

Argyll and Bute CPP Bulletin 15th September 2023

Welcome to the latest issue of the Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership Bulletin.

This fortnightly bulletin is a place for sharing items of interest between community planning partners and our wider network of readers who are interested in the work of the Community Planning Partnership. These include links to strategies, consultations, reports, training, conferences & news stories.

If you have items you would like to share through this bulletin, please send links with up to 200 words of introductory text to: cppadmin@argyll-bute.gov.uk

We make every effort to ensure that any hyperlinks in the Bulletin work – some of them may take longer to load. If you require printed copies of any of the documents attached in the Bulletin please contact: cppadmin@argyll-bute.gov.uk.

Argyll and Bute Council also send out other bulletins regularly that may be of interest:



Communities Bulletin

Every three weeks, containing links to resources and information for people in communities, community groups and the third sector in Argyll and Bute.

Sign up here: [Note of Interest Form \(argyll-bute.gov.uk\)](#)

Cuairt-litir Gàidhlig Earra-Ghàidheal is Bhòid - Argyll and Bute Gaelic Newsletter

Up to twelve issues per year, sharing and promoting Gaelic news, events and other opportunities for everyone in Argyll and Bute.

Sign up here: [Note of Interest Form \(argyll-bute.gov.uk\)](#)

Monthly Funding Alert

A wide range of current funding opportunities gathered from a range of sources and collated in a monthly bulletin highlighting deadlines and links for more details.

Sign up here: [Note of Interest Form \(argyll-bute.gov.uk\)](#)

New in This Bulletin:

- [Job Vacancy -Community Development Officer- Bute and Cowal -Temporary- Part-time](#)
- [Connecting Scotland New Funds Supporting Digital Inclusion](#)
- [A Minimum Income Standard for the United Kingdom in 2023](#)
- [Swing voter views on hardship ahead of the next election](#)

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- [Argyll and Bute Council – Advice and Assistance in the Cost of Living Crisis](#)

- [Argyll and Bute Council Weekly News Round Up](#)

- [Funding Links](#)

- [COVID-19 Advice from NHS Inform](#)

Job Vacancy -Community Development Officer- Bute and Cowal -Temporary- Part-time



We are looking for a dynamic individual to join our busy Community Development team at Argyll and Bute Council for 3 days per week. This post will job share with another post holder within the Bute and Cowal area.

This is a varied role and involves working with community groups, supporting them to strengthen their capacity in Bute and Cowal as well as working within the team to deliver training for community organisations.

The role is also responsible for administering and distributing Argyll and Bute Council's Supporting Communities Fund. This is an exciting opportunity to join the team, we look forward to receiving applications from interested applicants, please refer to the Job Description and Person Specification on the [My Job Scotland website](#) for more details.

Closing Date: Monday 18th September 2023

Connecting Scotland New Funds Supporting Digital Inclusion

Connecting Scotland is now welcoming applications for two new funds supporting organisations' digital inclusion initiatives with devices and connectivity. A third opportunity will be available later in the year.

The funds signal a new direction of the programme, which is moving from a pandemic-specific device gifting model to supporting organisations' new or existing digital inclusion initiatives, creating and boosting capacity at a local level.



1. **Device lending libraries**

The device lending libraries programme is open to organisations that are already running device lending libraries. It can help them expand the range of devices and mobile connectivity that they have available, extend the number of devices available for loan or replace devices that are coming to the end of their lives.

2. **Housing providers**

The housing programme provides devices and/or connectivity to organisations providing social housing or transitional accommodation. Organisations can apply for devices and connectivity to be used in developing lending schemes and hubs, as well as grants for connectivity infrastructure projects benefitting their residents.

Both programmes are open for applications from 29th August 2023. For more information and application details please visit: (link may be slow to load)

<https://connecting.scot/for-organisations/funding-opportunities-from-connecting-scotland>

A Minimum Income Standard for the United Kingdom in 2023

The Minimum Income Standard (MIS) provides a vision of the living standards that we as a society agree everyone in the UK should be able to achieve. This latest update sets out what households need to reach the MIS benchmark in 2023.



