

Argyll and Bute



Community Planning Partnership



Regeneration Outcome Agreement



2007 - 2008



Argyll and Bute Council CPP ROA Annual Report 2007

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Foreword By Cllr George Freeman, Chairman, Argyll & Bute Community Learning & Regeneration Strategic Board

Building Strong, Safe Attractive Communities

- Dunoon Link Club
- Campbeltown Link Club
- Dunoon Community wardens and Community Reps
- Dunoon Skatepark

Getting People Back to Work

- Step Up Project, Bute
- Kintyre Recycling, Campbeltown

Improving Health

- Ethos Project, Helensburgh
- Lunch Club, Bute
- Stepping Out, Bute
- Cowal Elderly Befrienders, Dunoon

Community Engagement

- Older Voices, Bute
- Community Learning & Regeneration Conference 2008, Oban, which had presentations from community projects, including Dunoon Music project, and from Community Reps in all the regeneration areas

REGENERATION OUTCOME AGREEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2007/2008

INTRODUCTION

This report has been produced in accordance with guidelines issued by the Scottish Government in February 2008. Accordingly, the report has been streamlined to cover progress, largely, in respect of outcomes, community engagement and financial information. However, in order to celebrate some of the successes of the funding over the last three years it was decided to complement this report with a DVD which gives a visual and verbal interpretation of how funds have been used to improve and develop the communities thus allowing the Scottish Government and partner agencies to hear directly from local communities.

The Community Regeneration Fund has largely been focussed on the nine data-zones shown below which were identified in the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (2004) as being within the 15% most deprived in Scotland.

- **Dalintober/Millknowe** in Campbeltown (Datazones SO1000716 and SO1000717)
- **Ballochgoy** on Bute (Datazones SO1000731 and SO1000732)
- **Ardenslate, West Milton and the Glebe** in Dunoon (Datazones SO1000748, SO1000749 and SO1000752)
- **Kirkmichael/Craigendoran** in Helensburgh (Datazones SO1000767 and SO1000770).

The SIMD 2006 identified a new data zone (S101000815 Glencruitten in Oban) and as a result a small amount of funding was allocated to the area in 2007/08.

The Argyll and Bute Regeneration Outcome agreement is distinct in that the CRF covers a wide geographically dispersed area with relatively small data-zones and has also been thematically targeted on the elderly and children with disabilities in South Kintyre, Bute and Dunoon.

Section One: Regeneration Outcome Achievements

Section One (Appendix A) details the twenty-five regeneration outcome agreement indicators and targets under the priority themes listed below and the progress made by each of the regeneration areas in the final year of the three year ROA programme.

- Building Strong Safe attractive Communities (6)
- Getting People Back to Work (6)
- Improving health (8)
- Supporting Community Engagement (5)

As stated in previous reports one of the drawbacks of small data zone areas is that in many cases national statistics cannot be used to provide baseline information and household surveys have therefore been commissioned to provide details at a local level. A household survey was commissioned early in 2007 which provided information for last year's annual report however, it was not deemed acceptable to commission another survey in 2008. Achievements have however been noted, and these are generally positive.

As an example, the current economic situation is such that jobs in the regeneration areas are increasingly hard to come by and so the number of people accessing employment through our efforts would be small. However the work that is done in improving self esteem, improving life skills, generally preparing people for work and encouraging them to seek opportunities should be recognised as interim outcomes.

Some areas of multiple deprivation have seen significant physical changes in their communities. Major housing developments in Campbeltown (demolition) and Bute (rebuilding) are making a real visual impact. Nonetheless, unemployment continues to be a major issue, as does the lack of childcare, so much work needs to carry on in partnership to ensure community needs continue to be met.

In Dunoon, smaller projects have had a similar visual impact on communities. Small pockets of funding have enabled the painting of fencing in the Glebe area (a project that also provided employment through the employability team); spray-painting of the skateboard park for and by young people; and involvement of children in planting out flower containers, in conjunction with the local Community Wardens. Small projects can make a big impact and create a real sense of community achievement.

