any of these names sound familiar, then you've probably heard the iconic Shipping Forecast broadcast on the radio. It's the stuff of which films are made and books written and it's thought to be the longest running national forecast service in the world. It is the 'go to' for all mariners for the vital weather forecast in shipping areas around our coasts. It's produced by the Met Office on behalf of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency. And it has a fascinating language all of its own. Find out more about the [Shipping Forecast](#).



1998

Marine Safety Agency and Coastguard Agency joined to form the MCA

Credit: Crown Copyright

Swinging 60s

By the 1960s, leisure around the coasts was on the increase as was the popularity of boating. In 1960, coastguards were handling some 2,000 incidents a year, double that of the pre-war years. Communications were better too as stations began to be linked in to the 999 emergency call service and Land Rovers and radio equipped vehicles came into being.

In the 1970s women joined the service, national government safety campaigns arrived and there was even more recognition as coastguard stations had their own ensign awarded by the Queen.

The march of tech

In the 80's, mobile phones, faxes and new technology made major advances, helping news to spread around the world more rapidly than ever before. News of maritime disasters were published within hours rather than days, and that continues, making our fascinating and challenging work highly visible to anyone wanting to know more. [CC](#)

Training is gaining

Technical training is central to everything that we do. All our coastguards, from the Maritime Operations Officer you speak to in the operations room, to the Senior Coastal Operations Officer managing the team who locate and recover you, will be trained to the highest of standards by our training teams.

As soon as our coastguards begin their important roles in the operations room, they are trained in operational communications and systems, navigation, vessel traffic monitoring, search planning awareness, incident response and nautical knowledge.

Specialist training

Within the Aviation and Maritime Technical Training Team there are seven technical trainers, including a specialist aviation trainer. For aviation, new recruits begin with a 'ground school', where Senior Aeronautical Officers are taught all elements that form their operational role. Soon we will also be providing on-the-water practical experience to all maritime staff, using HM Coastguard boats.



Calling the Coastguard in an emergency situation might feel like a big step, but if you find yourself having to make 'that call', you will be met with skilful professionalism every step of the way.



Berry Head and Torbay teams training at Berry Head with the RNLB. Credit: Drew Parkinson

Penzance Coastguard Rescue Team Cliff Rescue Technician Paul Allen and Cliff Rescue Officer Gemma Summerwill. Credit: Colin Higgs

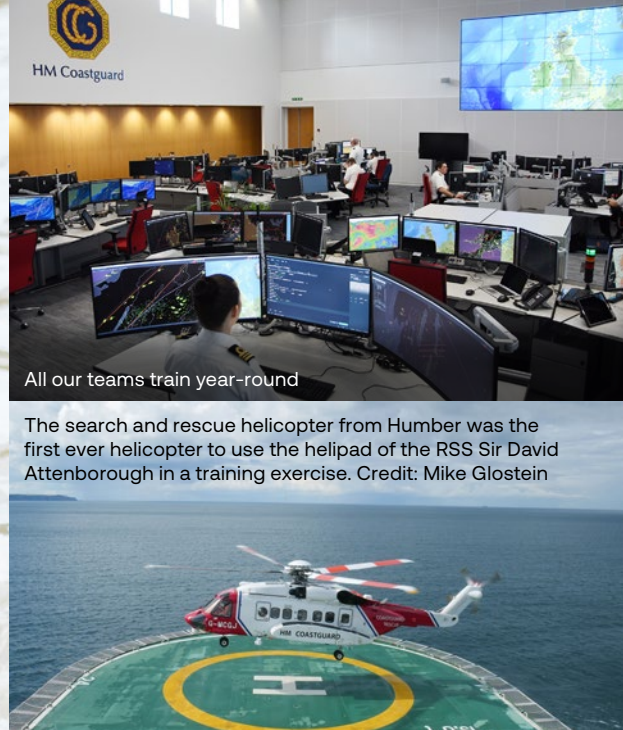
Credit: John Nield Photography



Credit: Steve Davey



Credit: Harbour Media



All our teams train year-round

The search and rescue helicopter from Humber was the first ever helicopter to use the helipad of the RSS Sir David Attenborough in a training exercise. Credit: Mike Glostein

HM Coastguard's technical rescue training has developed over the last fifteen years to become national leaders in the technical disciplines of rope, water, mud and land search.




Rope rescue training. Credit: Lee Crumpler

Recently this has also expanded to bring casualty care and driving capabilities into the team, with the addition of two new roles to lead each of these disciplines.

Full qualifications

The Technical Rescue Training Team takes new-entry Senior Coastal Operation Officers (SCOOs) through from the day that they arrive in the agency to full qualification over the space of around eighteen months. Face-to-face training is supported by both a workbook and online e-learning modules. Revalidations are also part of the training cycle with all coastal staff having regular contact with technical rescue trainers to keep their skills current and up-to-date with the latest changes.

Simulating Situations

Our face-to-face training takes part at a range of training sites to give coastguards different environments to develop their skills and then allow them to put those skills into practice in real-world scenarios. In 2015, the Training Centre itself was relocated from Highcliffe, Dorset, to Lee-on-Solent in Hampshire, allowing for a brand-new training facility alongside a high-end simulated cliff top. 

Let's talk tech

“999 Coastguard please”

What really happens when you call for help?



Our operations room controllers work together as a team, co-ordinating rescues and all the emergency responders. Seen here are some of the ‘tools’ they use. On the left is a touchpad keypad for instant calls and communications with rescue teams on the ground. Second from left is the screen which shows the input of all information about the incident. The blue screen (2nd from right) shows an illustration of search planning.



HOW TO CALL FOR HELP:



If you've been unlucky enough to have called us for help, you may have been speaking to one operator but behind them there's a whole team that's seamlessly leaping into action at the same time. What does it take and how do they do it?

The highly skilled teams in the operations centres use a full ‘technology toolkit’ to help co-ordinate search and rescues. From an operations room nerve centre, technology allows teams to plan, share information and work closely with the thousands of incredible volunteers, coastal officers and fellow emergency services partners across the UK.

Live incident command system

Alerts may be received by phone, VHF radio and other alerting systems such as Personal Locator Beacons (PLB) but the rapid response is the same. The operator inputs all the available information into a live incident command system, every report is logged and automatically numbered and this information can be seen by all authorised users, anywhere.