There continues to be a big gap between what people have and what they need for a decent standard of living. Millions of people in the UK risk falling well short of a minimum living standard.

This report by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation looks at how the adequacy of disposable income (income after paying taxes, housing and any childcare costs) varies across different household types. It highlights the continued – and growing – inadequacy of out-of-work benefits, as well as incomes for working households failing to meet MIS.

You can use the JRF updated [Minimum Income Calculator](#) to work out whether you earn enough for an acceptable standard of living.

Swing voter views on hardship ahead of the next election

In a context where neither of the main parties are currently talking about the issues of deep poverty and hardship, this briefing sets out what key swing voters think about these issues. It looks at how they view the main parties' current positioning on this agenda, to help inform party strategy and policy ahead of the next election.

Read More [here](#)

Consultations and Surveys



Lochgilhead Front Green to Crinan Canal Active Travel route

Argyll and Bute Council is seeking to identify the best option for an active travel route that links the Lochgilhead Front Green (recently upgraded public realm project) with the Crinan Canal (NCN 78) and to produce a concept design.

Consultation dates: Mon, 4 Sep 2023 - 09:00 - Thu, 28 Sep 2023 - 17:00

Take part in the online survey [here](#)

Dates for your Diary – Events & Workshops...

Talking about homes: what we can learn from homelessness and poverty research

Zoom webinar - Tuesday 19 September 2023 - 12:00 to 13:00



Homes, homelessness and poverty are interlinked, with closely related causes and solutions. By drawing on the same communications strategies, which are backed up by evidence, different organisations and voices can work together to push for progress.

In this webinar session FrameWorks UK will share insights from communications research into how these issues overlap, how they differ, and ultimately how to tell a compelling story about homes, homelessness and poverty together.

Register [here](#)

Social Value Innovation Sessions



Session 1: Inequalities Monday 9th October 10:30am-12:00pm online

To mark 12 years of partnership working on innovation in social value, Manchester City Council and the [Centre for Local Economic Strategies](#) are convening a series of online events.

The first session – focused on how social value can become a more powerful tool in tackling embedded inequalities – will be a collaborative space for thinkers. You'll hear from expert speakers from across the UK and have the opportunity to dig into their comments with peers. Delegates will receive a copy of the final agenda and instructions on how to access the venue around a week before the event. For more information, click [here](#)

Podcasts

Pippa's Podcast



Pippa Milne, Chief Executive of Argyll and Bute Council, shares interesting conversations that she has with a variety of people working to make a difference across Argyll and Bute.



Kilmartin Museum recently re-opened following a major redevelopment and facilities upgrade. Ahead of the event, I caught up with director and curator, Dr Sharon Webb, about the significance of Kilmartin Glen locally, nationally and internationally, and what the Museum's new visitor experience offers. To find out more click [here](#) and see the [Kilmartin Museum](#) website.

You can find more episodes of **Pippa's Podcast** [here](#).

Previous Items You May Have Missed...

Fuel Poverty in Rural Scotland

This report evidences the drivers, impacts, and extent of fuel poverty in rural Scotland. It outlines a series of interlinking factors which combine and compound each other to produce a 'perfect storm' for severe fuel poverty in rural Scotland.

In addition to the four recognised drivers of fuel poverty, the research identifies a set of rural specific drivers which contribute to significantly higher fuel poverty and extreme fuel poverty levels in rural areas, when compared to the rest of Scotland. The rural specific drivers of fuel poverty include factors such as a cold and wet climate, a lack of affordable housing, and limited access to support services.

To explain why fuel poverty is so pervasive in rural Scotland, the report also outlines the structural barriers to fuel poverty alleviation, including where current policy designed to limit or alleviate fuel poverty fails to recognise the realities of fuel poverty in rural Scotland.

