

REPORT ON ARGYLL AND BUTE APPLICATION FOR 'ENGLISH FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES' (ESOL) FUNDING 2012 -2013

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1** The funding arrangements for 'English for Speakers of Other Languages' (ESOL) funding have changed for 2012-13. Community Planning Partnerships are now asked to take the lead co-ordinating role for the project, and to liaise with Scottish Government (SG)/ Scottish Funding Council (SFC).
- 1.2** Argyll College and Argyll and Bute Council (CLD Service) have submitted a joint funding application for 2012-13 for a total of £62,873.00.
- 1.3** The SFC will communicate the decision on the application in early March 2012. Any funding allocated may be drawn down in September 2012.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1** Members are invited to note the contents of this report, and of the background paper appended.

3. DETAIL**3.1 Background**

The Adult 'English for Speakers of Other Languages' (ESOL) Strategy for Scotland was published in March 2007 and aims to provide a blueprint to upgrade the quality and, where appropriate, quantity of publicly funded ESOL provision across the college, community learning and development (CLD) and voluntary sectors.

ESOL provision is intended for all Scottish residents for whom English is not a first language: migrant workers; asylum seekers and refugees; and settled minority ethnic communities. Particular target areas for provision are currently improved employability and family learning.

Argyll and Bute have been granted allocations of (ESOL) funding from the Scottish Government for a number of years, during which funding was given direct to college and local authority providers.

However, the funding arrangements have changed for 2012-13. Community Planning Partnerships are now asked to take the lead co-ordinating role for the project, and to liaise with Scottish Government

(SG)/ Scottish Funding Council (SFC). The change is intended to encourage ESOL providers to work together and to target local demand/ need.

3.2 **Timescales**

The decision on any award will be communicated by SFC in early March 2012. Payment will be made in September 2012 by SFC to a nominated college, which will disperse funding to partners. Projects will be undertaken between April 2012 and June 2013. A short report will be required on outcomes and learner numbers for each project.

4. **CONCLUSION** n/a

5. **IMPLICATIONS**

Policy: Nil

Finance: External grant funding applied for

Personnel: Nil

Legal: Nil

Equal Opportunities: ESOL provision targets minority groups and aspires to attain 5 guiding principles of inclusion, diversity, quality, achievement and progression for provision in Scotland.

Executive Director of Community Services

For further information please contact:

Donald MacVicar

Head of Community and Culture

English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)

Grant Funding 2012 - 2013

Application Form

Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Details

1. Partnership area:

Argyll and Bute

2. Named contact for CPP:

Eileen Wilson

3. Contact e-mail address of CPP:

eileen.wilson@argyll-bute.gov.uk

4. Telephone number of contact in CPP:

01436 658726

5. College and college contact in partnership (for distribution of funds)

Argyll College

Michael Breslin, Principal
Argyll College, West Bay,
Dunoon,
Argyll PA23 7HP

Tel: 01631 559 755 (diverts to mobile)

6. Project(s) Information

(Add more tables if required for individual projects)

