

Argyll and Bute Third Sector Interface Partner Update – Helensburgh & Lomond Area Community Planning Group 9th May 2023

Local Strategic Partnerships

At the March 2023 **Community Planning Partnership (CPP)**, A&B TSI CEO presented a third paper on moving the **local Community Wealth Building (CWB)** agenda further forward. The paper noted proposals for the governance of CWB locally and the progress on the research that the TSI is commissioning – the tender process for this work closes on 28th April and two bids have already been received.

At the same meeting the CEO presented a paper on volunteering, including the findings of the TSI's survey, and it was agreed that the TSI would lead on the **production of a volunteering strategy**.

On 18th and 19th April 2023 at the TSI office several partners attended the TSI funded **training on co-production methodologies** which was organised by TSI board member Mahailia Scott.

TSI has commissioned research from the Social Value Lab into the **health of social enterprises in Argyll and Bute** which has not been done since 2017. This has been commissioned jointly with the Council and Inspiralba. The census data aids the delivery of the duty on TSI to support the social enterprise sector and ties in nicely with the research on Community Wealth Building.

The TSI national network has continued to work on a response to the cost-of-living crisis. A&B TSI CEO is on a working group with the SCVO to embark on a joint campaign to highlight the importance of the third sector. In addition, A&B TSI is organising a Chief Officers strategy event in late June to improve the speed of the TSI Network's responses to public policy issues and to discuss the idea of a national TSI manifesto.

Future Funds

The Scottish Government has confirmed funding for year 3 of the **Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund. Funds for distribution** in Argyll and Bute are likely to be the same as for year two i.e.£282,303.16. The full ministerial announcement can be seen here [£15 million mental health funding - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/news/2023/05/09/15-million-mental-health-funding/)

Future Events

Networking breakfasts have already taken place in Helensburgh, Dunoon and most recently Lochgilphead. **Oban's breakfast will be held on 3rd June 2023 to support Charities Day**. We are seeing approximately 14-16 groups attending which is great for local events.

Don't Forget ...

The A&B TSI database contains over 1400 services across the region and has powered the **Argyll and Bute Community Directory** launched on 6th September 2022

(<https://abcd.scot/>). The directory provides a referral route for third sector services (and some statutory services) and it provides a means to analyse the strengths and gaps in local provision as well as map this against data such as that on poverty, health inequality and demographics.

Volunteer of the Year is at Brander Lodge on Friday 2nd June. Nominations have closed but there is still time to book your place to come along for an uplifting afternoon that celebrates volunteering in Argyll and Bute <https://voyargyllbute.co.uk/>

Argyll and Bute Positive Destinations is funded by the UK Government's Shared Prosperity Funds and enables support for anyone over the age of 15 with barriers to further education or employment by offering a 6-month volunteering placement in organisations across Argyll and Bute, with mentors to support personal development. To register go to [Register \(argylltsifunding.org.uk\)](https://register.argylltsifunding.org.uk)

VolunteerArgyllandBute.org is a new and improved digital platform for volunteering, where people can search for the latest opportunities and register with the ones that suit them most. Groups and individuals can create their own online accounts to:

- Register their interest in opportunities that match their interests.
- Communicate directly with organisations offering opportunities.
- Log any hours spent volunteering.
- Provide feedback on the quality of the volunteering experience.
- Receive regular updates on new opportunities when they go live.
- Groups can advertise multiple volunteering opportunities on the portal.