

ARGYLL AND BUTE THIRD SECTOR INTERFACE

Update to MAKI ACPG 30th August 2023

The TSI national network has continued to work on a response to the cost-of-living crisis and our CEO is on a working group with the SCVO to embark on a joint campaign to highlight the importance of our sector and to advocate for Fair Funding for our sector. A campaign document for local adaptation has been approved and a final national version will be circulated in August.

In addition, we organised a Chief Officers strategy event in late June in Glasgow to improve the speed of the TSI Network's responses to public policy issues and to discuss the idea of a national TSI manifesto. This was approved and work is ongoing on the details.

At the June 2023 Community Planning Partnership, the CEO presented a fourth paper on moving the local Community Wealth Building (CWB) agenda further forward.

The 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 will help with delivery of our duty to support the social enterprise sector and ties in nicely with the research on Community Wealth Building. This is due to be published later in July/August 2023.

The CEO participated in the recruitment of an Argyll based Poverty Alliance-led project officer to combat the rural poverty premium.

Progress on the Inveraray Hub has been excellent and the works have been completed on time and on budget. This represents a significant improvement in the facilities for use by the sector.

Our database officer, Phil Ashby, has built two new products which will help us deliver social change in Argyll and Bute more efficiently and effectively. The first is an upgrade of the platform built to administer and award funds for the Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund and means that we can now offer fund management here in Argyll and Bute. It is in effect a direct competitor to the services offered by Foundation Scotland but is cheaper and offers the benefit of local knowledge and automation.

The second is a project management tool to accurately administer costs and performance data for the Positive Destinations Programme. This will support community engagement, save time and again provides real evidence of impact as well as a way of ensuring project costs do not exceed budget.