The system lets the controller zone into area maps and the location of ‘assets’ such as Coastguard Rescue Teams, blue light partners and others such as the RNLI and independent lifeboats. From here, they can ‘drag and drop’ the buttons for the assets into the incident to ask them to attend, which HM Coastguard calls ‘tasking’. The alerting and tasking system also sends a text to our incredible teams of volunteers.

A touchpad communications system is nearby and the operators


can use this to call and speak to emergency services responders and other control rooms including police, fire and rescue and ambulance.

Search planning

An important tool is a search planning system for those in difficulty in the water. This uses live data that takes into account the tides, wind speed and even the wave height in an area that can be pinpointed to the exact last known location of the casualty.

It helps forecast how far the person or people may have moved over periods of time so those sent to search the area such as a rescue team searching the coastline, a lifeboat or helicopter can be sent to the most likely location.

Help us to help you

Knowing where you are and being able to provide your location if you ever need to call for help really does help us to help you. [Find out what tech should be in your ‘toolbox’](#) 

SEE THE VIDEO, HEAR THE CALL

Paddleboarder Alfie is rescued – hear the real life emergency call



New radio network

Fibre technology that will give HM Coastguard even more options for hi-tech lifesaving search and rescue telecommunications is rolling out across the UK in a £175m upgrade.

The new state of the art search and rescue radio network uses fibre technology and will allow coastguards to continue to receive distress calls from all maritime users and seafarers and co-ordinate rescue operations.

The new fibre technology will replace the legacy copper-based network which will become increasingly outdated.



Credit: Julie Sloan

Radio sites such as Belfast, St Margaret's Hope, Lough Navar and Lee-on-the-Solent have already been switched over to the new network. These sites will closely be followed by all 165 remote radio sites over the next two years.

The replacement technology will bring improvements across the radio network such as increased security and bandwidth. This will allow further investment in advanced search and rescue technology that requires a digital connection and high bandwidth, to enhance life-saving operations, where every second is essential.

The new network is being built and maintained by Telent Technology Services Ltd, and as they lay new fibre cables around remote areas of the UK, it could also enable members of the public close by to access superfast broadband services from their supplier. [cc](#)

Satellite heroes

They're the unsung heroes of search and rescue which have helped to save countless lives over the last four decades.

Cospas-Sarsat, the international satellite system for search and rescue, has played a vital part in search and rescue operations since their introduction in 1982.

These satellites are capable of picking up signals from emergency 406 MHz distress beacons set off anywhere in the world.

Whether the signal is from a commercial plane or a walker in the mountains, the principle is the same. As soon as a beacon is activated its signal is picked up by satellites which

begin sending information back to earth within minutes.

Three types of beacons are picked up by Cospas-Sarsat satellites:

- **Emergency Locator Transmitters (ELT)**, which are used in aviation;
- **Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRB)**, which are used in maritime, and;
- **Personal Locator Beacons (PLB)**, which can be used by individuals in any environment.

Each type of beacon transmits a unique digital code containing beacon details and the country code which the beacon is registered to. If an alert is triggered in the UK, or is UK coded, information is sent to the Mission Control Centre, based at the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre, in Fareham where operators are ready to react. The beacons also have a built-in homing frequency which is used to guide rescuers to their location. [cc](#)



The 999 family

It is often said that those who carry out search and rescue are like a family. They care for each other and those they serve. Across its 200-year history, Her Majesty's Coastguard has become an active part of an extended family, not just here but across the world.



Credit: David Edwards

One team, one aim. To search, to rescue and to save. From the moment that distress call comes in, to that moment that someone is pulled to safety, the search and rescue community will strive together to find them.

While HM Coastguard is the organisation which coordinates the search and rescue, it doesn't see itself as more important than those who work with it. Whether it's the RNLI or independent lifeboats and lifeguards, or the National Coastwatch Institution – every one of them has a part to play from the moment that distress call comes into our maritime rescue coordination centres.


On the ground, we regularly assist our other emergency service friends – police, ambulance and fire. Sometimes these are difficult and sensitive incidents and involve many hours of searching alongside each other, using each of our unique skills to do all we can in response to an emergency.

Most people hear HM Coastguard and think of stormy seas and crumbling clifftops, but we're also to be found supporting our friends in mountain rescue across the UK.

We work with emergency services when they ask us to support them with our helicopters which are often found assisting the mountain rescue teams on the ground. Even the most experienced mountaineer or hiker can be caught out by the conditions and sometimes in the most difficult places to get to. Our helicopter crews have supported rescues working with emergency services and the mountain rescue teams to get people to safety.

You may well also have heard about our involvement in supporting maritime safety at global events and incidents – our coastguards provided support to the NHS during the pandemic, worked alongside other emergency services and partners at COP26 and G7 and their water rescue skills were employed for dealing with flooding.

Our links with the Coastguard Association are also part of the family life – you never really stop being part of the 999 Family and they support those who once served.

All one family. All one team.
All one aim. 



Credit: Royal Foundation

The Royal Foundation

Emergency services across each of the home nations have committed to a uniform approach to supporting the mental health of their emergency responder workforce.

In a UK first, The Chief Officers of the National Police Chiefs Council, National Fire Chiefs Council, Association of Ambulance Chief Executives and HM Coastguard have made a public pledge on behalf of their organisations at The Royal Foundation Emergency Services Mental Health Symposium.

An uplifting sight

Flying to the Rescue



Our iconic helicopters with their distinctive red and white livery are sent to the rescue at any time of the day or night, co-ordinated by the specialist teams at the ARCC, the Aeronautical Rescue Coordination Centre which works closely with our maritime operations centres.

With a trained winch paramedic on board, they are sent to incidents in which people, often lone casualties require rescuing as well as coastal and maritime searches. In addition to that, about a third of the work is undertaken on behalf of other government departments.

2020 in numbers	513 people rescued by helicopter	1,021 people assisted by helicopter
1,932 people assisted by fixed wing	2,187 incidents attended by helicopter	230,010 nautical miles flown by our fixed wing – that’s 10 times around the world

Fixed Wing

In 2020 Coastguard fixed wing aircraft flew nearly double the amount of anticipated flying hours which reflects the overall increase in demand for coastguard aviation. The types of missions flown in the last year include:

- Search and rescue
- Border protection
- Counter pollution
- Fisheries protection
- Search and rescue top cover



“Mayday!”

