

Management Committee

Date: 17th June 2015

Public/Private: Public



ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) Funding Application 2015-16

1.0 Purpose

The purpose of this report is to inform Management Committee members of the funding application for 2015-16 for 'English for Speakers of Other Languages' activity in Argyll and Bute.

Since 2012, Community Planning Partnerships have been asked to take the lead co-ordinating role for ESOL funded activity, and to liaise with Scottish Government / Scottish Funding Council (SFC).

Following last year's successful joint bid, Argyll College and Argyll and Bute Council (Adult Learning and Literacies Service), as the two main providers of ESOL learning, are again proposing to submit a funding application for 2015-16.

The SFC have already allocated funding to each CPP in advance of applications, and Argyll and Bute have been awarded £21,035.00. This is the same figure as last year.

Argyll College and the Council's Adult Learning and Literacies service have developed proposals for which, if successful, Argyll College would receive £3,043.00 and Adult Learning £17,992.00 (of which £400.00 will be used to co-deliver ESOL on Islay).

2.0 Recommendations

- It is recommended that the Management Committee notes the contents of this report.
- It is recommended that the CPP assign the council's Community Learning Manager to be the lead coordinator on ESOL Funding for the CPP.

3.0 Background n/a

4.0 Detail n/a

5.0 Conclusions n/a

6.0 Implications

Strategic Implications	SOA Outcomes 1,3,5
Consultations, Previous considerations	The ESOL funding application is based on existing knowledge from Argyll College and the Council's Adult Learning service about ESOL learning needs across Argyll and Bute. Recent research by Argyll College will ensure that learning provision is appropriate and needs-based.
Resources	If successful, the application will bring over £21K into the area for use in funding ESOL activity.
Prevention	ESOL learning provision helps to mitigate social isolation and improve financial capability of ESOL learners.
Equalities	The funding will improve delivery of services to ethnic groupings.

Donald MacVicar, Head of Service, Community and Culture
25th May 2015

For further information contact:

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Lochgilphead

Argyll PA31 8QX

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References n/a

Appendices

**English for Speakers of Other Languages
(ESOL)**

Grant Funding 2015-2016

**Partnership: Argyll and Bute
Community Planning Partnership**

***Application Form
(please refer to the guidance in the
accompanying letter when completing the
application form)***

Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Details

1. Partnership area:

Argyll and Bute

2. Named contact for CPP:

Samantha Quarton

3. Contact e-mail address of CPP:

samantha.quarton@argyll-bute.gov.uk

4. Telephone number of contact in CPP:

01546 604199

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

Argyll College

Fraser Durie, Principal
Argyll College, West Bay,
Dunoon,
Argyll PA23 7HP

Tel: 01631 559 755 (diverts to mobile)

6. Project(s) Information

1. **Project title:** Employability: Workplace ESOL and Job Clubs (outreach)

Project partners: Argyll and Bute Council Adult Learning Service, local employers, JC+, SDS and others

Proposed funded activities:

- **Helensburgh:** Rural outreach workplace-based ESOL classes.
- **Mid Argyll:** Rural outreach for people with ESOL needs working in Inveraray/Cairndow hospitality and fish farm industries
- **Oban:** ESOL evening provision for people with ESOL needs who work during the day
- **Support for IELTS test** (Oban pilot)

Project outcomes

People with ESOL needs are enabled to improve their employability skills and access better quality employment opportunities

People with ESOL needs who live/work in rurally isolated locations are able to access learning provision

What is the information/evidence of additional demand/need for this project?

