

Argyll and Bute TSI update February 2024

Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund 2023-24

The TSI has reviewed applications for year three of the Scottish Government's Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund (CMHWB Fund). Funds being disbursed total £282k, however, requests for support amounted to twice this amount from a wide range of organisations. Applications were particularly strong this year and indicate the level of need across Argyll and Bute.

A total of 11 groups sought funding from the Helensburgh and Lomond area and seven were successful in their application to the Fund.

Argyll and Bute Climate Action Network (ABCAN)

With funding from the Scottish Government Argyll and the Isles Coast and Countryside Trust (ACT) is leading on the establishment of the Argyll and Bute Climate Action Network, supported by Time for Change and the TSI. The goal of the network is to provide grassroots community level support to promote climate knowledge, mitigation and action. There are four local engagement leads mirroring the administrative areas of Argyll and Bute.

Seed capital funding of £40,000 was available for micro and small climate action projects (fund closed 10th February).

Towards a TSI strategy 2024-2029

Following on from the development of the Community Planning Partnerships new ten year plan the TSI will be consulting with community groups over the next three months about what they want the TSI to do to support community groups.

TSI website

The TSI is launching a new website on February 20th and there will be new ways of getting help and support for members. This is the start of providing a much more interactive website and we look forward to hearing your views on how it works! In 2023 we launched a new funding portal and in 2022 we launched a community directory. The TSI is committed to investing in new digital services which can help promote the work we do and make some tasks easier.

Budgets 2024-25

It is no surprise that budgets are going to be very tight again this year and we await the implications of the Scottish Government's budget announced in December 2023 as it filters down to programme level. The TSI network has been working with SCVO on a fairer funding campaign and all TSIs are looking to develop a long term campaign to demonstrate the overall impact of our sector on our communities. Ultimately, we want recognition of the work we all

do to be reflected in three year funding settlement agreements as well as greater transparency on funding decisions and involvement of the sector in service planning discussions.