

Argyll and Bute Community Learning and Development (CLD) Strategic Partnership

DRAFT CLD Plan 2018 – 2021



Department for
Work and Pensions



Foreword

Argyll and Bute

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ARGYLL AND BUTE

Argyll and Bute is located in the West of Scotland and is situated amongst some of the most attractive natural environments, locations and scenery Scotland has to offer. Gaelic plays an important part in the history, tradition and culture of Argyll and Bute and is actively promoted and spoken throughout the region. Argyll and Bute covers a very large geographical area and is the second largest local authority by area in Scotland covering almost 9% of the total Scottish land area (Census 2011).

The area's population of 86,810 (National Records of Scotland's 2017 Mid-Year Population Estimates,) live within an area stretching from Helensburgh and Dunoon along the Clyde, Loch Lomond to the East, the Mull of Kintyre to the south, Atlantic Islands to the west, and the Sound of Mull and Appin to the north. Argyll and Bute has the third sparsest population density of the 32 Scottish local authorities, with an average population density of just 0.13 persons per hectare compared to the Scottish average of 0.70 persons per hectare (Mid-Year 2017 Population Estimates).

Nearly half of Argyll and Bute's population (48.4%) live in areas classified by the Scottish Government as 'rural' while 17% live on islands. 80% of Argyll and Bute's population live within 1km of the coast. Argyll and Bute has 23 inhabited islands (Census 2011), more than any other local authority in Scotland. The physical geography of the area has restricted development of the road network in the area and leads to high levels of reliance on ferries for travel.

Argyll and Bute's changing demographic profile presents one of the area's greatest challenges.

The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2016 identified ten data zones in Argyll and Bute as being in the 15% most overall deprived data zones in Scotland. These ten are all located in towns (Helensburgh, Dunoon, Rothesay, Campbeltown and Oban).

56 of Argyll and Bute's 125 data zones (45%) are amongst the 20% most geographic access deprived data zones in Scotland.

The Council area is divided up into four Administrative Areas, which are frequently used for service planning within the area. These are

- Bute and Cowal.
- Helensburgh and Lomond
- Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands
- Oban, Lorn and the Isles

There are ten secondary schools, seventy seven primary schools and one school for pupils with complex additional needs in Argyll and Bute. In 2018 Argyll and Bute Schools were above the current national performance in Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) examinations in all four of the national measures; National 4, National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher.

Argyll and Bute's economy is predominantly service-based. Over 87% of employment in the area is provided within the service sector (Office Business Register and Employment Survey 2016).

The pattern of employment in Argyll and Bute is different to the Scottish norm with levels of employment in agriculture, forestry, fishing and tourism-related sectors being

far higher than Scottish average. There are however low levels of employment in manufacturing and finance sectors.

Unemployment rates in Argyll and Bute are below the national average although, area rates can vary according to time of year due to seasonal employment. In July 2018 the Argyll and Bute Claimant Count of people that are on JSA, or searching for work on Universal Credit, recorded 845 in total with 160 in the 18 to 24 age range. The overall figure indicates a steady decline in unemployment and equates to a 49% drop since 2013.

Although levels of volunteering have been reducing nationally, the trend in Argyll and Bute over the last five years has recorded an increase. Significantly there has been an increase of 40% from 2012 to 2016 in peer to peer support e.g. time-banking and micro-volunteering accounting for around 32,000 hours per annum. More traditional volunteering has also grown to a figure of 4,300 registered volunteers, although it is acknowledged that informal forms of volunteering account for far greater activity.

WHAT IS COMMUNITY LEARNING and DEVELOPMENT (CLD)?

Community Learning and Development (CLD) is a method of working with groups and individuals of all ages to engage in learning, personal development and active citizenship. Support is focused on disadvantaged or vulnerable individuals or groups with the aim of bringing about change in their lives and communities. The term refers to a distinctive process of engagement and support with content that is negotiated with learners.

CLD activity has a strong focus on early intervention, prevention, tackling inequalities and includes the following:-

- Community development (building the capacity of communities to meet their own needs, engaging with and influencing decision makers);
- Youth work, family learning and other early intervention work with children, young people and families;
- Community-based adult learning, including adult literacies and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL);
- Learning for vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in the community, for example, people with disabilities, care leavers or offenders;
- Volunteer development; and
- Learning support and guidance in the community.

CLD's specific focus should be:

- 1) Improve life chances for people of all ages, including young people in particular, through learning, personal development and active citizenship.
- 2) Stronger, more resilient, supportive, influential and inclusive communities.

BACKGROUND TO THE CLD PLAN.

