



Annual Report: 2015 - 2016

Single Outcome Agreement
2013 - 2023

Argyll and Bute's economic success is built on a growing population

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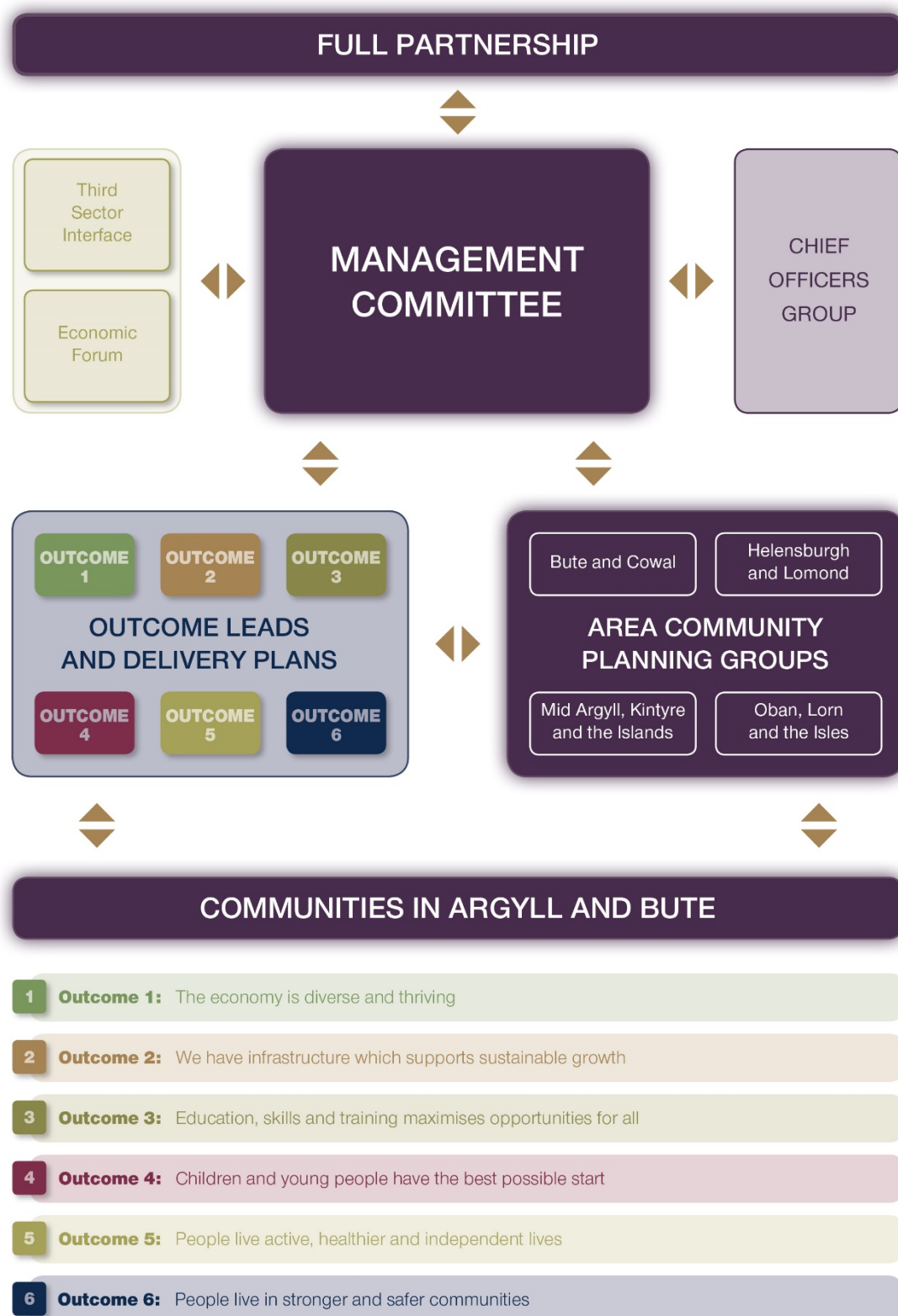
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Foreword

Community Planning in Argyll and Bute



Overarching aim: Argyll and Bute's economic success is built on a growing population

The main purpose of the Community Planning Partnership in Argyll and Bute is to address population decline and the CPP is working together on a range of outcomes to make Argyll and Bute an attractive place to live, work, visit, learn and do business in.

