

---

**Title: ARGYLL AND BUTE LOCAL SERVICES INITIATIVE - Working with  
Carnegie UK Trust, Third Sector Partnership (Argyll and Bute Social  
Enterprise Network and Argyll Voluntary Action), NHS.**

---

**1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1** The aim of this report is to update the CPP Management Committee on the work of the Argyll and Bute Local Services Initiative (ABLSI) focussing on;
- a) the ongoing social enterprise work with Argyll and Bute Council services which are undergoing review and
  - b) plans for the future of the initiative to share learning.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1** Note the benefits of the ABLSI project in assisting the Council and social enterprises to work together to improve processes and service delivery.
- 2.2** Note ABLSI agreement to share learning through Carnegie UK Trust.

**3. DETAIL**

**3.1 ABSLI Background**

ABLSI is a partnership of statutory and third sector organisations, and the Carnegie UK Trust. It delivers on many of the recommendations of the *Harnessing the Potential of the Third Sector to Help Achieve Council Objectives, Demonstration Project, 2010*.

ABLSI aims to identify service areas where there is a real potential for the public sector in Argyll and Bute to work with the third sector to determine ways in which co-production might improve the quality of services while also achieving efficiencies. It also aims to share this learning with others in the Carnegie UK Trust Community of Practice, and learn from other members. This work is supported by HIE and has a budget of £90,000 to March 2013. From this total budget, approx £60,000 now remains and is aligned to our workplan, and previous spend has been in the areas of work outlined below.

**3.2. Areas of work**

The partners in ABSLI offered support to all Council service review managers through open sessions on social enterprise and detailing what support ABLSI could provide namely; identification of best practice, consultation with third sector, skills audit, social enterprise training and facilitating cross-departmental working. As a result of this, ABLSI is providing direct support to the services below and is developing an Impact Assessment Toolkit for use by services. This will help measure

impacts on both council and other statutory organisations such as NHS, and is intended to form part of service reviews alongside the Equality Impact Assessment Toolkit. Work with services;

**Waste Management** – support to social enterprises undergoing budget cuts, and facilitated sessions on SLA's and contracts with the Council have led to a better understanding for both and a way forward. A re-use event and review of potential growth of community recycling will take place in May 2012.

**Education** – Social enterprise information and a budget provided to establish Artsquest. This work has been completed with learning still to be captured.

**Children and Families** – support through time, information and finance, for co-production approach to wholesale changes in the grant process. The first stage of this was a stakeholder engagement event hosted by Governance International which resulted in the attached document *Making it Better, Argyll and Bute Children and Families Event*. This event/document provided the foundation for taking forward a programme of work which culminated in changes presented to the council as part of the ongoing budget process. We will continue to support the proposed changes where it fits with ABLSI objectives.

**Planning** – Assisting and part financing feasibility study into the establishment of a Coast and Countryside Trust. This will report back in May 2012.

**Older People's Services** – Providing information and support, including training to council staff wishing to consider establishing a social enterprise. This has resulted in two possible new start ups.

### 3.3 Reflecting, Improving and Sharing Learning

In order for ABLSI to make improvements to social enterprise delivery of council and NHS services, we are considering learning from both our work to date, and capturing learning from other local authority areas. This will culminate in a series of attendance at community events during the year, and a separate event for council members and managers in September 2012 which will support learning/continuous improvement.

This work will be supported by Carnegie UK Trust who have recruited an associate to assist in the sharing of learning and input into the Community of Practice. This associate is leading on the topic 'The Transfer Process' and is looking across the UK at how and whether services can be effectively transferred from local authority control (<http://fieryspirits.com/group/ruralservices>). Learning gathered from this will feed into the council member and manager event, and the wider social enterprise sector.

To ensure that our learning from Argyll and Bute is robust we need to include all viewpoints; social enterprises, service review managers, directors, members and officers, and NHS. Those who have been involved in the projects will feed into the learning as part of our agreement with Carnegie.

The work of Carnegie UK Trust enjoys a high profile within the UK and abroad, with the Chief Executive, Martyn Evans, speaking most recently at the *Christie Conference "Public Sector Reform - A Roadmap for Change"* at Holyrood, and chairing *the Big Society Event* in Edinburgh on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2011.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

**4.1** The ABLSI project is a unique opportunity for developing co-production of service delivery with the Third Sector and furthering the work of the Demonstration Project. It has assisted in improving the Children and Families grant process and Waste Management contracts, and indeed, through a more open dialogue, has improved relationships between the council and third sector partners.

To capitalise on learning to date and assist in continuous improvement, everyone involved in the process, and our partner agencies involved in similar work, need to share their experiences. This will ensure that the learning we capture is reflective of everyone involved in the decision-making process and allow us to produce conclusions for our proposed events and to share these with Carnegie UK Trust.

#### 5. IMPLICATIONS

**Policy:** ABLSI fits with a range of Council outcomes and in particular 'We engage with our partners, our communities and our customers to deliver best value services'. It also fits with the SOA FL2 Improved support for Third Sector organisations, and delivers on Demonstration Project recommendations.

**Financial:** ABLSI budget remaining is £60,000 – Although this money can't be paid to the council it can continue to facilitate significant consultation work.

**Personnel:** Staff from identified services will be required to develop and deliver this work.

**Equal Opportunity:** This is an inclusive development and all equal opportunities obligations will be met.

For further information contact: Arlene Cullum  
Telephone: 01436 658727

#### LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS:

- Making it Better Argyll and Bute Children and Families Event
- Argyll and Bute Local Services Initiative Flyer