‘Mayday’ is an internationally recognised distress call for radio communications. It’s used for vessels and people in serious trouble at sea and in the aviation world. The term was made official by an international telecommunications conference in 1948, and is an anglicising of the French “m’aidez,” (help me).

Life as a Coastguard

Then and now

Porthleven family

For nearly a century, a member of the Strike family has watched over Porthleven's rugged coastline.

Chris, the fourth generation of Strike to receive his 20 year medal. And he'd love to see his daughter become the fifth generation to don the uniform.


"If you add up all of our years of service, we have 213 years between us and we are very proud of that."

The town was infamous for shipwrecks and has experienced its share of disasters.

And from 1928, there has been a Strike on duty to protect its shores – starting with Frank when he joined the Porthleven Auxiliary Coastguard (which became the Coastguard Rescue Service).

Three of his sons Frank (31 years), Alec (36 years) and Vic (22 years) each surpassed the 20-year milestone as have Alec's sons Tony (38 years, not retired) and Iain (31 years).

Chris (son of Iain) has also now reached his two-decade milestone and hopes to go on to become Station Officer.

"I would like that," he said. "The three generations above me became Number One, as it was known then, and I would like to keep that tradition alive." 



Above: Frank Strike fired the line to the St Anne, which was wrecked on Porthleven beach in 1931, saving all 7 crew. He's seen here holding a cannonball. (Image courtesy of Museum of Cornish Life)



Training was a bit closer to the edge when this picture was taken. Frank (second from right) started the family tradition when he joined in 1928.

Meet Chaplain Tom


Life can be a tough old place to be. Serving in a blue light service can place a heavy toll on individuals, teams, their relationships and their families. Caring for the carers is an important part of HM Coastguard's work – and now it has appointed its first ever full-time chaplain, Revd Tom Ebbens.

Tom is a coastguard through and through. As a student, he signed up as a volunteer with Aberystwyth Coastguard Rescue Team, went on to serve in numerous Maritime Rescue Coordination Centres and from there went on to become a Senior Coastal Operations Officer in Cornwall.

But he is also a person with a deeply profound, yet quiet faith. His faith journey led him to be ordained in June 2021 but also to explore the possibility of supporting his fellow coastguards as a chaplain.

He said: "I've been in the coastguard service for 12 years now and understand how it feels to be a serving coastguard. I also know how sometimes people need a friend to talk with, to explore difficult situations with and to just listen to them."

"We experience the highs of rescue but also the lows of tragedy and loss. Those incidents stay with you and sometimes you can't help but take that home with you."

"What the chaplaincy does is help create a space for people, regardless of whether they have faith or not, where they can talk through the things that trouble them. It's important to support people where they are and that's what chaplaincy is all about." 



Protecting our coasts

Here's a brief look at some significant events that have shaped the way we safeguard our coasts today.

Sea Empress – February 15, 1996

The Sea Empress oil tanker hit rocks as it entered the Milford Haven Estuary and was damaged below the waterline. Over the next few days, severe weather hampered attempts to bring the vessel into Port and over 72,000 tonnes of oil were released into the sea.

120 miles of the coastline were contaminated and there was serious impact on marine and coastal ecosystems, including damage to thousands of seabirds.

This incident led to the creation in 1999 of the role of the Secretary of State's Representative for Maritime Salvage and Intervention (SOSREP). The SOSREP works alongside HM Coastguard and the MCA but is entirely independent to enable rapid decision making during those maritime incidents around the UK which present a risk to safety or significant pollution. This role was to be pivotal in avoiding wide-ranging environmental damage 11 years later during the Napoli incident.



MSC Napoli, 2007

The 53,000 tonne container ship was intentionally run aground on the Jurassic Coast in January 2007 having suffered severe structural damage during a storm in the English Channel.

Following the successful evacuation of all crew, the initial plan was to tow the vessel to Portland but it became apparent the ship, with 4000 tonnes of fuel and 2300 containers on board, was at risk of sinking which would have resulted in a huge environmental catastrophe and serious navigational hazard.

Around 300 tonnes of fuel and 114 containers entered the water during and after the grounding but this could have been much worse. The SOSREP's decision to beach the vessel was deemed the least-worst possible outcome.

Items from the containers washed up in Lyme Bay leading 'looters' to flock to the area. Police warned that those removing goods without notifying HM Coastguard's Receiver of the Wreck faced fines.

HM Coastguard's Receiver of Wreck is responsible for investigating the ownership of any wreck and advertising it to give the owner a chance to claim it. If you recover wreck it must be reported within 28 days or you could face a fine.

MSC Napoli

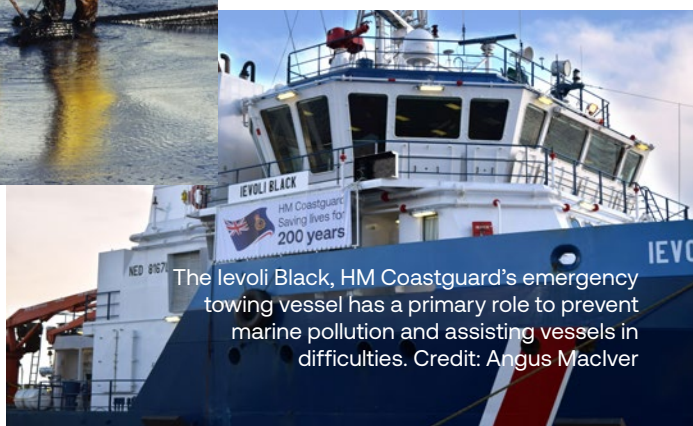


Herald of Free Enterprise, 1987

The Ro-Ro ferry, heading for Dover, capsized minutes after setting sail from Zeebrugge in Belgium on March 6, 1987. 193 people lost their lives in the disaster.

The inner and outer bow doors had been left open as the vessel left the harbour causing the sea to immediately flood the deck.

