

Fairer Argyll and Bute Plan

An integrated plan to tackle deprivation and
health inequalities in Argyll and Bute

Working draft version 4

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Introduction

The establishment of the Fairer Scotland Fund (FSF) has created an opportunity for Argyll and Bute Council and its Community Planning Partners to improve joint planning arrangements for tackling deprivation and health inequalities. The Joint Health Improvement Plan (JHIP) has been under review and there is a consensus within Argyll and Bute that joint health improvement planning should be re-focused on tackling health inequalities and aligned with the Fairer Scotland Fund agenda for targeting individuals and groups most in need. This will lead to an integrated plan (Fairer Argyll and Bute (FAB) plan) which is more focused and incorporates action on the wider socio-economic factors that influence health, as well as lifestyle behaviours. In effect, the FAB plan will replace the Regeneration Outcome Agreement and Joint Health Improvement Plan.

The following table shows the five key principles of the FSF as set out in the guidance from the Scottish Government, alongside the proposed outcomes for the FAB plan.

FSF Principles	FAB Plan Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• address the causes of poverty• strong emphasis on early interventions• promotion of partnership working• improving employability• empowering communities and individuals to influence and inform decisions made by Community Planning Partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• effective community engagement across Argyll and Bute• co-ordinated and integrated approach to address deprivation and health inequalities• resources directed toward specific need• strong well supported 3rd sector• long term sustainability

Transition

The strategic focus for the FAB plan will be health inequalities and preventative action, with the emphasis moving from specific geographic urban communities to a thematic approach focused on individuals and communities across the whole population of Argyll and Bute. 2008/09 will see a transition from distinct activities funded by separate funding streams led by different partners to a more integrated evidence-based approach to target action more effectively. The first stage in this transition process has already taken place with initial analysis of existing activities and resources to manage a significant cut in funding around the following:

- Community Regeneration Fund
- Community Voices Fund
- More Choices More Chances
- Fusions (social inclusion element of Changing Children's Services Fund)

We now have an overview of existing activity and budget allocation, and further needs analysis will be undertaken over the following months to clarify the priority issues to tackle and develop a more comprehensive plan. A scoping study was undertaken last year for the Argyll and Bute Community Learning and Regeneration Partnership, which provides the current picture of deprivation in Argyll and Bute using the best available evidence. The report highlights the limits of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) in identifying

rural deprivation and calls for further research to improve methods of identification and prioritisation of need and improve the targeting of resources. The report also specifies individuals and groups of people whose needs are unlikely to be identified using an area based approach.

Work is also underway to align the health inequalities priorities and outcomes from the existing JHIP. The following priority themes have emerged to date, which take account of current plans and evidence:

- employability
- education
- community development/capacity building
- access to support services
- lifestyle behaviours.

Mapping of existing activity to agreed themes will be required as part of the needs analysis process.

It has been acknowledged that there is a range of activity relating to these themes funded beyond the FSF and led by different partners such as action to prevent Homelessness, early intervention through the Argyll and Bute Health and Care Strategic Partnership, Argyll and Bute's Children's Services Plan, Healthy Living Initiatives, Wider Role activity. There is therefore a great deal of scope for the FAB plan to help improve links between the various partnership agendas which contribute to outcomes in common with the FSF priorities. This would result in more effective partnership action focused on local need, with potential to align funding from a range of Community Planning Partners, and lever further resources such as European funding.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX insert summary diagram of direction of travel

Structure

The FSF has created a fundamental change to the way resources will be targeted in future. This will result in greater equity across the whole population instead of the emphasis on people living in geographical areas of multiple-deprivation as defined by the SIMD. This will therefore require a change in relationship with communities to reflect a change in approach to tackling deprivation and health inequalities across the whole area. There is potential for the existing Public Health Networks involved in delivering action on the JHIP to become integral to this structure to allow them to become more focused on tackling health inequalities through community capacity building.

A strategic planning group will be required to progress the plan and ensure delivery leads to agreed outcomes. It is expected that this group will include stakeholders responsible for activity and funding under current arrangements for Community Regeneration Fund, Community Voices, More Choices, More Chances, FUSIONS, JHIP. This is an opportunity to work in partnership with the Registered Social Landlords, linking with their Wider Role Strategy which is focused on the FSF principles, and potentially with the Community Safety Partnership and others. Voluntary sector partners make a significant contribution in delivering outcomes for our communities, and it is vital to support their sustainability and development of the Third Sector over the next two years. Existing partnerships will require to be reviewed in light of this plan, which could result in streamlining of structures and reduction in bureaucracy.

Strengthening Community Capacity

The community regeneration model of community engagement was highlighted by HMIE as an example of good practice. Using this approach would provide a foundation for strengthening community development, building on the existing structure. This allows us to address gaps in capacity across Argyll & Bute. There is a need to invest in the development of the Third Sector, which has a key role in building community capacity. There is scope for more outreach work in order to identify isolated and disadvantaged individuals and groups, and involve them in the process of meeting their needs. This approach would include the development and integration of community health initiatives based on recent learning from Healthy Living Centres.

Timeline

04/08	05/08	06/08	07/08	08/08	09/08	10/08	11/08	12/08	01/09	02/09	03/09
Single Outcome Agreement											
Submitted to Scottish Government (SG)	Copy to MC	Agreed by SG	work with the CPP to develop a fuller agreement and strategic monitoring processes								publish revised SOA Report to MC and FP
			Report to MC and FP		Report to MC	Report to MC	Report to FP		Report to MC		
Fairer Argyll and Bute Plan											
Transition Year 1 - Redirection of existing services											
Establish Fairer Argyll and Bute Group – agree scope and remit of group		Scoping of Need		Recommendations from scoping exercise Report to CPP	Proposal for Yrs 2 and 3 to ABC		Draft proposal for Yrs 2 and 3 to CPP				Agree proposal at CPP FP
		Yr1 FAB Plan to SG	Yr1 FAB Plan to CPP								
Support to 3rd Sector											
Consultation with Stakeholders		Volunteer Awards	Options Appraisal		Recommendations Report to MC		Protocol in place				

Other Groups/Partnerships

- review and evaluate structures, remits and responsibilities
- establish appropriate relationship with FAB Group