1.	Title: Employability: Workplace ESOL and Job Clubs
	Partners: Argyll and Bute Council CLD, local employers, JC+, SDS and others
	<p>Details of project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helensburgh: Rural outreach workplace-based ESOL classes (in Arrochar) • Oban: Development of outreach workplace-based ESOL provision • Oban: further expansion of existing Job Club to address needs of increasing numbers of ESOL attendees • Bute: Re-establishment of outreach workplace-based ESOL provision • Cowal: Rural outreach workplace-based ESOL classes (in Lochgoilhead)
	Outcome: People with ESOL needs are enabled to improve their employability skills and access better quality employment opportunities
	<p>Information/Evidence of demand/need</p> <p>Community-based CLD Workers reports:</p> <p>Helensburgh:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘I am not aware of any other ESOL provider in our area. We have delivered a variety of ESOL classes in the past year. ... In addition we ran two workplace ESOL classes at the Claymore Hotel in Arrochar – one for Beginners and one for Pre-Intermediate to Intermediate level. We had 18 students attending these 2 classes. All classes were evaluated and we received good feedback from the groups. We have written testimonials from students stating how the classes have helped them in their work environment, socially, passing the UK citizenship test, passing Health and Safety exams, passing the Driving Theory test etc. • I would say the demand was pretty stable in the Helensburgh and Lomond area.’ <p>Oban:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘...We have also noticed a rise in non-native speakers accessing services like the Job Information Club and The Bridge, where people are able to get help with CVs, letters of application, and job search skills. These services offer progression from ESOL to other aspects of adult learning.’ <p>Bute</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Overall, numbers of migrant workers have fallen, but many still return to Bute year after year, to the same employers. We need to re-establish workplace groups with returning staff.’ <p>Cowal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Numbers tend to decrease from November to March - this is due to seasonal establishments closing down and employees giving the employees time off to go home (usually a month). This year numbers have declined in the town’s locality but some rural establishments are interested in having classes on their premises. I have since found a tutor and a hotel establishment which will allow

	us to use their premises 2012/2013 ... in Lochgoilhead.'
	Cost: £14,855

2.	Title: Community-based ESOL Classes / Groups / Drop-ins (non-accredited)
	Partners: Argyll and Bute Council CLD, Libraries, Argyll College
	<p>Details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helensburgh: Twice-weekly community-based ESOL (non-accredited) drop-in, tutor-led • Oban: Twice-weekly community-based ESOL (non-accredited) conversation classes, Oban library, tutor-led • Oban: Weekly community-based ESOL (non-accredited) conversation class, Isle of Mull, tutor-led • Mid Argyll: Three x 20-hour community-based ESOL courses (non-accredited) held in Lochgilphead, tutor-led • Campbeltown, Kintyre: Weekly community-based ESOL (non-accredited) conversation class, tutor-led • Cowal: (see 'accredited ESOL provision')
	Outcome: Learners are assisted to function more effectively in their daily lives through improved communication skills and confidence
	<p>Information on /Evidence of demand/need</p> <p>Community-based CLD Workers reports:</p> <p>Helensburgh</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have an ESOL Drop-In / class for 2.5 hours every Tuesday afternoon in the Municipal Buildings in Helensburgh. We have had 14 students of varying ability levels – from Beginner to Intermediate. The average number of students was 7 in each class. <p>Oban:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Learner numbers have fluctuated during 2011, with... some learners leaving and new arriving. A total of 37 learners have taken part (in groups) in Oban, 5 on Mull...' • 'Learner evaluations and comments (are very positive) eg 'I can now make a phone call in English'; 'I am able to understand more and speak more confidently than before and can solve my problems more easily'. • A positive development has been establishing an ESOL resource cupboard

	<p>within the Oban library...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new development was the establishment of an ESOL class on Mull and has been well received...' <p>Mid Argyll:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numbers of ESOL learners remain small but steady (6 students) • '... all students making progress but still have significant needs. Follow on class to be offered informed by students' needs, tutor's assessments and end of course reviews.' <p>Kintyre:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'CLD is the only organisation in the area to be offering (ESOL provision)... • We have seen a sharp increase in the numbers referred and attending ESOL classes. This can be attributed to more extended families moving to the Kintyre area to join other family members • We also evidence an increase of ESOL learners during spring/summer season ... to work in the tourism/hotel industry. This may be more relevant this year with the opening of two large hotels and the regeneration currently taking place in the town. • We currently run an informal ESOL conversational class on Wednesday evenings. We have a qualified tutor who delivers this, with assistance... The class ran April–June, Oct–Dec and by the end of the year (had) 14 regular participants. The participants themselves did most of the recruiting for new learners, bringing friends and family members at their own recommendations. • End of course evaluations were very positive, which was testament to an excellent tutor and demonstrates a positive learning experience.' <p>Bute:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is less need on the island for generic group work, and more focus required on workplace-based provision.
	Cost: £13,985