This incident led to the formation of the UK Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) in 1989. The MAIB investigates all maritime accidents in UK waters and accidents involving UK registered ships worldwide and makes recommendations for future improvements to safety. [CC](#)



The levoli Black, HM Coastguard's emergency towing vessel has a primary role to prevent marine pollution and assisting vessels in difficulties. Credit: Angus MacIver

Transforming the future

What is UKSAR2G?



HM Coastguard's drone, helicopter and aeroplane assets undertaking their first formation flight in Wales. Credit: Ian Black, HM Coastguard, Bristow Helicopters, 2Excel Aviation

The UK Second-Generation Aviation Search and Rescue programme (UKSAR2G) is part of the Maritime & Coastguard Agency's commitment to further improving its search and rescue offering in the skies.

New technology

UKSAR2G is focussed on using new technology and aerospace capabilities to help find people more quickly, and save more lives. It draws on historic and the future anticipated growth in demand for coastguard aviation services.

As part of the programme of UKSAR2G innovations, HM Coastguard will continue to explore developments in large high endurance uncrewed aircraft, working closely with the Civil Aviation Authority.

Last year, a series of trial flights involving the use of large drones operating beyond visual line of sight were successful. Uncrewed aircraft have also been used in real missions to assist air, sea and land-based recovery teams.

What's next?

The programme's procurement phase is in progress. Six companies have been invited to bid.

It is anticipated a contract will be awarded to the successful bidder or bidders in 2022, with an expected service starting autumn 2024. [CG](#)

For further information:

Visit gov.uk/mca/uksar2g

Email uksar2g@mcga.gov.uk

In numbers

When the Coronavirus pandemic hit in 2020, one thing didn't change; we remained ready and prepared to respond, sometimes in the most difficult of conditions. Our employed and volunteer coastguards worked shoulder-to-shoulder with the other emergency services in the provision of mutual aid in support of the wider response to the pandemic. It included providing aviation support to the National Health Service to move patients; pro-active patrols of our busier beaches and coastal communities and involvement in high-profile incidents beyond our usual work, such as taking the lead role in rescuing people from the train derailment at Stonehaven in Scotland.

33,580

incidents were responded to (up from 31,234 in 2019)

1,750

flying hours flown by the fixed wing aerial reconnaissance service

1,975

taskings for our helicopters

17,000

kilometres of UK coastline covered

40m

people were reached on social media about beach safety

102

operational staff in the Coastguard Rescue Service

3,500

volunteers (average) in 308 teams

See the [MCA's annual report and accounts 2020-21](#) for more.



Honours & awards

Northern Ireland

Rathlin Coast Rescue Company

Shackleton – Stricken trawler on the rocks, 1 March 1930

Steam trawler Shackleton came to a sticky end in fog and rough seas off the remote coast of Rathlin Island, County Antrim. In a 12 hour race against time, the Rathlin Life Saving Company led a group of 50 men who walked through the foggy night with heavy equipment. The lives of all 14 crew were saved using the breeches buoy technique.

The Rescue Shield historically was awarded to the life saving company for the most exceptional rescue where lives would definitely have been lost. It's among several prestigious honours including the Honorary Commodore's Award and Chief Coastguard Meritorious Service Award

England

Newhaven & Solent Coastguard District

Eendracht: Washed on a sandbank, 21 October 1998

Overwhelmed by violent gale force winds the sail training schooner Eendracht and its 51 people were washed onto a sandbank at Newhaven and battered by waves.

It took extraordinary skill to get them to safety in treacherous conditions. Two Coastguard rescue helicopters were used to airlift them. Multi agency teams were also at the scene throughout.

Scotland

Stornoway

SS Clan MacQuarrie: The storm of 31 January 1953

A great storm blew that snowy night and the 66 crew of the Clan MacQuarrie were in mortal danger as it was driven onto the shore at Borve, Isle of Lewis. Winds gusted up to 100mph. All 66 on board were saved by the biggest ever breeches buoy rescue which still retains the world record.

Wales

Llandudno & Rhyl Rescue Companies

Life threatening flooding: 26 February–2 March 1990

Coastguard Rescue Teams from Llandudno and Rhyl were among the rescuers who worked as one team, day and night to help thousands of people when a storm hit the North Wales coast. Sea defences were broken. At Towyn, the sea flooded the streets and about 5,000 people were evacuated from their homes.

Since then, HM Coastguard has specially trained teams in flood rescue. [CG](#)

Fit for the future

Although we were born 200 years ago, today's Coastguard is always looking to the future, and we're constantly striving to find new and innovative equipment and ways of working to help save lives.

In summer 2021, the first operational drone flight joined manned helicopters, fixed-wing aeroplanes, boats and cliff rescue teams on lifesaving missions at sea and over land in North Wales as well as taking part in a series of major training exercises with other 999 teams. Remotely piloted aircraft can enhance situational awareness for emergency responders. They can send live images from the scene to coastguard operations rooms as well as other responders and can be available on scene for extended periods. The drones will begin being used operationally in 2024.

In 2022, HM Coastguard's operations rooms will get a further boost with a new state-of-the-art system that's been developed

specifically for us. Highly flexible, it's designed to transform the integration of all aspects of search and rescue management. It will permit even closer collaboration between teams and allow coastguard operations experts to work more easily from multiple locations beyond the control rooms, with fast, real time access to live information.

The national radio network is also being upgraded to fibre technology allowing the Coastguard to invest in advanced search and rescue technology that requires a digital connection and high bandwidth. Remote communities will benefit too, with those close by having access to superfast broadband.

“Keeping people safe on the sea and around the coast, will always be a priority for HM Coastguard. Using new and cutting-edge ways to modernise search and rescue, such as remotely piloted aircraft (drones), and ever evolving methods of detection could prove the difference between life and death, so technology like this has a vital role to play.”

CLAIRE HUGHES,
DIRECTOR OF HM COASTGUARD

While saving lives is our number one priority, saving the planet is really important to us too. ‘We started to invest in electric cars last year’, says James Burke, HM Coastguard’s Resources Manager. Following trials, six Mitsubishi Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles have been purchased and our Chief Coastguard has even been putting the Outlander to the test in his local area. We’re also in the process of procuring 19 fully electric Hyundai Ionic 5s – they’ll be used as staff cars UK-wide. And we’re continuing to identify ways to electrify our fleet where operationally possible by 2027, trialling and integrating electric models as they arrive on the market. It’s our ambition to replace the whole fleet with battery electric vehicles over the next 5 years, although it will be a couple of years before commercial 4x4s are available.’

