

## Argyll and Bute Third Sector Interface Area Community Planning Group update – October 2020

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### **Support to charities, social enterprises and community groups**

Since April 2020, Argyll and Bute Third Sector Interface's Third Sector Support Team has provided support to 267 organisations, primarily relating to funding.

Due to the speed in which funds were being announced by both Scottish Government and large funders, many Third Sector Organisations (TSOs) were unclear of who they should apply to and for what, and we've been on hand to support registered charities, social enterprises, community groups and voluntary organisations navigate their way through the COVID-19 emergency funding landscape.

Feedback on the support we provided has been overwhelmingly positive – every organisation who engages with our Third Sector Support Team receives an email inviting them to provide feedback – this is a standard part of our continuous improvement framework, and a key driver for our ongoing development. From this, 100% of respondents would use the TSI again, and 100% of respondents said they would be likely to recommend our service to others. In addition, 100% of local organisations who were not successful in the first round of applications for the Wellbeing Fund, and who then came to the TSI for help before re-submitting in round 2, were successful in securing funding.

We also worked with the likes of the Corra Foundation and Foundation Scotland to directly distribute over £50,000 in small grants to approximately 60 organisations across Argyll and Bute, including the islands.

Organisations requiring help with funding can contact [support@argylltsi.org.uk](mailto:support@argylltsi.org.uk) or phone 0300 303 4141 (Mon-Fri, 9-4).

### **Volunteering**

The TSI was due to launch a new on-line volunteering platform in April this year. This system was repurposed for the coronavirus emergency response and the launch brought forward - within 48 hours, the system was up and running. We registered over 1000 volunteers during the emergency and trained over 55 volunteer coordinators in this time, as well as issuing identity badges from the system straight to people's phones, when that was requested by the Caring for People partnership. Since the launch of the site it has received 52,717 page visits and 11,126 unique visitors.

The volunteering platform – [volunteerargyllandbute.org](http://volunteerargyllandbute.org) – has now been made available for its original purpose, as a way for third sector organisations to recruit volunteers directly. Any organisation seeking to use volunteers within their organisation are welcome to sign up, and benefit from the inbuilt volunteer management system at no cost! Community organisations can register at

[https://volunteerargyllandbute.org/vk/providers/registration\\_provider.htm](https://volunteerargyllandbute.org/vk/providers/registration_provider.htm).

The system is very easy to use, but for those who are less familiar with technology, our third sector support officers are there to help on 0300 303 4141.