

Islands Living Well Network (Mull and Iona, Tiree, Coll and Colonsay)

04/04/2022

Disappointing.....

In March the 8 Living Well Network Coordinators across Argyll and Bute were told that the NHS Health Improvement Team has funding for the Living Well Networks to continue to be funded for a further 6 months. With that in mind 2 Quarterly meetings have been arranged for the Islands Living Well Network. In an effort to support the Island communities to be in touch with the many organisations, charities etc that provide support, all Mainland Network Partners and Island based Network Members are being invited to the meetings on 4th May from 10am till 12 noon and on August 31st from 10am till 12 noon.

On May 4th, the first part of the meeting will welcome guest speakers around the first ADP priority – Education, Prevention and Early Intervention on Alcohol and Drugs. There will also be a chance for Network partners to promote the work they do in support of the Islands.

An ongoing challenge.....

Dental provision on the Islands has taken a backward step in the past 5 or so years. The Dentist van no longer visits the Islands and this means that people on Colonsay and Coll have to incur the cost of travel, accommodation and time off work in order to visit a dentist on the mainland. This can be a few days at a time depending on appointment time and day. On Tiree, the permanent dentist has retired. He used to be on Tiree for one week each month. Now Tiree occasionally has a locum visit the Island but he is struggling to keep up with emergency cases. On Mull and Iona, I understand that people have to travel to Tobermory for the dentist, which is a big trip for those from Iona and the Ross of Mull.

Having unsuccessfully written to contacts in HSCP (on behalf of the Islands Living Well Network), I wrote to our MSP Jenni Minto. I first e-mailed Jenni in December 2021. I finished my e-mail to Jenni Minto with

'Concerned Islanders would like to know what are the plans for the future of Dental Provision on the Islands and until such time that it is in place, can some financial support be made available to Island residents in order to support them attending the dentist on the mainland?'

I received the following reply on 3rd February 2022.

Please accept my apologies, an error on my end lead to a response not being sent earlier!

Ms Minto is raising this matter with the Health and Social Care Partnership and we'll be in touch as

soon as we've received their response.

In the meantime if we can be of any further assistance please don't hesitate to get back in touch .

I plan to e-mail again and enquire about any progress.

Good News Story.....

I have been invited to attend the next virtual Coll, Colonsay and Tiree GP Practice Cluster meeting to share with them contacts and information about support that is available from Mainland Network Partners and that may be useful to some of their patients.

Business as usual for now.....

Information will continue to be forwarded from mainland based Network Partners to Island based Network Members.

Current Island Based Network Members = 83

Current Mainland Based Network Partners = 95

Please pass on my contact details to anyone on the Islands who might like to join the Islands Living Well Network (Mull and Iona, Tiree, Coll and Colonsay).

Please also pass on to any potential, mainland based Network Partners who might like to share information across the Islands (Mull and Iona, Tiree, Coll and Colonsay).

Many Thanks

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