- In addition to the ESOL daytime classes run in Lochgilphead, there is still significant demand in Inveraray, and the Loch Fyne Hotel has continued to be of great help in offering us the use of their premises. The students are at both beginner and intermediate levels. This demand is set to continue at high levels.
- In Oban, conversational classes held during the daytime were not accessible to those who worked during the day, and an additional evening class will be well-attended.
- From informal needs assessment in Oban, it is apparent that there is a requirement for support with IELTS testing; we therefore wish to pilot a group provision in Oban to test the type and volume of demand

Cost: £7,330

2. Project title: Community-based ESOL Classes / Groups / Drop-ins (non-accredited), including joint CPD

Project partners: Argyll and Bute Council Adult Learning Service, Libraries, Argyll

College

Proposed funded activities:

- **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
- **Mid Argyll:** Two x 20-hour community-based ESOL courses (non-accredited) held in Inveraray and Lochgilphead, tutor-led
- **Islay:** ESOL 'conversation café' provision for young parents with ESOL needs
- **Campbeltown, Kintyre:** Weekly community-based ESOL (non-accredited) conversation class, tutor-led, with SQA Core Unit accreditation..
- **ESOL Tutor event:** Tutor event to involve ESOL tutors from across Argyll, and including partner organisations, to promote CPD and exchange good practice.

Project outcomes

ESOL learners are assisted to function more effectively in their daily lives through improved communication skills and confidence

ESOL learners experience reduction in social isolation levels, through increased opportunities to meet others, particularly in isolated rural areas

ESOL tutors receive CPD opportunities in learning new skills, exchanging good practice and networking

What is the information/evidence of additional demand/need for this project

- Demand remains high in Campbeltown and Lochgilphead; is very high and increasing in Oban; has increased slightly on Islay; is steady in Dunoon and Helensburgh; and has reduced on Bute.

Cost: £8,467

3.	Project title: ESOL 1:1 pairings
Project partners: Argyll and Bute Council Adult Learning Service, Argyll College	
Proposed funded activities:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mid Argyll: 1:1 tutoring as required, paid tutor • Islay: 1:1 tutoring as required, paid tutor • Campbeltown, Kintyre: 1:1 support on referral basis, 2 paid tutors and 1 volunteer 	
Project outcomes	
Individuals with significant ESOL learning needs are supported to gain confidence and participate in social and community life	
Individuals undertaking ESOL qualifications in rurally isolated areas are supported to achieve their goals	

What is the information/evidence of additional demand/need for <u>this project</u>?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1:1 provision: Demand remains steady in Mid Argyll and Kintyre, with learners making progress, but their needs are significant and individual provision is require 	
Cost: £1,795	

4.	Project title: ESOL Citizenship needs
Project partners: Argyll College	
Proposed funded activities:	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping exercise: development time mapping the existing ESOL SQA outcomes to the revised Home Office qualifications list acceptable for citizenship
Project outcomes
ESOL learners are supported to gain the necessary qualifications to apply for citizenship and play a full part in community life

<p>What is the information/evidence of additional demand/need for <u>this project</u>?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping exercise: Whilst demand for support with citizenship is not proportionately very great, where there are learning needs they are far more difficult to address in a rural area with a very limited number of providers of ESOL support. Therefore it is felt that unless partners address the issue of the changes in acceptable qualifications, ESOL learners in the area will be significantly excluded from the opportunity of gaining citizenship. By mapping the current SQA provision to the requirements to sit the IELTS or Trinity College London test candidates will be properly furnished with the required level of skill and understanding to allow them to progress to sitting the tests and may additionally qualify for SQA ESOL certification.
Cost: £3,043

5.	Project title: Accredited ESOL provision
Project partners: Argyll and Bute Council Adult Learning Service, Argyll College	
Proposed funded activities:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mid Argyll (Islay): Contribution to accredited course run by Argyll College for which numbers are below the minimum 	
Project outcomes	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESOL learners achieve accreditation that furthers their personal 	

development and their ability to participate fully in family, social, community and work life.

- ESOL learners are able to access learning in one of the most rurally isolated places in Argyll and Bute, where minimum numbers for viable classes are extremely difficult to reach.

What is the information/evidence of additional demand/need for this project?