Whilst our population figures from the National Records of Scotland for 2015 do show a decline in overall population, the net migration figure is -23, up from -233 in 2014. This means that the difference between people coming into the area and moving out of Argyll and Bute amounts to 23 people and is hopefully a reflection of the positive work being done by all agencies to tackle population decline.

How the CPP has supported the refugees in Bute

The Council in response to the humanitarian crisis was one of the first local authorities in Scotland to announce last September its willingness to participate in the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation scheme. 15 families who were living in the countries surrounding Syria were matched to Argyll and Bute by the Home Office as part of the VPR scheme. The first 10 families arrived in Bute on a 5 year humanitarian visa on the 3rd December 2015 and 5 more families joined them on the 15th February 2016.

The Refugee Resettlement Group comprised of a number of partners including Argyll & Bute Council (housing, education, adult learning, health and social work, benefits, Business Gateway, communications), ACHA, Fyne Homes, Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue, DWP, Bute Advice Centre, Carr Gomm and Argyll and Bute TSI.

58 refugees were resettled on the Isle of Bute and this number has risen to 59 with more babies due to be born in the next few months. Families are supported to learn English to enable them to find employment, set up their own business or continue their studies.

Each family has their own support worker and the information shared with the partner agencies working daily with the families, has meant that the support delivered is regularly reviewed and adapted.

The CPP has strong relationships with all its partners and the Refugee Resettlement Group continues to build on these.

Outcome 1: The economy is diverse and thriving

Key Achievements

- ✓ £26.9m increase in turnover by supported businesses
- ✓ £22.5m increase in international sales
- ✓ 152.5 jobs supported (created/retained (FTE))
- ✓ 6 Account managed communities delivering increased community benefit
- ✓ 116 business start-ups supported

Sandbank Business Park

October 2015 saw the completion of a new building at Sandbank Business Park near Dunoon. The 724 square metre building represents a £2 million investment by HIE, including £786,000 from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). It offers flexible space for inward investors or local businesses and is particularly suited to growing companies in IT, finance and business services. Part of the building is also suitable for light manufacturing. It is capable of hosting up to 46 employees and can be used as five individual units or fewer larger units. The industrial estate and business park at Sandbank is the main commercial focus in Cowal outside of Dunoon town centre. The site has been invested in over a number of years to maximise the economic potential.

Douglas Cowan, HIE Area Manager for Argyll and the Islands, said: "Dunoon is one of Argyll's key towns and its economic success is vital to the wider Cowal area. The town's proximity to the central belt presents a major opportunity." Availability of competitively located, affordable and digitally enabled premises is essential in order to capitalise on this opportunity.

Creating opportunities for businesses to operate from Argyll is essential to boosting our economy.

£1.5 million awarded to Argyll forestry projects

Through the National Forest Land Scheme, the Scottish Land Fund awarded £750,000 to South West Mull and Iona Development Ltd to purchase the Tiroran forest on Mull and £750,000 to Kilfinan Community Forest Company to bring the remainder of the Upper Acharossan Forest near Tighnabruaich into community ownership.

South West Mull and Iona Development Ltd will manage and develop Tiroran forest to provide new employment, leisure and educational opportunities in the local area. Kilfinan Community Forest Company has plans to strengthen the Kilfinan community through providing jobs, affordable housing, leisure and educational opportunities.

The Scottish Land Fund has £9 million over four years to assist communities in rural Scotland to acquire, develop and manage local land and land assets. The programme is funded by the Scottish Government and delivered in partnership by the Big Lottery Fund and Highlands and Islands Enterprise, both of which have extensive experience of helping communities to acquire and develop their assets for over a decade.

Economic growth cannot be achieved by the statutory agencies alone, we need to continue to work with our communities to enable them to boost their local economy.

