

UHI | ARGYLL

UHI Argyll – Oban: Update for Oban and Lorn Area Community Planning Group
29/1/2024

January-start courses

Since the last meeting, we have publicised our January-start courses and have been busy preparing for semester 2, which began on 22nd January.

January-start courses available in Oban are:

- Access to Further Education (short full-time)
- Beauty Care and Make-up NC Level 5 (short full-time)
- NC Horticulture, (short, full-time)
- NC Social Sciences (short full-time)
- Introduction to Psychology (part-time)
- Introduction to Criminology (part-time)
- Introduction to Sociology (part-time)
- Access to Care (short full-time)
- Introduction to Health and Social Care (part-time)
- Social Services, Families and Young People (part-time)
- Care of Children (part-time)

Multiply Programme

Argyll and Bute Council commissioned UHI Argyll to deliver the UK Government's Multiply Programme.

Multiply is an adult numeracy programme, which aims to support people with no or low-level maths skills get back into work. The scheme offers free tutoring, digital training, and flexible courses to improve adults' numeracy skills. The focus of the Argyll and Bute UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan, 2022-2025 is to prepare, develop and deliver:

- Courses for parents wanting to increase their skills in order to help their children and help with their own progression.
- Courses designed to help people use numeracy to manage their money.

There is potential for this contract to be continue until 2025, however from now until end March 2024 we will be offering:

- Positive about numbers – level 4/5 maths.
- Positive about money – budgeting/money management at level 4.
- ESOL at levels 3 (currently Helensburgh only) and 4 and progressing to level 5 if there is the requirement.
- Confident about communications – level 4 and 5 literacy to enable parents to support their children at school.
- Life skills – aimed at young people leaving home for the first time that will include money management, nutrition, resilience, online safety, and signposting to other college courses.

These courses were scheduled to begin in December and January but initial uptake for some courses was quite slow, so certain start-dates were rescheduled to January to allow time to better publicise them. This has proved beneficial, and there has been significant uptake in recent weeks (particularly for ESOL courses).

Open day

We held an open day on 11th January to encourage people to come into their local centre and enquire about January-start and Multiply courses, as well as any other general enquiries. This was well attended at all of our centres across Argyll.

We have a further open day provisionally scheduled for mid-March.

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