Needs were assessed on Islay for partnership between Argyll College and CLD to support existing provision. The current class has 5 students – employed in hospitality/retail sector – one of whom is working towards citizenship. The numbers attending are below the usual college minimum – largely due to rurality, work schedules, transport issues, so the extra funding we can offer is invaluable to enable students to become more proficient and increase employability prospects

Cost: £400.00

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 Title	What will the funding be allocated to (use a separate row for each)	Amount (£)
1. <i>Employability</i>	<i>staffing</i>	£5,750
	<i>travel</i>	£1,030
	<i>training and resources</i>	£350
	<i>marketing</i>	£200
	<i>total</i>	£7,330

2. <i>Community-based ESOL Classes/groups/ drop-ins, incl joint CPD</i>	<i>staffing</i>	£5,917
	<i>resources</i>	£450

	<i>venue hire/hospitality for tutor event</i>	£1,900
	<i>marketing</i>	£200
	<i>total</i>	£8,467

3. <i>ESOL 1:1 pairings – ALN</i>	<i>staffing</i>	£1,445
	<i>marketing</i>	£200
	<i>training and resources</i>	£150
	<i>total</i>	£1,795

4. <i>ESOL Citizenship needs</i>	<i>staffing</i>	£3,043
	<i>total</i>	£3,043

5. <i>Accredited ESOL provision</i>	<i>staffing</i>	£400
	<i>total</i>	£400

Please use the information attached to state the funding that has been allocated to your CPP.

£21,035

Welcoming Our Learners: Scotland's ESOL Strategy 2015 - 2020

8. Please provide a short summary of how the proposed ESOL activity in this application will align to the strategic objectives within the refreshed ESOL strategy. (500 words max)

Strategic Objectives:

1. ESOL learners access and recognise learning opportunities throughout all stages, changes and circumstances in their lives
2. ESOL learners co-design their learning experience

3. ESOL learners transform their lives and communities through learning choices in personal, work, family and community settings

4. ESOL learners effectively influence strategy and policy at local and national levels

5. ESOL learners are effectively supported in their learning journeys

Specific objectives for professional and workforce development and supporting and promoting equality and diversity are also stated in the refresh.

Both ESOL learners who are resident in our communities and migrant workers are informed of learning opportunities through appropriate marketing (website pages, fliers, advertisements, posters etc), and through specific targeting of workplaces, including some very isolated rural locations. The marketing elements in this application will support the dissemination of information about availability of support.

The employability-related activity in this application supports those who are working and those who are seeking work. ESOL learning opportunities are located in accessible community venues in towns across rural Argyll and Bute, including Islay, and also in a number of workplaces. The travel elements of this application enable tutors to travel to isolated locations for delivery – it is difficult to over-emphasise the barriers and challenges that relate to geographic isolation in a rural area such as Argyll and Bute, and when combined with language difficulties, these can have lead to extreme social isolation. Whether working or not, adults are able to access provision, which is timetabled at a variety of daytime and evening slots. Where possible, provision is made for mothers to be able to bring babies, and the proposed ESOL café on Islay is designed with young mothers in mind.

The community-based ESOL is available in a variety of forms – classes, groups and drop-ins are all run according to the needs and requirements of the learners. All provision is firmly based on the principles of self-directed learning and responsiveness to learners' expressed needs, not just at the start, but consistently throughout their learning experience. ESOL tutors and staff from Argyll College and the Council's Adult Learning and Literacies service are highly-skilled, and the proposed tutor event will support their ongoing CPD. The resources elements in this application support quality of provision, ensuring learners can access up-to-date material. ESOL learners can access a wide range of learning activities, including citizenship support, accredited or non-accredited learning, help with employability skills and resources such as CVs, help with basic IT and requirements for registration and maintenance for job-seeking, help with employment-specific tests, basic beginners' language skills, conversational groups, and one-to-one help for those who are most vulnerable or who have intensive support needs.

This wide range of opportunities means that learners can progress from beginners' provision through to accredited learning, citizenship and beyond. In terms of citizenship, the proposed IELTS pilot and mapping exercise for Home Office

requirements against SQA qualifications will ensure that ESOL learners in rural Argyll and Bute will still be able to access support to gain their citizenship goals. All ESOL learning, and the preparation for citizenship in particular, improves ESOL learners' knowledge and ability to articulate their views about strategy and policy at local and national levels.

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 **Friday 15th 29th May 2015 to:**

Duncan Condie, Scottish Funding Council
dcondie@sfc.ac.uk