Outcome 2: We have infrastructure which supports sustainable growth

Key Achievements

- ✓ 59 affordable social sector new builds completed
- ✓ 97.4% of Planning Applications Approved
- ✓ 658 new homes given planning consent
- ✓ Facilitated the creation of a partnership working arrangement (HMND Strategic Delivery and Development framework) with the Royal Navy, MoD and Community Planning partners to deliver HMNB Clyde as the Royal Navy Centre of Specialisation for Submarines.
- ✓ Worked in partnership with communities and the Scottish Government to deliver Charrettes for Rothesay, Tiree and the Crinan Canal corridor.
- ✓ Launched interactive “Where to Go Outdoors” on the council website to promote tourism.

Investment in Helensburgh

Helensburgh is Argyll and Bute’s largest town situated on the north bank of the river Clyde and benefits from a high quality of environment coupled with short travel time to the Glasgow conurbation as well as picturesque Loch Lomond. There are also significant employment opportunities in the area generated from HM Naval Base Clyde (Faslane) which is being expanded by the Ministry of Defence.

There has been little new housing development over the past 20 years and expansion has been limited for a variety of reasons including a lack of deliverable sites, greenbelt restrictions and a Conservation Area which is largely at capacity. In the past 5 years the Council and its partners have sought to invest in Helensburgh to improve its attractiveness and stimulate growth. Many of the projects are now complete and outcomes on the ground have won national awards.

Projects / Outputs:-

- ✓ Housing allocations & Strategic Greenbelt releases– over 750 new homes allocated in 2015 Local Development Plan
- ✓ Town Centre First Development – Council invested £9m in new Civic Centre bringing 180 staff into town from a cluster of other sites. These other sites are being sold off for new opportunities. The new Civic Centre also secured future of vacant listed building.
- ✓ £7m of Town Centre Public Realm Improvements- including new town square, wider pavements, outdoor museum & improved esplanade. Has won 2 National Awards in 2016 including RIAS Overall Award and a Scottish Design Award.
- ✓ New Housing Allocations have triggered 4 Major Applications for housing
- ✓ Council is working in partnership with MOD on a Strategic Delivery and Development Framework for the expansion of HMNB Clyde.
- ✓ New Secondary School and Supermarket to east of town
- ✓ Delivered planning contributions to uplift attractiveness of town centre
- ✓ Completed new affordable housing at former secondary school site
- ✓ Adopted a Masterplan for Helensburgh Pierhead and committed over £5m for new swimming pool and mixed use development in Town Centre
- ✓ Successfully obtained over £2m of Heritage Lottery Funding to restore historic Hermitage Park

All these projects have come together to boost the attractiveness of the Helensburgh area making it a desirable place to work, live, visit and learn.

Asset transfer and regeneration of key buildings in Campbeltown

Described by Historic Scotland as 'One of Scotland's finest town houses' in 2009 it was announced that Campbeltown Town Hall was being mothballed. The Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) team played a key role in identifying a new use for the building that led to an asset transfer to South Kintyre Development Trust (SKDT) and a full repair and refurbishment scheme.

Argyll & Bute Council worked in partnership with SKDT to develop and deliver the project and contributed £387,000 of THI funding and £330,000 CHORD funding contributing to the £2m costs as well providing guidance and input to the project.

THI funded works included; re-roofing, leadwork, stonework, refurbishment of windows, removal of failing paint and application of mineral paint.

In addition to the THI and Council CHORD funding, Argyll & Bute Council worked with SKDT to secure almost £1M from the Big Lottery Fund and £224,800 from Historic Environment Scotland.

The building has re-opened as a multi-purpose facility and focal point for community activities. It is now fully accessible to all and is proving popular as a venue for weddings and other functions.

The refurbishment of Campbeltown Town Hall is a great example of statutory agencies working with the community to create economic and social benefits for the Campbeltown area.

Electric Vehicles

The Community Planning Partnership was awarded £40,000 in 2015-16 from the Switched on Fleets initiative through Transport Scotland for electric vehicles. A multi-agency working group was established and worked together throughout the year to look at options on how best to use the grant and then to support Argyll College in taking up the grant and leasing of 3 electric vehicles.