As well as new eco-friendly vehicles, the Coastguard Rescue Service (CRS) will also soon be benefitting from a new internal website to host operational support material along with a digitised incident log to capture live data. The new website will provide an online training resource which records training achieved and reminds coastguard officers when they need to refresh their skills while another platform will capture all equipment needs.

The twin to the Coastguard Rescue Service website will be a new external HM Coastguard website, due to be launched during HM Coastguard’s 200th year. The website will provide a platform for safety campaigns, helping us be even more effective in ensuring that everyone knows what to do in an emergency at sea and along the coast. [CG](#)

Remotely piloted aircraft. Credit: Ian Black, HM Coastguard, Bristow Helicopters, 2Excel Aviation.



The new Mitsubishi Outlander plug-in hybrid car on display at the Emergency Services Show.



Maritime &
Coastguard
Agency

Safer lives,
safer ships,
cleaner seas

The bigger picture

Her Majesty's Coastguard is one of the UK's four frontline emergency services. But as the search and rescue arm of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) it's also part of a much wider maritime safety organisation.

The MCA is an executive agency of the Department for Transport (DfT) and works to prevent loss of life on the coast and at sea. The MCA's vision is to be a world-leading organisation, accelerating the transition to sustainable shipping with non-negotiable safety standards. The MCA puts our people, our customers and our planet at the heart of everything we do. That vision drives our commitment to safer lives, safer ships, and cleaner seas.

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infoline@mca.gov.uk

Main switchboard: 0203 817 2000

www.gov.uk/mca





**POLICE
SCOTLAND**

Keeping people safe

POILEAS ALBA

Community Focus Fraud Discussion

PC Laura Evans
Partnership Liaison Officer

| Fraud – the problem



**POLICE
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POILEAS ALBA

- 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

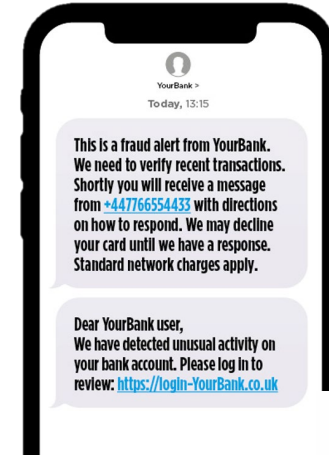
POILEAS ALBA

Emails



Telephone Calls

Text/whatsapp message



Social Media



SHUT OUT SCAMMERS

Two words that will help us beat doorstep crime "no thanks"

#WhosAtTheDoor



Bogus Callers

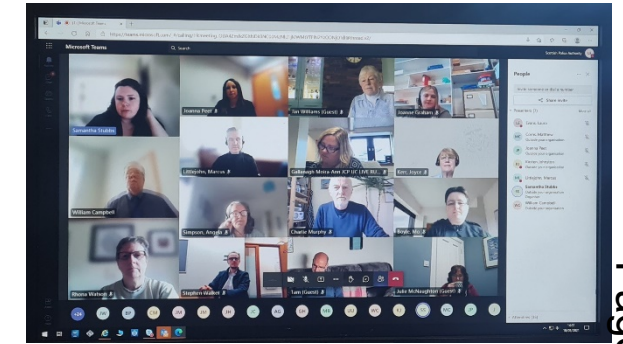


Fraud – what are we doing?



**POLICE
SCOTLAND**
Keeping people safe
POILEAS ALBA

- 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](http://Neighbourhood Watch Scotland Registration) [:: \(neighbourhoodalert.co.uk\)](http://neighbourhoodalert.co.uk)
- **WHAT CAN YOU DO to help??**



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ALIENERGY

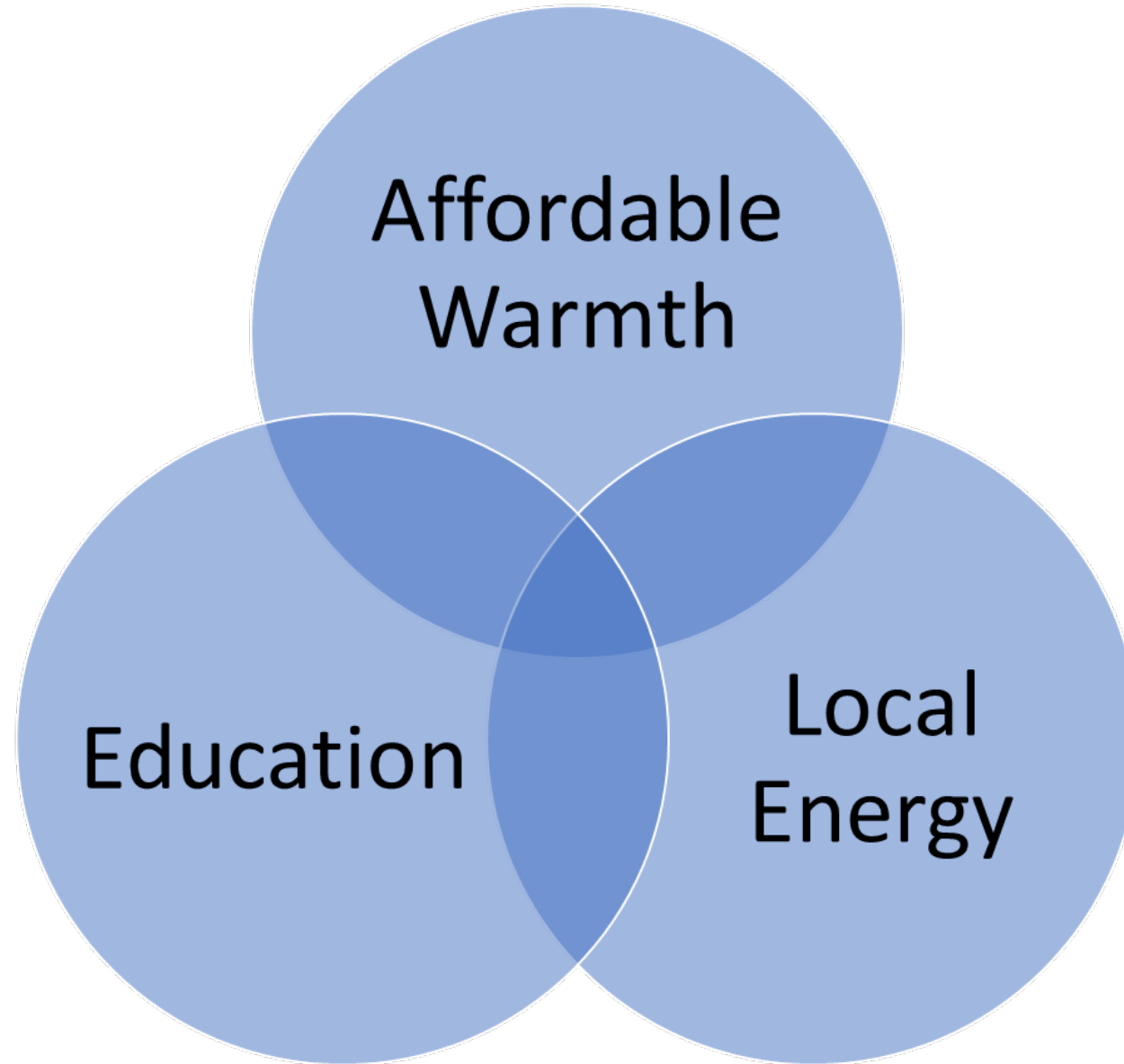
Argyll, Lomond & the Islands Energy Agency