The Community Learning & Development (Scotland) Regulations 2013 place a statutory requirement on local authorities to publish a plan every 3 years' outlining how it will co-ordinate and secure "adequate and efficient" Community Learning & Development (CLD) provision with other sector partners.

Whilst Argyll and Bute Council are required by legislation to lead on meeting the requirements of the CLD Regulations, it is important to note that partners must also be meaningfully involved in producing and implementing the CLD Plan.

Argyll and Bute CLD Strategic Partnership includes the following partners –

- Argyll and Bute Third Sector Interface
- CLD - Adult Learning
- CLD – Community Development
- CLD – Youth Work
- Department for Work and Pensions
- Education
- Live Argyll
- NHS
- Police Scotland
- Scottish Fire Service
- Skills Development Scotland
- UHI (Argyll College)

HOW WE ENGAGED WITH OUR COMMUNITIES AND PARTNERS?

Three main methods were deployed to ensure that feedback on needs and local circumstances were used to inform content, priorities and action within the plan.

1. Consultation with local communities took place over several months during 2018 with views sought from young people (including care experienced young people), adult learners and CLD partners. Focus groups, questionnaires and online surveys were used to engage participants in the exercise.
2. The findings from recent or ongoing community engagement activities in Argyll and Bute were taken into consideration when developing the plan, for example -
 - Argyll and Bute Outcome Improvement Plan;
 - Place Standard Tool;
 - Community Profile Tool;
 - Anti-Poverty Strategy;
 - Big listen;
 - Argyll and Bute Volunteer Conference.
 - Community Action Plans;
 - Workforce Development surveys.
3. Analysis of statistical information, assessments and reports, for example -
 - SIMD;
 - Education Scotland Inspections (INEA/CLD Strategic Plan);
 - Data analysis – annual participation measure, employment stats, claimant commitment stats;
 - EKOS report “Compelling Argyll and Bute”;
 - Summary of findings from the first CLD Plan 2015-18.

A range of local and national policies, strategies and guidance were also taken into consideration when developing this plan, for example –

- Strategic Guidance for CPPs: CLD;
- National Improvement Framework;
- The Scottish Attainment Challenge;
- Developing the Young Workforce;
- National Youth Work Strategy;
- The Adult Learning Statement of Ambition for Scotland 2014-19;
- Our Children Their Future – Education Vision and Strategy;
- Argyll and Bute Outcome Improvement Plan;
- The Northern Alliance Regional Improvement Collaborative;
- Review of Argyll and Bute CLD Strategic Plan 2015-18.

WHAT WE LEARNED?

Consultation with local communities and CLD partners told us what CLD issues were important to them -

Adult Learners

- Digital skills especially for employability purposes.
- Being able to decide what your next step is in your learning journey.
- Activities focused on helping with Mental Health/self-esteem/confidence.

Young People

- A variety of opportunities should be available to ensure all young people are supported into employment, education or training.
- More help understanding and dealing with mental health.
- More support should be available for care experienced young people.

CLD partners

- Developing Family Learning provision.
- Youth Voice – meaningfully involving young people in designing and influencing services that impact on them.

CLD workforce

- Self-Evaluation Skills.
- Community Empowerment.
- Joint Training and Sharing of good practice.
- Data sharing and use with partners (GDPR).

WHAT EXISTING DATA AND INTELLIGENCE TELLS US.

From 2016 to 2026, Argyll and Bute's population is projected to decrease from 87,130 to 84,170. This is a decrease of 3.4% which compares to a projected population increase of 3.2% for Scotland as a whole. The proportion of 0-15 year olds is projected to fall by 6.4%, working age population by 36.3% and the proportion of the population of pensionable age to increase by 31.8% (NRS 2016-based Population Projections).

Although unemployment rates have reduced in Argyll and Bute, within the population of unemployed adults the highest number of claimants can be found in adults over the age between 25 and 49.

Life expectancy in Argyll and Bute is 77.3 for males and 81.2 for females, both of which are higher than Scotland as whole. However, alcohol related hospital stays and childhood obesity are also ranked higher than the Scottish average (ScotPHO 2016).

CLD Education Scotland Inspections carried out nationally during 2016 -17 identified the main areas for improvement as being -

- Improve self-evaluation particularly with partners;
- Improve analysis and use of data;
- Joint planning and shared approaches with partners and communities;
- Leadership.

In 2016-17, the Argyll and Bute CLD Strategic Partnership took part in an Education Scotland Aspect Review of review of progress made in implementing the CLD Regulations. The recommendations in the aspect review were –

- Build on the development of the plans including, where necessary publishing revised plans prior to 2018. In doing so, each local authority should ensure that it is fully meeting the requirements of the CLD Regulations;
- Provide a succinct summary of what CLD partnerships plan to change and improve in their areas;
- Ensure that regular progress reports are produced by CLD partners to demonstrate progress against specific and measureable objectives.
- Build on informed dialogue with participants and stakeholders in local communities to ensure the relevance of CLD priorities to their needs and aspirations;
- Work with the CLD Standards Council for Scotland and Education Scotland's Policy and Improvement Team.