There was concern and scepticism about the workability of electric vehicles given the geography, inclement weather and location of charging points however investment in the charging point infrastructure led to the installation of several rapid chargers over the past year and there are now a number of electric vehicle charging points throughout Argyll and Bute.

The knowledge and expertise of partner fleet departments came together to support Argyll College with their leasing of these electric vehicles and investment in the infrastructure has made the use of electric vehicles within our area a real possibility.

Outcome 3: Education, skills and training maximises opportunities for all

Key Achievements

- ✓ 47 skills for Work courses offered by schools/partners
- ✓ Curriculum Planning Meetings held with Argyll College UHI and each secondary school
- ✓ 100% of looked after children have a pathway plan in place
- ✓ 510 work placements for S4 to S6 pupils
- ✓ 16 training programmes arranged re local job market
- ✓ 10 schools incorporating community contribution within their learning programmes
- ✓ 55 young people engaged in youth forums
- ✓ 61 young people attending Involvement Training
- ✓ 93.1% of young people in S4, S5 and S6 making positive and sustained post-school transitions

Working in partnership to support children and young people from our armed forces families in Helensburgh and Lomond.

Schools in Helensburgh and Lomond have approximately 800 children and young people from Armed Forces families. These children and young people are regularly without a parent during deployments and can be without any communication or knowledge of where the submarine is. Children and young people from these families can often change schools and geographical locations more frequently too.

A range of initiatives are now in place in the Helensburgh and Lomond area to support families which include:

- ✓ Maths Recovery – early intervention programme to identify any gaps in learning through changing of schools
- ✓ Service Pupil Advisor – liaison between the Armed Forces community, the Royal Navy and the Education provision in the Helensburgh and Lomond area to offer support to submariners and their families moving to the area
- ✓ Seasons for Growth – an educational life skills programme teaching children and young people the skills to develop resilience and cope with change, loss and grief in their lives. This has been delivered in partnership from the council's Youth Services team, the Service Pupil Advisor and the Royal Navy Royal Marines Welfare team which resulted in 60 children and young people benefitting from the programme compared to 24 in previous years.
- ✓ Creation of a professional learning community made up of primary and secondary education staff and the third sector
- ✓ Military Kids Club Heroes – run by Armed Forces parents in two schools for Armed Forces children to come together and support each other
- ✓ Creation of a Story Book Project to provide a library of books and resources to support children and young people when a parent is deployed.
- ✓ Film project at Hermitage Academy to raise awareness of life as a child or young person from an Armed Forces family living in Helensburgh and Lomond.

Working in partnership is essential to ensuring that these initiatives happen and that the welfare and educational stability for Armed Forces children and young people is in place.

Annual Participation measure for 16 to 19 year olds in Scotland

In 2012 the Scottish Government made an explicit commitment to offer a place in learning or training to every 16-19 year old in Scotland who is not currently in employment, education or training. This Opportunities for All (OfA) pledge aims to ensure all young people are supported in their path to sustainable employment.

To deliver this commitment, the Government asked organisations involved in supporting young people to share the information they hold on each individual's needs to create a shared data set, so that informed help could be provided by the appropriate agency as and when a young person needs it.

Central to the creation of the shared dataset is the sharing of information to allow partners to identify what young people are doing in 'real time' throughout their 16-19 journeys. It also allows Skills Development Scotland and partners to improve service delivery and provide a more tailored offer, helping to identify the right time to engage with customers.

- Nationally the proportion of 16-19 year olds participating in education, training or employment within the annual measure is 90.4%. In Argyll and Bute the figure is **94.2%**

Working in partnership has ensured that a wide range of opportunities are available for our 16- 19 year olds and a higher than average participation rate shows the success of these options.