3.	Title: ESOL 1:1 pairings – ALN and Citizenship needs
	Partners: Argyll and Bute Council CLD
	<p>Details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helensburgh: 1:1 help from staff (5 learners) • Oban: Weekly 1:1 help from volunteer tutor (1 learner) • Mid Argyll: 1:1 tutoring as required (approx 10 hours), paid tutor (1 learner) • Campbeltown, Kintyre: 1:1 support on referral basis, 2 paid tutors and 1 volunteer (25-30 learners over a year) • Bute: 1:1 support as required, volunteer tutors (2 learners)

	Outcome: Individuals with significant ESOL learning needs are supported to gain confidence and participate in social and community life.
	<p>Information/Evidence of demand/need</p> <p>Community-based CLD Workers reports:</p> <p>Helensburgh:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students ...received individual tuition (eg help with college work, UK citizenship test) <p>Mid Argyll:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘...all students making progress but still have significant needs’ • ‘(Islay) ESOL needs assessment 2010 showed that need was present’ (although small numbers).’ • ‘Needs are assessed as being non-accredited groupwork and 1:1 provision that is not number dependant.’ <p>Bute:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been an decrease in the numbers of learners requiring 1:1 support, but their needs are still significant
	Cost: £5,433

4.	Title: Accredited ESOL provision
	Partners: Argyll College, Argyll and Bute Council CLD, Anniesland College
	<p>Details:</p> <p>CLD:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mid Argyll (Islay): Contribution to accredited course run by Argyll College for which numbers are below the minimum • Cowal: 2 classes offering SQA Access, Level 3, or Cambridge examinations (22 students) <p>Argyll College:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cowal: ESOL work & study related context 30hrs (8 students) • Oban: ESOL everyday communication Int 1 40hrs (5 students) • Oban: ESOL Transactional Contexts Int 1 40hrs (4 students) • Oban: ESOL work & study related context 40hrs (9 students) • Oban: ESOL everyday communication Access 3 40hrs (9 students) • Oban: ESOL everyday communication Access 2 80hrs (6 students) • Islay: ESOL everyday communication Access 3 (5 students) • Islay: progression from above course (5 students) <p>We also propose to explore online and blended learning as one way of providing for those in more rural areas using newly created resources. This will also allow people</p>

	<p>who cannot otherwise attend classes due to work commitment to participate at a time that suits them.</p> <p>The impact of this for learners will be as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing the knowledge and skills to progress through the ESOL awards • Enhance future job prospects and better paid employment • Prepare students for further and higher education within Argyll College UHI and beyond <p>Materials to be written to fit the format required to allow them to be put on the virtual learning environment Blackboard.</p> <p>This will allow us to deliver a range of ESOL programmes from beginner level through elementary and intermediate to advanced proficiency. The mix of courses on offer will be determined by the demand of potential students.</p> <p>The above accredited units are part of a suite of 23 that require development. This can be done at a cost of £1000 per unit. Alternatively we would look to source already written materials that were in a suitable format for uploading to Blackboard that may be purchased at a lower cost although it is unclear at this time if there are any ready or suitable.</p> <p>We propose to introduce the PDA ITESOL as a blended learning course delivered to tutors in remote areas to maintain and improve their teaching skills.</p>
	<p>Outcome: ESOL learners achieve accreditation that furthers their personal development and their ability to participate fully in family, social, community and work life.</p>
	<p>Information/Evidence of demand/need</p> <p>Community-based CLD Workers reports:</p> <p>Oban:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential for more partnership work with Argyll College to encourage progression from CLD to accredited levels, or for internal verification (eg Citizenship Test) or outreach work <p>Mid Argyll (Islay):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needs were assessed as being for partnership between Argyll College and CLD to support existing provision, due to low student numbers. <p>Kintyre:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential to work in partnership to offer progression to suitable/relevant individuals for the accredited ESOL with Argyll College <p>Cowal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • James Watt College are not offering any ESOL classes this year. • (CLD can offer) beginners and Intermediate classes. In the past, we have put ESOL Learners through Cambridge examinations, however, this year we are working instead towards SQA Access and Level 3 and above.
	<p>Cost: £24,800</p>