Not so visible to the community is the issue of domestic abuse. As with national statistics, the numbers continue to rise in Argyll and Bute, with particular increases in the Helensburgh area. Women's Aid is making significant moves to address this, and the new housing development in Campbeltown will have barrier-free hostel accommodation. This is a major achievement in partnership working, and will hopefully offer much needed support in the community. Whilst at first this rise in numbers could be seen as disappointing, it should be recognised that it can also be attributed to changes in expectations from those coming forward as they recognise the improvement in the services and support they will receive.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

National Standards of Community Engagement

Each year the local Area Development Groups carry out an exercise to score the perception of Community engagement. The results from these exercises have been very positive with partners reporting high scores on each of the National Standards.

Community Learning and Regeneration Conference March 2008

Argyll and Bute has a good reputation in terms of community engagement. A feature of community engagement which is becoming an annual event is the Community Learning and Regeneration (CL & R) Conference. At the end of

March 2008 a two-day conference was held in Oban with the following specific objectives:

- a) To consider the changes in the political and policy environment since the last conference: In particular to explore the implications of:
 - * Single Outcome Agreement
 - * Fairer Scotland Fund
 - * Future Funding Options
- b) To discuss the Community Learning and Regeneration Strategy 2008 – 2011 and in particular, to review the proposed action plan with a view to identifying responsibility for taking forward various priorities.
- c) To outline progress on the Deprivation Study and consider next steps.
- d) To review a range of examples of good practice from within Argyll and Bute.
- e) To exchange views with partners from other areas in the Highlands and Islands and identify issues for mutual cooperation.
- f) To consider options for future structures; taking account of the review of previous structures; taking account also of the fact that the next stage will probably be transitional given all the changes currently taking place; and, finally taking particular account of the role of the Third Sector, and Social Enterprise in any future structures.

The Conference was well attended with over 80 participants on each of the two days. Throughout the conference presentations of good practice were given by community representatives in each of the regeneration areas and from projects supporting the elderly in Cowal and families of children with disabilities in Campbeltown. Funding was used prior to the event to commission presentation skills training for the community representatives which raised confidence and allowed them to produce good quality presentations of which they justly felt proud. These presentations were very well received and considered a highlight of the conference.

It is envisaged that an annual Conference will form a key part of any new structures put in place for the Fairer Scotland Fund providing the opportunity to engage community representatives in detailed discussion over key issues and so giving them more influence over strategic direction.

Strategic Representatives Forum and Local Community Representative Forums

The Argyll and Bute Community Representative's Forum continues to meet on a quarterly basis prior to meetings of the CL & R Strategic Board. This allows local issues to be discussed and if considered necessary are put on the agenda for the CL & R Strategic Board. The forum has been a huge benefit in terms of networking and the sharing of good practice. The group has also undertaken joint training and study visits, for example, a visit was arranged by the A & B Council Police Liaison officer to the Police Call Centre, Govan, to allay concerns raised by the community representatives regarding the negative attitude to the new call centre system. This group is in the process of establishing itself as an independent constituted group in the hope of attracting financial support to develop

its role. The local forum in Campbeltown is a recognised charity and is registered with OSCR. In some of the areas Local community forums have been established with open days being held to encourage more community participation

Third Sector and Social Enterprise

A large number of third sector organisations benefited from Community Regeneration funding, which recognises community ownership and empowerment. Development of the third sector and of social enterprise in particular, is a high priority for the future. The experience of CRF will influence future spend from the Fairer Scotland Fund, and future structures, to enable this to progress successfully.

Social enterprise has become a national and a local priority, and Argyll & Bute Social Enterprise Network has been instrumental in supporting new and existing social enterprises, and publicising good practice. Their conference and trade fair in January 2008 included a “Dragon’s Den”, which had 60 attendees and participants, and produced a winner, in the “New and Emerging Social Enterprises” category, from the regeneration area of Dunoon. Two young men aged under 25, made a much applauded presentation on Dunoon Music Project, and have since presented again at the Community Learning & Regeneration Conference held in Oban in March.

