
Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership

Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group

2nd May 2019



Partner Update – Chit Chat Support Hub

Summary

1. Chit Chat was founded in 2016 by a group of 6 regular users of the Mactaggart Leisure Centre in Bowmore on the island of Islay. The founders all had long term health conditions and were using the swimming pool to assist the management of their health. They began to meet up after their swim to provide peer support to each other and having discovered the value of this, wished to spread the benefit to more people.
2. The manager of the Pool offered to support them and in 2017 was successful in getting funding from the Big Lottery fund to pay for a Development Officer for the group for 3 years.
3. The Development Officer has increased the membership of the group to over 50 persons, and has been able to provide a varied and attractive menu of activities that supports increased health, decreased social isolation and greater independence.
4. They would like to outreach to more people, particularly those who struggle to get into Bowmore, whether because of health, remoteness or poor transport.

Points for Consideration

1. There is a shortage of volunteer drivers on the island.
2. There are issues of disability access on the island to some public and commercial properties – particularly where these are older.
3. There could be more referrals to this group.

Partnership Action

1. The group believes they offer a good service that has an agenda for self-management, and is effective at linking people to other services in the community.
2. They would like to highlight their achievements to the statutory partners in the hopes of receiving more referrals from them and contributing to the increase in prevention of health deterioration and of independent living.
3. Partners are welcome to contact the Development Officer to discuss referral protocols.

For further information please contact:

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