Outcome 4: Children and young people have the best possible start

Key Achievements

- ✓ 100% of children affected by domestic abuse have a child's plan in place
- ✓ 45% reduction in youth offending across Argyll and Bute
- ✓ 99% of nurseries participated in the Childsmile Core programme
- ✓ Child Protection Committee provides strong leadership to deliver improvement across all partners in delivering multiagency response to child protection
- ✓ Kilcreggan Primary School recognised at a national level as an example of best practice in the field of PE Disability Inclusion Training
- ✓ Corporate Parenting Board supports improved service for looked after children .All children houses are graded very good across every grade by Care Inspectorate
- ✓ Pilot for Family pathway to support children from birth throughout the life span is rolled out to Dunoon

Cowal Money Advice Project through the Argyll and Bute Family Pathway

As part of our Argyll and Bute Family Pathway developments, the teams from Clyde Cottage Pre5 Unit and Clyde Cottage Voluntary Nursery have worked in partnership with Argyll and Bute Citizens Advice Bureau (ABCAB) to provide money advice to parents of young families in the Cowal Area. Through the use of improvement methodology, the partnership has identified how they can support parents most effectively through building relationships and mutual trust and respect. The project ran for 6 months, with 49 families supported. In addition to advice on rights and support with managing debt, families in the Cowal area benefitted from a financial gain of £79,783 by the end of the project. This will have a significant impact on children and families in the Cowal area, reducing inequalities and increasing aspirations for parents to ensure their children have the best start possible.

Care Leaver given mentoring opportunity

In 2006 James was accommodated into Local Authority (LA) care aged fourteen as his mother's dependency on alcohol left her unable to meet his basic care needs. Over a period of time, an appropriate relationship with a teacher and her husband was formed who were assessed and approved as Long Term Foster Carers for James. James left LA care in 2008 and has remained with his foster carers since then. In 2008, one of his ambitions was to return to the LA Care Home as a member of staff and share his experience with other young people.

Staff members at the Care Home still keep in contact with James and saw an opportunity for James to become involved in the "Young Inspector Project". James was successful in his application and training and is currently Argyll & Bute's first Young Inspector on a voluntary basis.

James reports his ambition to return as a 'member of staff' has been fulfilled and believes his own experiences empowered him with knowledge and understanding of group living. James hopes to inspire other young people living in similar circumstances and raise awareness of positive outcomes despite background, culture or ability. The next step for James to

consider could be peer mentoring given his values, ethics and strong beliefs about supporting young people.

James' experience has shown how the Corporate Parent approach of Community Planning Partners has given positive opportunities to care leavers.

Outcome 5: People live active, healthier and independent lives

Key Achievements

- ✓ 553 enhanced telecare packages in place, an increase from last year
- ✓ 283 extracurricular sports opportunities available for schools, an increase from last year
- ✓ Health and Social Care Partnership in place and operational
- ✓ 2002 Alcohol Brief Interventions delivered across Argyll and Bute
- ✓ £111,000 grant funding (120 projects) made available to community groups through the Health and Wellbeing Network grants
- ✓ 2000 “Health Assets” available on the Living It Up website
- ✓ Targeted projects focusing on enabling healthy weights and physical activities for children
- ✓ Introduction of the Branching Out programme throughout community woodlands in Argyll and Bute, a programme aimed at those with mental health problems

Branching Out Argyll

Branching Out Argyll is a partnership programme between Argyll & the Isles Coast & Countryside Trust (ACT), Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS), NHS Highland and the Community Woodland Association. Other local delivery and third sector organisation partners include community woodland groups and community transport providers, ACUMEN, link clubs and the Argyll & Bute Addictions Team.

The project provides 12-week programmes of outdoor and woodland activities for adults referred via the Community Mental Health Teams in each locality of Argyll & Bute. 16 new Branching Out Leaders across the region have received training to deliver the project, and two programmes have been completed so far; at Blarbuie Woodland Enterprise in Mid-Argyll and Kilfinan Community Forest in Cowal. A third programme is underway at Bute Community Forest. Partnership working with Interloch Community Transport has contributed towards the success of the programmes in Cowal and Bute with a door-to-door supported service for participants.

Each day provides a combination of physical activity, bush-craft, outdoor cooking and healthy eating, conservation for wildlife and biodiversity, green woodworking, art, mindfulness and sociable team-work. Lunch is cooked over the campfire; new skills are learned and friendships forged. 16 participants have completed programmes so far - ages ranging from 21 to 74 – and all have achieved their John Muir Discovery awards, and awards in tool use and attendance. This has helped to reduce dependency on medication or carers and decreased the likelihood of hospital admission. It has inspired them to participate in activities in the wider community, including volunteering and taking up forms of study or new hobbies. All participants report that Branching Out has had a positive impact on their lives.