ALlenergy Affordable Warmth Service

Lynda Mitchell

AlIenergy - Quick Overview

- Regional Energy Agency, West of Scotland
- Registered charity, embedded in local community
- Established 2000, currently 12 staff
- Aiming to promote sustainable energy and address fuel poverty
- Working on Affordable Warmth, Education, and Local Energy Projects
- Based in Oban, Argyll and Bute, Scotland



Alienergy Team

Manager – Lynda Mitchell



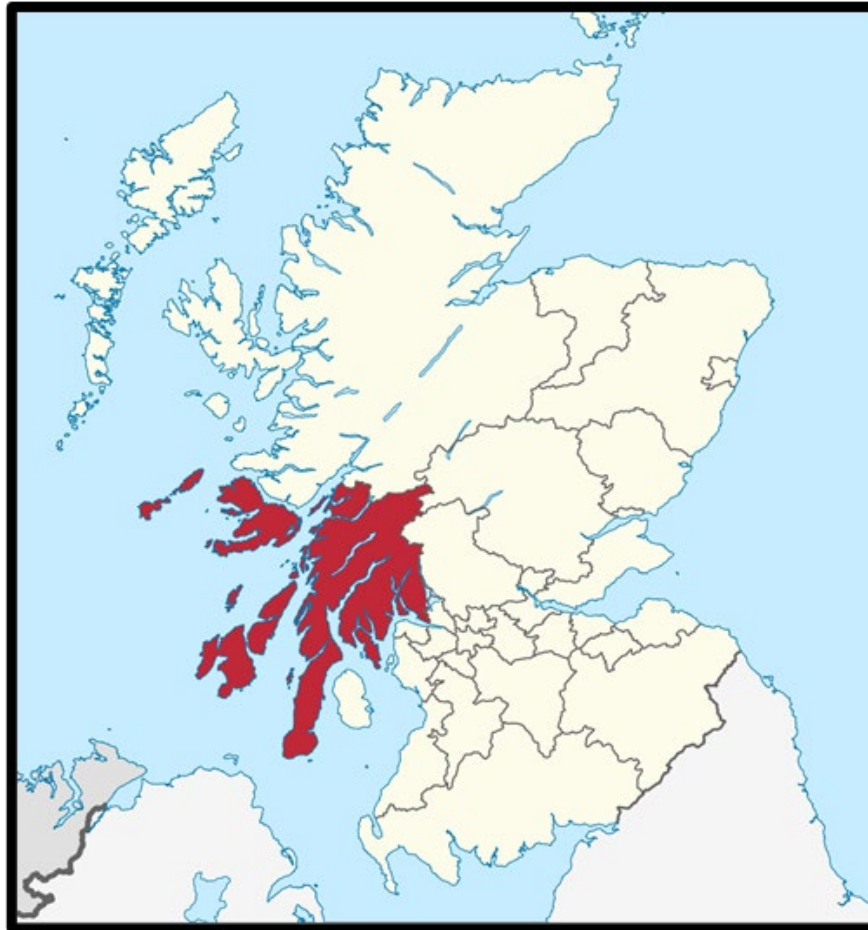
Deputy Manager and Affordable Warmth Team Leader – Rachel McNicol



Advisors– Jenny McLeish, Georgie Thomas, Caroline Cuddihy, Elizabeth Wright, Katie Evamy