5.	Title: CPD for staff and tutors
	Partners: Argyll and Bute Council CLD
	Details: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oban: 1 x CELTA training; 2 x 20hr 'Introduction to TESOL' training for staff/tutors • Mid Argyll: 2 x 20hr 'Introduction to TESOL' training for staff/tutors • Campbeltown, Kintyre: 2 x 20hr 'Introduction to TESOL' training for staff/tutors • Bute: 2 x 20hr 'Introduction to TESOL' training for staff/tutors
	Outcome: Paid and volunteer tutors and staff have access to high quality CPD, increasing their confidence and skills and knowledge base.
	Information/Evidence of demand/need <p>Oban:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'CLD could further develop ESOL provision if there was available funding to provide training opportunities for tutors for professional development and to expand the tutor base.' <p>Mid Argyll:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'There is a need to recruit and train more volunteer tutors' <p>Campbeltown, Kintyre:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'We feel strongly that it is essential that CLD continue to deliver ESOL provision, as we have built and developed a high reputation with partners and learners in the Kintyre area.' • We have an excellent tutor who deserves good quality CPD opportunities <p>Bute:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'We have several good tutors that would benefit from CPD'
	Cost: £4,100

Add further tables for additional projects if required

Project Finance

7. Please give an estimated breakdown of how the grant funding will be allocated for each project. e.g. staffing, resources, CPD if included etc

Project	Allocated to	Amount (£)
1. <i>Employability</i>	<i>staffing</i>	£11,410
	<i>travel</i>	£720
	<i>resources</i>	£1,425
	<i>marketing</i>	£1,300
	total	£14,855

Project	Allocated to	Amount (£)
2. <i>Community-based ESOL Classes / Groups / Drop-ins</i>	<i>staffing</i>	£11,360
	<i>resources</i>	£1,425
	<i>marketing</i>	£1,200
	total	£13,985

Project	Allocated to	Amount (£)
3. <i>ESOL 1:1 pairings – ALN and Citizenship needs</i>	<i>staffing</i>	£5,433
	total	£5,433

Project	Allocated to	Amount (£)
4. <i>Accredited ESOL provision</i>	<i>staffing</i>	£1,800
	<i>resources</i>	£23,000
	total	£24,800

Project	Allocated to	Amount (£)
5. <i>CPD for staff and tutors</i>	<i>course fees</i>	£2,900
	<i>travel</i>	£1,200
	total	£4,100

8. Please state the total amount of funding your CPP wishes to apply for:

£62,873 .00

Other information

9. Please include below any further information in support of your application.

- As is apparent from the above assessments of need from community-based practitioners, numbers and retention of learners vary enormously across the area. The geographical areas showing larger or increasing levels of need are Kintyre, Helensburgh and Oban. Bute, Cowal and Mid Argyll evidence less volume of need, but nevertheless see individual cases where vulnerability is significant.
- Rural isolation is a major factor in the area, and the potential for social exclusion of non-native speakers can therefore sometimes be greater than might be imagined, due to the additional element of physical isolation. Those without access to private transport (as the majority of ESOL learners are), or with vulnerability, health or mobility issues, are the hardest hit.
- Employment rates may appear less serious than in urban areas, but the majority of employment opportunities tend to be part-time, temporary, low-paid, seasonal and/or low-skilled. ESOL learners often need help in order to be able to access better-quality employment opportunities, and there is considerable scope to further develop this aspect of our work.

Declaration

10. I declare that the information on this form is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Name (Block Letters):.....

Signature:_____

E-mail address:

Tel:.....

On behalf of:.....Community Planning Partnership

Date:

Please **email** applications by **11 February 2012** to:

Roland Tye, Scottish Funding Council
rtye@sfc.ac.uk