ACTION PLAN

CLD needs in Argyll and Bute have been carefully considered and grouped under four key themes-

1. Skills for Learning, Life and Work.
2. Health, Wellbeing and Personal Development.
3. My Voice/Empowering Communities.
4. Workforce Development.

This plan will aim to adequately and efficiently address some of the needs and priorities identified, working within the collective capacity of CLD partners and resources available.

Argyll and Bute CLD Strategic Partnership Priority Actions 2018 – 2021

Argyll and Bute CLD Strategic Partners will work together to :-

- PA1 Develop a range of CLD activities aimed at supporting vulnerable people into work.
- PA2 Increase employability skills and assist young people to achieve and sustain positive destinations.
- PA3 Provide a range of accredited and wider achievement opportunities in our learning communities.
- PA4 Develop a range of CLD activities aimed at reducing the poverty related attainment gap.
- PA5 Support the development of CLD interventions that address Mental Health and Well Being issues.
- PA6 Ensure that our communities have appropriate information, advice, guidance and referral routes in place to support vulnerable people.
- PA7 Develop services that promote safe and effective digital inclusion and literacies.
- PA8 Promote an ethos and culture of inclusion, participation and positive relationships across the whole community of learners.
- PA9 Work together to engage with parents and develop family learning provision.
- PA10 Support local communities to effectively express their voice, co-design learning opportunities and influence decisions that impact on them.
- PA11 Share and utilise performance data and information to plan and deliver services.
- PA12 Work in partnership to conduct an authority wide CLD practitioner skills audit, produce a joint training plan and explore feasibility of coordinated recruitment procedures.
- PA13 Identify poverty related needs and develop CLD learning activities such as financial literacies to address them.
- PA14 Develop CLD activities that encourage physical activity and outdoor learning.
- PA15 Promote lifelong learning and celebrate achievement.

The plan is intended to be a living document and as such will develop organically and change over time. When the Argyll and Bute CLD Strategic Partnership meets quarterly, it will review progress and make changes as required.

UNMET NEEDS

In a financially challenging and change driven landscape it is inevitable that some community needs will remain unmet and the Revised Guidance Note on Community Learning and Development Planning states –

“The identification of unmet need is not a deficit but rather an understanding that there continue to be needs within communities and that a collective approach will be required to address them over the 3 year period.”

In Argyll and Bute we recognise that here is a high risk that partners will not be able to deliver an equity of provision across the authority and in particular geographically isolated, small rural communities. Economy of scale, limited facilities and targeting of finite resources will inevitably lead to provision being focused in population centres.

To address some of these issues the partnership will continue to develop the use of video conferencing/Skype, target secondary schools to engage with young people, share resources to support provision and look to identify additional funding to fund the development of outreach provision.

Although the digital infrastructure of Argyll and Bute is improving, if you do not own a computer there is limited access to hardware for the general public. Also, there are still significant parts of the authority where broadband and mobile data speeds are slow. All of this impacts on the ability of learners to improve digital literacy.

GOVERNANCE

The Argyll and Bute CLD Plan 2018 – 2021 is designed to be flexible. It is expected that change will occur over this period, new issues will emerge and new priorities will be set. Consequently, the plan is expected to evolve over the next three years and regular needs assessment and evaluation is key to ensuring that it remains relevant and effective.

Provision will be coordinated by the CLD Strategic Partnership to avoid duplication and where possible address gaps/unmet need. All partners are committed to delivering on the actions within the plan and will meet at least three times per year to monitor and update as required, with a further commitment to reviewing data, consultation results and using self-evaluation for improvement.

Ongoing and regular reviewing of the implementation and progress of the plan will seek to involve local communities and partners.

Annual progress reports will be presented to the Community Services Committee and regular Community Planning Partnership via the Local Area Planning Groups.

Complete consultation and agree actions	October 2018
Strategic Plan presented to Community Services Committee	December 2018
Progress review	February 2019
Partners joint self-evaluation	June 2019
Review of learning needs	October 2019
Progress report to Community Services Committee	December 2019
Progress review	February 2020
Partners joint self-evaluation	June 2020
Midterm evaluation and report to Community Services Committee	December 2020
CLD consultation and needs analysis	February 2021
Evaluation and planning	June 2021
Progress report to Community Services Committee	December 2021