Areas covered by ALIenergy's Affordable Warmth Advice Service



Argyll and Bute
~80,000 people
6,910 square km

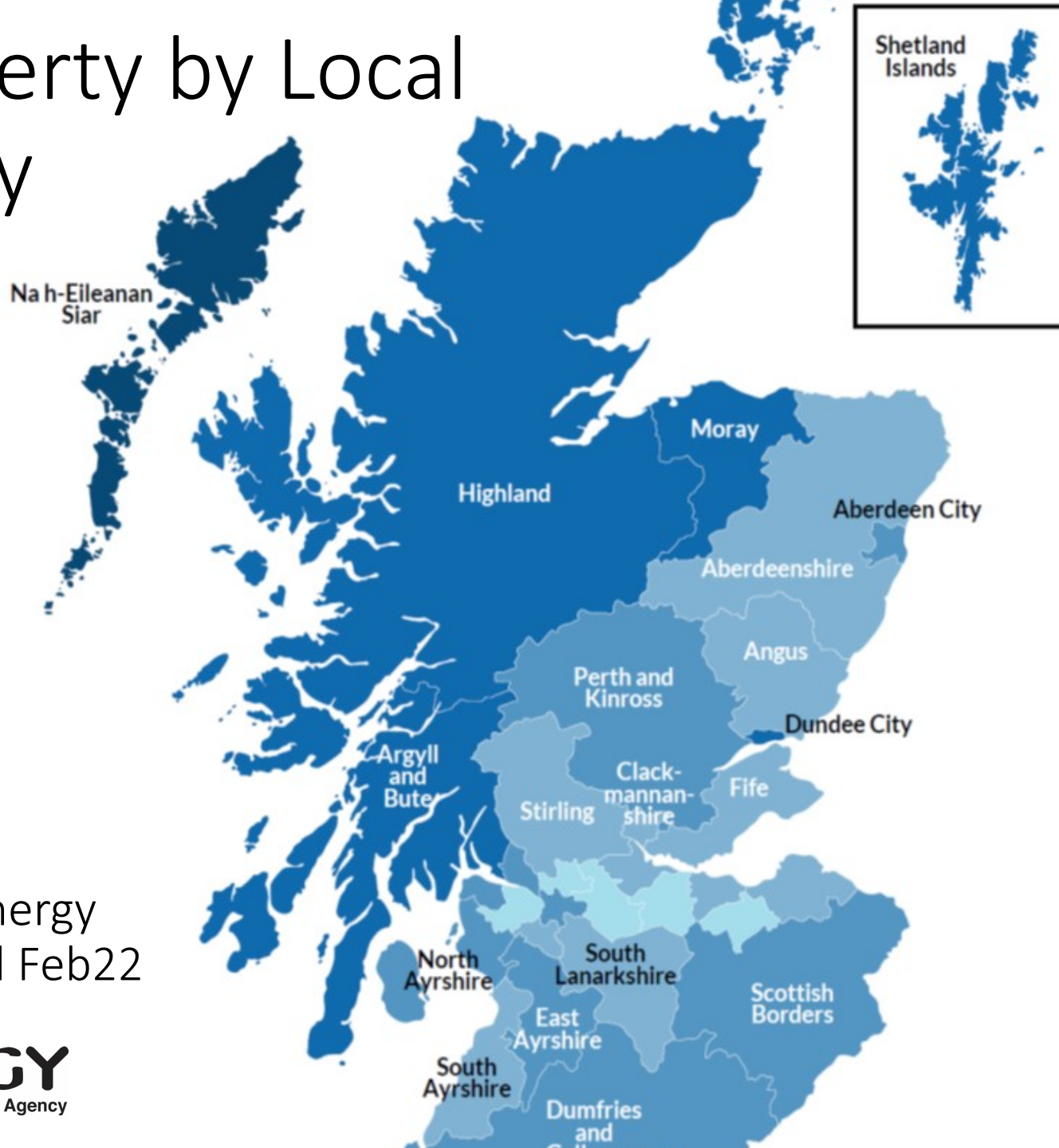


Lochaber
~20,000 people
4,400 square km

Fuel Poverty in Scotland – the Statistics

- The latest full regional Scottish Government statistics are from SHCS 2019. Adverse effect of pandemic and recent energy price crisis not yet quantified.
- In Scotland as a whole, one in four households was in fuel poverty, and one in eight in extreme fuel poverty. Far worse in remote rural areas - here, fuel poverty affected 43% of households and extreme fuel poverty, 33%. We were already facing a crisis of fuel poverty.
- Why? It's cold and dark. Housing is poorly insulated. Rural areas tend to have elderly demographics, low incomes, and mains gas is often not available. Electric heating can be 3-4 times more expensive per kWh than gas.
- The situation is now clearly worse due to the energy price crisis and other factors. April's energy price rises will see more than 40% of households in large parts of Scotland move into fuel poverty.
- Revised figures announced by the Scottish Government show that a further 211,000 households are likely to be living in fuel poverty in the coming months, an increase of more than 40% on 2019 figures.

Fuel Poverty by Local Authority



Na h-Eileanan Siar	57%
Highland	47%
Argyll and Bute	46%
Moray	46%
Dundee City	44%
Orkney Islands	44%
Shetland Islands	44%
Dumfries and Galloway	41%
Scottish Borders	41%
West Dunbartonshire	41%
Inverclyde	40%
North Ayrshire	40%
East Ayrshire	39%
Aberdeen City	37%
Glasgow City	36%
Perth and Kinross	36%
Aberdeenshire	34%
Clackmannanshire	34%
East Lothian	34%
Fife	34%
South Ayrshire	33%
Angus	31%
Falkirk	31%
Renfrewshire	31%

Map Source: Energy Action Scotland Feb22

Fuel Poverty in Scotland – the Lived Experience

Fuel Poverty isn't always an elderly person sitting by the fire, it's:

- taking the free bus for a 2 hour round trip because it's warm
- grateful the kids are in school so they're warm and getting a hot lunch
- charging your phone and laptop at work because you only have £1 left in the meter at home
- sitting in the library reading or in the pub all day because it's warmer than home
- meeting friends in a cafe instead of inviting them around because of the dampness on the walls
- grateful the kids are going to their grannies for the night because they'll be warm when they fall asleep
- wearing dirty clothes because there's not enough money in the meter to put the washing machine on
- washing once a week at the swimming pool because there's no hot water at home
- staying in bed all day as it's the only place you feel warm
- having one hot meal a week because there's not enough gas/electricity to cook
- living in one room because it's too expensive to heat the whole house
- having to choose between heating or eating

Energy advice process includes...

- Receiving referrals from network of other frontline organisations, and taking direct enquiries
- Advising on heating systems in the home and using appliances more efficiently .
- Helping to understand energy bills to make sure the charge is accurate.
- Accessing UK energy supplier's Warm Home Discount (an electricity account credit for low income households).
- Registering householders to the UK Priority Service Register if they need extra help during a power cut, rely on electric medical equipment, or require additional support.
- Liaising with suppliers about complaints, fuel debt and payments; helping to raise complaints with the Energy Ombudsman.
- Accessing schemes to receive **free appliances**: energy efficient fridge freezer, cooker or washing machine.
- Showing someone how to read and understand their meter.
- Accessing **free vouchers** for electricity and gas pre-payment meters.
- Helping people set up online energy accounts to get better deals with their supplier.
- Helping to identify causes of dampness and condensation, and reduce the effect.
- Support for householders to compare and switch tariffs and meters to better suit their property, heating and circumstances.
- Helping to identify behaviour change in the home to save energy and money.
- Providing Cosy Kits with useful small items: hot water bottles, blankets, thermal socks, cold alarms, power cut information.
- Accessing funds for **bulk heating fuel** deliveries-coal, LPG, Oil, bottled gas, wood, etc.
- Access to funds for **energy debt relief** and help with **ongoing energy bills**.
- Helping to access Scottish Government funded heating replacements and subsidised insulation measures via HES.