More information [here](#)

Fuel Poverty

Highlands and Islands

Scotland

36%



Extreme fuel poverty: 23%
Fuel poverty gap: £1,260

24%



Extreme fuel poverty: 12%
Fuel poverty gap: £750

(Image from: Changeworks (2023) *A Perfect Storm*)

Argyll and Bute Outcomes Improvement Plan (2024-34): Development Process Update



The Community Planning team has been hard at work continuing to gather the information needed to develop the Argyll and Bute Outcomes Improvement Plan (ABOIP), which will guide the work of the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) for the next ten years.

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 requires each CPP to produce a Local Outcomes Improvement Plan. Statutory guidance tells us that this Plan should:

- Demonstrate a clear, evidence-based and robust understanding of local needs, circumstances and aspirations of its local communities.
- Aim to tackle causes of inequalities rather than consequences.
- Use preventative approaches.

- Focus on a small number of local priorities where the CPP will add most value as a partnership - in particular by improving outcomes for its most vulnerable and disadvantaged communities and moderating future demand for crisis services.

As part of the ABOIP development process, we conducted the *Improving Lives in Argyll and Bute Survey*. Almost 2,000 Argyll and Bute residents responded. We learned that, from a community perspective, Transport Infrastructure, Housing and Community Wellbeing were the three themes most in need of improvement.

Our next step was to seek input from the CPP Management Committee. Community planning partners are experts in providing services to the communities of Argyll and Bute. As such, they have vital knowledge and experience arising from the ongoing work of their organisations and observations of the communities that they work with. We wanted to understand partners' views on where partnership working is most needed. We also wanted to understand where partners were seeing the greatest inequalities relating to the community's top three priority themes of Transport Infrastructure, Housing and Community Wellbeing.

To explore these issues, CPP Management Committee members came together at a Development Day, held in Arrochar. This was the first time since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic that many of the committee members had met in person. Many committee members had joined after that time and so had never met face-to-face before. We were reminded how valuable it was to be in a room together and have the opportunity to get to know each other in a way that isn't always possible during a virtual, online meeting. The partners were able to have interesting and useful discussions about each of the community's top three priority themes.

These discussions, along with the findings of a survey for all partners, including those who were unable to join the Development Day, will inform the next stage of the process of developing the Outcomes Improvement Plan. This will involve cross-checking input from the community and partners with available data sources to further refine focus on the communities and places experiencing the greatest inequalities. A series of focus groups will be held later in the year to explore "what does good look like?" We will combine all of these findings to develop the Outcomes that the CPP will aim to achieve through partnership working from 2024-34.

The cost of debt for low-income households in the cost of living crisis



The human cost of the cost of living crisis so far is as clear as it is disturbing. By May 2023, nearly two thirds of the poorest 40% of low-income families, 7.3 million households in total, were being forced to make sacrifices on one or more essential – such as prescription medicine, adequate clothing, or a hot shower. Within this number, 5.7 million were routinely reducing or skipping meals. The social scarring will likely stay with us for decades to come. Read the report [here](#)

New grant funding to decarbonise public sector buildings

A new funding scheme has been launched offering up to £20 million in grants to support local authorities, universities and arm's-length external organisations decarbonise their buildings. Applications will open via the [Salix Finance](#) website later this summer. Further info here: [New grant funding to decarbonise public sector buildings - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

JRF Report: Deepening Poverty in Scotland – No-one left Behind?



JOSEPH
ROWNTREE
FOUNDATION

This briefing studies the shocking increase in very deep poverty in Scotland.

In the last 20 years or so, while overall poverty levels (and particularly those for children and pensioners) have fallen, the proportion, and number, of people in very deep poverty has risen dramatically.

