

Argyll and Bute Third Sector Interface Area Community Planning Group update – January 2021

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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 almost 300 organisations, primarily relating to funding.

There were five key funds that were launched and awarded during 2020, that focussed primarily on supporting delivery during the COVID-19 global pandemic, as well as sustaining services unable to operate due to restrictions. Argyll and Bute performed very well in relation to other council areas of Scotland, and we believe that third sector organisations should be lauded for their ability to secure income, whilst delivering vital services to the most vulnerable people in our communities, during the biggest challenge many of us have faced during our lives.

Third Sector Organisations in Argyll and Bute secured almost £2.2 million in additional funding from those five sources. The Supporting Communities Fund received 31 successful applications from Argyll and Bute – this was the third highest grant rate in Scotland, behind Highland and Glasgow.

Additionally, there were 51 successful applications to the Third Sector Resilience Fund – this was the fourth highest number of successful applications, behind Glasgow, Edinburgh and Highland. There were also 18 successful applications to the National Emergencies Trust, which was the fifth highest number of successful applications behind Glasgow, Edinburgh, Highland and Fife.

Sustainability of third sector is discussed frequently, as is the need to reduce organisational reliance on grant funding for delivery of services. What COVID-19 has shown is that we have incredible services, delivering incredible work, however, where many organisations have relied upon community fundraising activities to generate an income, this has dealt some organisations a significant financial blow. Argyll and Bute Third Sector Interface will be making some exciting announcements later in the year in regards to supporting third sector organisations – we will update you again when we have more news.

The TSI are leading on two pieces of work within the Building Back Better programme; how do we build on the interest in volunteering during COVID for the benefit of communities and how are we more inclusive of younger volunteers within our communities, and how do we fund our key third sector organisations in a sustainable way.

Towards the end of 2020, we worked with the Community Development Team to carrying out a Training Needs Analysis with a view to planning training for third sector organisations and communities in the coming months. This will also feed into the Community Learning and Development plan, which is currently being developed with a range of partners across Argyll and Bute, including the TSI.

Organisations requiring assistance with anything from governance to funding (and a lot more besides!) can contact support@argylltsi.org.uk or phone 0300 303 4141 (Mon-Fri, 9-4).

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Volunteering

Our volunteering platform – 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.

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.