SECTION 2 - FINANCIAL COMMENTARY

The financial commentary (Appendix B) has a detailed breakdown of spend, and also shows where the Community Regeneration Fund has levered in additional funds from partners, agencies or external funders.

The CRF allocation to the Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership in 2007-2008 was £982,002 with an allocation for Community Voices of £77,845. The total expenditure in 2007/08 was £1,054,796. This funding has been matched with Partnership funding, including in-kind, of £1,173,775. Table 1.1 (Column 1) shows the number of programmes/projects that have been supported. Due to the relatively small amount of funding that goes to each of the areas, many voluntary groups and projects would not progress without the support of staff employed through community regeneration funding or without the support of the many partner agencies who work together at a strategic and local level in an effort to meet the needs of the community. All funding was focussed on the Regeneration Outcome Agreement priorities with the highest level of spend on Improving Health. Health projects have supported all ages - groups supporting elderly befrienders and children with disabilities; a variety of themes – healthy eating, and exercise; and the all-encompassing Healthy Living Initiatives. Some of the projects funded through the Community Support Network have achieved mainstream funding, thus ensuring future sustainability.

More Choices More Chances (Young People Not in Education, Employment or Training – NEET)

The allocation for More Choices More Chances was £131 250 (which includes a carry forward of £56,250 from 2006/07). In the main the funding was concentrated on the ‘hot spot’ areas of Campbeltown, Dunoon, Helensburgh, Oban and Rothesay. Two different approaches saw the establishment of a Challenge fund; with spend of approximately £80,000 to put in place large projects targeting

programmes such as Breakthrough to Excellence and Transition Mentoring for School leavers. In addition, £4000 was allocated to each of the local implementation groups areas for small local projects and interventions based on their own knowledge and experience of need.

Management and Structures

The CRF programme continues to be managed by a Community Learning and Regeneration Partnership Strategic Board, and by local Area Development Groups (ADGs) in each of the SIMD areas. This enabled the continuation of the good practice of community engagement and participation to be developed at local and strategic level.

In order to achieve more sustainability, the ADGs have been working towards becoming incorporated as limited companies with charitable status, thus enabling them to generate additional funds and to sustain their activities. Most areas are now widening their geographic remit to fit with the new Fairer Scotland Fund principles, and to encourage wider local participation in community planning processes.

The structures established for the CRF are now being built upon, to strengthen community planning locally and strategically. Work in partnership with health bodies is leading to closer co-ordination strategically and locally. Proposals are now progressing to link the Fairer Argyll and Bute Plan to the Joint Health Improvement Plan, and also to link together the processes used for the Fairer Scotland Fund and the Health Improvement Fund, recognising the common factor of inequalities. Thus community regeneration funding for partnership work is proving to have a sustainable influence on joint work and structures.

The Argyll & Bute CPP has been in receipt of Community Regeneration Fund for three years, and in that time has seen many improvements in local communities and at strategic level, in tackling issues of deprivation and inequalities, as well as in partnership work and community engagement. The Community Regeneration model of community engagement, now identified as good practice, will be used in further developments with the Fairer Scotland Fund and for local community planning.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the Community Regeneration Fund has provided invaluable financial support. But equally important are the partnerships that have been strengthened as a result of this funding, and the community participation that has evolved and continues to develop individuals and build capacity in communities. The Fairer Argyll & Bute Plan will ensure that work will continue to further develop processes and structures to enable communities to overcome deprivation in partnership throughout Argyll & Bute. In a report this size it is not possible to give justice to all of the work that has been undertaken by statutory agencies, the third sector and community representatives whose support and commitment has ensured the success of the programme but thanks are noted to all of them and to Communities Scotland.