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ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S UNIT

COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP  
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
23 AUGUST 2006

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## **EQUALITIES CHALLENGE - SOUTH KINTYRE PILOT PROJECT**

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### **SUMMARY**

In early 2006, a bid was made on behalf of the Community Planning Partnership to Communities Scotland (Learning Connections) to carry out an Equalities Challenge pilot project in Argyll and Bute. South Kintyre was selected as the geographical focus for the pilot. This report outlines the findings by ODS Consultants and makes recommendations for effectively involving people with Additional Support Needs in community planning in South Kintyre.

### **PILOT PROJECT**

Between April and June 2006, ODS Consultants gained a clearer understanding of the local groups in South Kintyre that involve people with Additional Support Needs (ASN), eg physical disabilities, learning difficulties, mental health difficulties, or alcohol or drug addiction issues. The project tested Communities Scotland's Community Learning and Development Resource to identify better ways of engaging with these groups.

Eight days of ODS consultancy time was used to:

- meet with local groups involving people with Additional Support Needs
- meet with a number of key professionals working with this client group
- develop options on how people with ASN could be more involved in community planning
- provide recommendations on the way forward for the South Kintyre Community Learning Partnership in this field.

A total of 20 groups involving people with ASN were identified and interviews were carried out with most of them. Discussions focused on:

- Views on how people with ASN are currently able to influence service delivery
- Discussion of how people would like to be involved in discussions about service planning and delivery in the future.

### **FINDINGS**

A small number of people had been actively involved in consultation and this tended to be through active support groups. Those who had been involved felt that their views were taken into account, although things did change very slowly.

Others felt that where consultation had taken place, it had not been properly geared towards people with ASN. Some people stressed the need to involve people in different ways, and to ensure that everyone is able to participate.

Discussion identified a high level of fatigue with voluntary involvement due to the time and effort organisers had to dedicate to running their group and dealing with everyday life. As a result, people did not have much time to dedicate to trying to influence service provision.

Consultees identified a range of ways in which participating in community planning, and trying to influence decisions about local services, could be made easier for people with ASN and their carers:

- **Developing trust** – listening to people and having an honest discussion about how services could realistically be changed. Valuing and treating people with ASN, and their carers, as equal partners in the decision making process.
- **Clear lines of influence** – everyone wanted to have a clear place in the decision making process - *“there needs to be a clear way of feeding in our views, and evidence that people are actually listening”*.
- **Understanding the environment** – having more information about how structures and decision making processes worked would help people to tap into these structures.
- **Co-ordination** – working jointly with other similar groups in the area could add strength. The Community Care Forum was seen as the natural place for this joint group to be established.
- **Providing support to voluntary organisations** – recognise the contribution that voluntary and community organisations can make. This could come through treating groups as equal partners, and providing funding and support.

## RECOMMENDATION TO CPP

A key recommendation was made to strengthen the Kintyre Community Care Forum to act as the route for involving people with ASN in community planning. The Forum will require more support to enable it to perform this role, ie a part-time worker to co-ordinate and support it for a year. An approach for funding is being made to the Health and Wellbeing Theme Group. Links could then be further developed with the other six Community Care Forums in Argyll and Bute.

		<u>Source</u>
Co-ordinator / Adviser (1 day/week for 36 weeks)	£3,000	CPP-HIF*
Publicity materials, training, evaluation meeting	£1,500	SKCLP**
Travel expenses (to support attendance at meetings)	<u>£1,000</u>	SKCLP**
	<u>Total: £5,500</u>	

\*CPP-HIF = Community Planning Partnership - Health Improvement Fund

\*\*SKCLP = South Kintyre Community Learning Partnership

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