Did you know...

If you are struggling to afford to heat your home, you are not alone.

Over 40% of households in rural Scotland have difficulty paying their heating bills.

Contact our Affordable Warmth Team for an appointment for free and friendly advice:

Email - enquiries@alienergy.org.uk

Telephone - 01631 565 183

**Grants—Bills—Suppliers and Tariffs—Insulation
Prepayment Meters—Smart Meters—Debt Relief
Fuel Vouchers—Appliances—Home Visits**

www.alienergy.org.uk

You can also contact us through Facebook and Twitter.

This project is funded by the Energy Industry Voluntary Redress Scheme
www.energyredress.org.uk.

Scottish Charity Registration: SC032495

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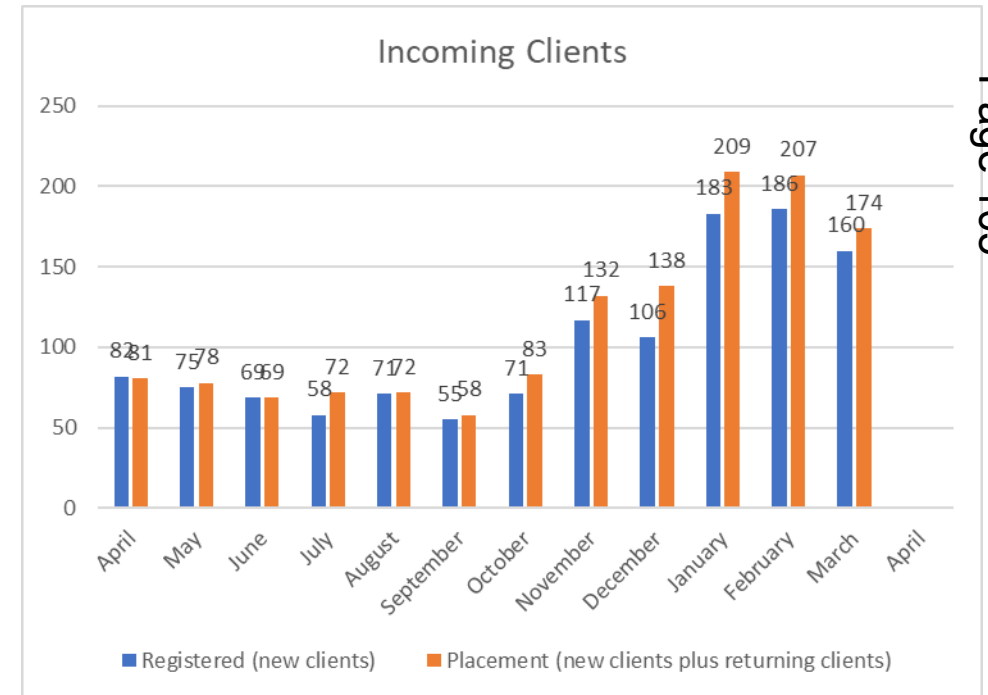
Argyll Energy Advice Service

**Free, confidential and impartial
home energy advice and support**



- Client numbers and demographics
- Immediate financial gains (cash payments, debt write-offs, fuel deliveries, electricity vouchers, appliances...)
- Value of insulation or renewable energy installations provided via HES
- Ongoing/future financial savings made through advice and interventions (such as energy efficiency improvements or behavioural changes)
- Value gained through onward referrals to any other providers (eg benefit checks).
- Health and wellbeing impacts survey.
- Estimate of carbon savings.

Measuring the Impacts



Immediate client financial gains

- **Fuel Bank Foundation:** Prepayment Meter Vouchers and bulk heating fuel deliveries can be accessed. In March 22 we issued 177 prepayment meter vouchers worth £49 each, making a quarterly total value of **£8,673**, supporting 214 adults and 142 children, who were close to or already using the emergency credit facility on their electric and/or gas meter, or had already self-disconnected. From the Fuel Bank Foundation Heat Fund in March, we secured 11 bulk heating fuel deliveries (oil, coal, firewood) worth around **£4,000** in total, direct to households who could not afford heating fuel deliveries.
- **Scottish Government Home Heating Support Fund** – Allenergy is a registered referral partner for this scheme which provides financial relief for energy debt and ongoing costs to energy consumers who are experiencing significant financial hardship regardless of the fuel or payment method used. This year's scheme opened in January and by 31/3/22 we secured client awards of at least **£45,000** in debt write off and contributions to ongoing costs.
- **Glasspool Trust** – Allenergy is a registered partner of the Glasspool Trust allowing access to funding for free white goods (cookers, washing machines, fridges, freezers) for low income households where an essential electrical appliance is missing, faulty, or very old and energy inefficient. 82 free appliances have been successfully applied for from the Glasspool charity since January 21, worth **£25,728** in total, to households where essential appliances were broken, missing, or very old and energy inefficient. That's a further 4 new ones in March.
- **Argyll and Bute Council Flexible Fund:** since this fund opened in October 21, we have made awards to 71 households in Argyll and Bute to the end of March, totalling **£18,988**. (A similar scheme with Lochaber Housing Association (Social Housing Heat Support Fund) started in January: we have given 28 awards totalling **£7000**).
- **Argyll and Bute Flexible Food Fund** - in partnership with Argyll & Bute Council, Community Foodbanks and Bute Advice Centre, which offers welfare and benefits advice alongside our affordable warmth advice. Since the scheme started in Jan21 we have engaged with 495 clients with a total overall estimated energy-related client gain of **£262,803**.

Contact: Lynda Mitchell

lynda@alienergy.org.uk

Referrals and client enquiries:

enquiries@alienergy.org.uk



Alienergy



**Alienergy (Argyll, Lomond
and the Islands Energy Agency)**



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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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Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership**Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group****26 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:

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Shona.barton@argyll-bute.gov.uk

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