Branching Out Argyll fits efficiently into existing community mental health provision. Marked improvements have been demonstrated particularly in job skills, social skills and stability leading to accelerated progress towards discharge.

ACT gratefully acknowledges the current funders - Transforming Self Management Fund (The Alliance), Integrated Care Fund for Bute and Cowal, Third Sector Fund, Forestry Commission Scotland and Bute Health and Wellbeing Fund.

Ensuring the mental well-being of individuals in our communities is a key focus of our delivery plans in addition to developing key skills.

Reducing loneliness and isolation at Christmas time

Loneliness is a significant risk to health and can contribute to poor health conditions such as dementia, heart disease and depression. The Health and Wellbeing Partnership has raised awareness of this issue for the past 2 years following a learning event attended by 50 people in December 2014.

Loneliness can occur at any age with people particularly at risk during life transitions such as leaving home, moving job, retirement or bereavement. Argyll and Bute has a higher number of older people and this coupled with our remote and rural geography may result in more people feeling lonely or isolated. Reducing loneliness is a community issue rather than purely a health and social care issue and third sector and voluntary groups already do lots to provide social support to people who are isolated. Christmas can be a particularly difficult time of year for people who are on their own.

Mid Argyll's Third Sector Interface (TSI) decided to tackle loneliness at Christmas and have organised a Christmas Day lunch at Lochgilphead Parish Church. A small group of volunteers made Christmas Day special for more than 40 people who might otherwise have been alone.

The gathering was supported this year through funding from the Integrated Care Fund via the Mid Argyll Health and Wellbeing Network and local businesses and individuals who made contributions of gifts and food, as well as some very generous cash donations. It was also supported by Argyll TSI and members of Heads Up.

This year volunteers also drove out to visit people who were unable to travel to the venue, and deliver them a meal.

Outcome 6: People live in safer and stronger communities

Key Achievements

- ✓ 1,643 Home Fire Safety Visits delivered by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
- ✓ 93.4% of clients with substance misuse referrals receive an appointment within 21 days
- ✓ 618 volunteers in the third sector
- ✓ 477 young people involved in topical debate
- ✓ 61 intergenerational opportunities facilitated
- ✓ Crimes of violence down by 30% compared to the previous year
- ✓ 100% of Criminal Justice service users felt that unpaid work helped them improve their skills
- ✓ Transition plan for Community Justice Bill underway

Community and partners reacts to flood at Clachan

A huge effort brought public services, private companies, farmers and the local community together to tackle severe flooding in Clachan, Kintyre, on Sunday 15 November.

From 5am, severe flooding caused by debris blocking key water courses resulted in the A83 closed due to flooding. There followed 12 hours of rescue activity involving Argyll and Bute Council with Police Scotland, the Coastguard, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, contractors Macleods, McFadyens and McNaughtons as well as local farmers, SEPA, SSE and forestry contractors.

The problems to be remedied included –

- a very large container from Clachan filling station washed into the river and at risk of being carried down to the bridge
- A83 closed due to flooding
- houses at risk or already suffering flood damage
- caravan site to be checked as empty
- concern about fuel leaking into burn
- concern for vulnerable people

The joined-up approach to responding to the flooding by partner agencies, the community and local contractors led to positive feedback from the community and the road being re-opened quickly. The priority was safety and to ensure that the local community and vulnerable people were contacted and informed regularly of what was being done during the course of the emergency.

Unpaid Work in Community Gardens

In the past 12 months the Criminal Justice Community Payback Unpaid Work scheme has continued to contribute to developing community garden projects beyond simply being areas of rest and tranquillity into self-sustaining schemes that engage the public, are maintained by volunteers, and provide produce and benefit the community.

For a number of years we have been engaged in gardening projects around Argyll and Bute. This last year we became involved with “Bute Produce”.

Bute Produce not only aims to provide local, affordable produce for the island but also hopes to help reduce local carbon emissions. Food miles contribute to approximately 3.5% of all Greenhouse Gas Emissions and thus, by reducing how far our food has to travel, Bute Produce is helping to make the island more energy efficient.