This technical briefing sets out to expose and explain this pattern – using a long series of poverty statistics from 1994 up to the start of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The briefing can be accessed [here](#)

New Cost of Living Hub for Community Councils



A new [Cost of Living Hub](#) has been created to support community councils and their communities with the cost of living crisis. It includes resources from Scottish Government and other agencies as well as a collection of resources organised by local authority area. The hub will be added to on a regular basis and will also include information on webinars and other relevant events as well as case studies highlighting the inspirational work of Scotland's urban, rural and islands community councils.

School Uniform Initiative



Argyll and Bute Council has been working with its schools and third sector partners to roll out a new, innovative scheme that will see school uniforms that children have outgrown, either reused or recycled - saving peoples' purse and the planet. Partners include schools, parent councils, volunteers, Kintyre Recycling Limited, Oban Baptist Church, Helensburgh Parish Church, and Dunoon Community Hub.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Argyll and Bute Council – Advice and Assistance in the Cost of Living Crisis



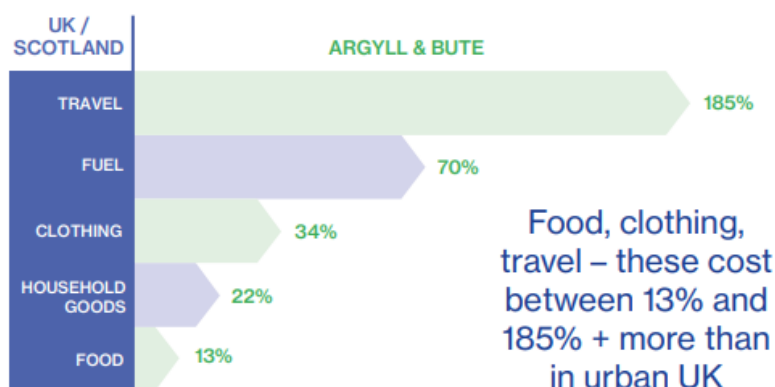
The council and partners are working to support people and businesses affected by the cost of living crisis in Argyll and Bute.

Please find here a summary of that work, the sources of help and advice that are available and please feel free to share this with third parties and other organisations.

DETAILS:

Argyll and Bute's island, rural and mainland geography brings additional cost to our citizens' day to day lives (as highlighted in a report to Council on 29th September). For fuel costs alone this means that 70% of our households are at risk of fuel poverty or extreme fuel poverty;

impact on additional key areas of living are outlined in the graphic below and at the end of this information note.



Working with partners to support people and businesses:

The council's FIAG group (Financial Inclusion and Advice Group) brings together council services and support agencies. To make it as easy as possible for people to get support when they need it the council provides a 'one-stop-shop' of information on our website to provide key information and also help and information on money saving initiatives such as cheaper deals for internet connection and the availability of warm spaces provide by other organisations: www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/advice-services

We summarise below some of the help available:

Fuel

FIAG brings together different sources of support specifically with fuel costs on our website: [Heat your home - managing rising costs \(argyll-bute.gov.uk\)](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/heat-your-home). This includes information about warm spaces – (link may be slow to load) <https://www.argylltsi.org/warmspaces.html>

Money

Bute Advice Centre and Allenergy produced a [booklet highlighting financial support services available across Argyll and Bute](#). This includes for example maximising income, foodbanks, energy and budgeting advice. It has been widely circulated to Elected members, across the NHS, Schools, support agencies and is available on the [Bute Advice Centre website](#).

Argyll and Bute Scotland Loves Local Gift Cards The Council is rolling out an initiative to provide £120 gift cards to around 6,650 Council Tax Reduction recipients. This will support households on low incomes and the local businesses registered for the card.

The Council is looking at a proposal to develop Welfare Rights & Health Partnerships in Argyll & Bute. The pilot is looking at 5 practices within Mid-Argyll, Kintyre & Islay where the Council would embed Local Authority welfare advice specialists within the practice's healthcare setting for an average of one day per week per practice.