There have been many developments within the garden, including the erection of the first approved wind turbine on Bute.

We have had several successful placements at Bute Produce and all report to benefit from being involved and to have taken valuable skills with them:

- knowledge of growing fruit and vegetables from seed
- working as part of a team
- new skills including weather readings for the Met office and crop rotation
- tool and hardware maintenance.

We know that the reduction of offending contributes to making our communities safer and stronger. The significant and proven way to help offenders desist from further offending is to improve their life chances through reintegration and improving skills and opportunities for employment or volunteering.

These projects benefit their respective communities including the elderly, people with learning and physical difficulties, young people and rehabilitating offenders. Community Gardens allow families and individuals without a garden of their own the opportunity to grow and harvest fresh vegetables that can make a real difference to diet and health.

Last year 15,452 hours of unpaid work by offenders were completed in Argyll and Bute, equating to £98,893 of labour using the average minimum wage.

Alcohol and substance misuse support in secondary schools

Over the last year funding from the Alcohol and Drugs Partnership has allowed the Education Department to develop partnerships with third sector agencies in our 10 secondary schools to support the delivery of education around drug and alcohol issues and also to deliver 1:1 support for those affected by alcohol and substance misuse. Some of these partnerships have developed very effectively in this the first year with excellent 1:1 support particularly in Rothesay and Oban and excellent Education support work in Tarbert, Helensburgh and Campbeltown.

The intended target group is young people of secondary school age affected by their own substance misuse or that of others. If a young person is not attending school, outreach services have been provided. Three of the providers have also responded to requests for ongoing support over school holiday periods.

This work builds on and enhances the work undertaken in school through valuable partnerships with local alcohol programmes, guidance staff delivering PSHE lessons and health staff involvement.

The partner providers and pastoral staff in the schools have been working closely together to support young people, considering referrals from social work and local health partners. In

most cases drug education lessons and assemblies have been delivered to key groups of pupils with input from peer mediators.

Prevention

The Community Planning Partnership is committed to early intervention and prevention. Preventative spend is defined as “Actions which prevent problems and ease future demand on services by intervening early, thereby delivering better outcomes and value for money”. Such an approach is essential if the challenges facing Argyll and Bute are to be addressed successfully and in a sustainable manner.

Here is an example of what has been achieved in 2015-2016.

- ✓ Continued roll-out of the Argyll and Bute Family Pathway
- ✓ Stopping the placement of young people far away from their own communities
- ✓ Tailored support services for alcohol and drugs in each secondary school led by the Alcohol and Drugs Partnership
- ✓ A focus on the younger age group and preparing them for employment through multi-agency job clubs
- ✓ A range on prevention initiatives in the most deprived (SIMD) area of Argyll and Bute, Kirkmichael
- ✓ Focused interventions on habitual young offenders
- ✓ A collaborative approach to working with businesses when faced with challenges such as shop-lifting by school children
- ✓ Establishment of Young Firefighters group in Islay and delivery of Firesetters programme
- ✓ Supporting those who have offended to take part in Youth Services ‘GIVE’ summer programme – volunteering their time in various activities in exchange for free trips.

Argyll and Bute CPP Partner Organisations

(Logos)

Argyll and Bute Council	www.argyll-bute.gov.uk
Police Scotland	www.scotland.police.uk
Highlands and Islands Enterprise	www.hie.co.uk
NHS Highland	www.nhshighland.scot.nhs.uk
Scottish Fire and Rescue	www.firescotland.gov.uk
University of the Highlands and Islands	www.uhi.ac.uk
Scottish Natural Heritage	www.snh.gov.uk
Skills Development Scotland	www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk
Scottish Enterprise	www.scottish-enterprise.com
Argyll and Bute TSI	www.argyllcommunities.org

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The SOA Annual Report is a review of partnership working towards the ambition of the SOA. For more details of the delivery plans for 2015 - 2016 please refer to this document on our website. For more information about what individual partners are doing in Argyll and Bute, please refer to the websites of our partners.

www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/council-and-government/community-planning-partnership