Data mining to identify benefits eligibility and maximise household income The Council's Data Advisory Group is working on matching data from relevant council systems to identify unmet benefit eligibility so we can support eligible households to maximize their income.

Food

[Flexible Food Fund](#): The Fund provides a one-off cash payment to families on low incomes to help with food and fuel. The size of the payment is based on their household composition. Claimants are offered a second cash payment if they have engaged with support agencies, the Bute Advice Centre and AllEnergy, in financial management. The project achieved national acclaim in October 2021 for Excellence in Innovation from the Institute of Revenue Rating and Valuation. Over 96% of people receiving the first grant payment engage, get the

support they need and get a second payment; applicants, through different routes, have received a total of £2 million they could otherwise have missed out on.

[Food banks](#): there is a list of food banks on the council's website

Clothing

Preloved School Clothing Project. The Council and its schools are working with community groups to give every child in Argyll and Bute access to a school uniform, by developing a uniform re-use scheme. There is a reused school uniform hub in Helensburgh, one nearing completion in Campbeltown, and work in in planning for schemes for Dunoon, Rothesay, Oban and Lochgilphead, Tarbert, Islay and Mull.

Support

Additional funding for advice agencies. The Council has provided £40,000 in funding to ALLenergy, Bute Advice Centre and the Argyll and Bute Citizens Advice Bureau to help them meet increasing demands from the public between 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.

Anti-poverty training. The Poverty Alliance has delivered training across the Council and Community Planning Partners on anti-poverty actions and this will be extended to elected members on 30 November.

Promoting information

The Council's Communications Team is already using social media and also statements provided to local press in the area to reach groups and individuals who perhaps don't use social media to make people who need it, aware of support available, using for example digital and traditional media channels, and word of mouth, inviting the help of Councillors, council employees, partner agencies and the public in passing information on, via whatever channels they have, to people who need it.

Please use the information and links above and pass to those who need it.

Remember key information and links to other advice and assistance can be found at:

www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/advice-services

[Heat your home - managing rising costs \(argyll-bute.gov.uk\).](#)

Argyll and Bute Council Weekly News Round Up

You can sign up to receive the Argyll and Bute Weekly News Round Up which is full of useful information, guidance, surveys and vacancies [here](#).



Funding Links

Argyll and Bute Flexible Food Fund

The Flexible Food Fund is having a really positive impact in communities across Argyll & Bute, putting cash in the pockets of those with no financial buffer. Bute Advice and ALLenergy have worked successfully to provide welfare rights, money and energy advice to over 200 households across Argyll and Bute. This holistic approach is supporting households to become financially stable and helps bring peace of mind to families across Argyll and Bute.



Applications to the fund can be made via the [online claim form](#) available on the council's website. If you need help or support to complete the form please call us on 01700 502784 and ask about the Argyll and Bute Flexible Food Fund.

Benefits Money and Energy Advice Leaflet – New Updated



A new Money Worries guide has been created by Bute Advice Centre and ALLenergy in partnership with the Argyll and Bute Community Food Forum, with the aim of providing basic information to help households maximise their income where possible, reduce outgoings and make the most of existing budgets. In addition, it will provide contact details of support services available throughout the region. The Leaflet can be found on Bute Advice Centre's website, [here](#)

Argyll and Bute Third Sector Interface Funding Update

The TSI's latest Funding Update can be found [here](#). (this hyperlink may be slow to load)

Funding for Communities

Funds to support communities at this time can be found [here](#).

Sign up to Funding Alert

You can sign up to receive the Argyll and Bute Council monthly Funding Alert [here](#).

Grantnet – Funding Search Tool

GRANTnet is a straightforward free to use service which can help you identify suitable funding for your activity or project across a wide range of funding sources.

What is GRANTnet?

- Up-to-date information on over 7,000 grants and other incentives,
- Rapid identification of funding sources specific to need,
- Data sourced from EC and UK Government sources, including Government departments, local authorities, charitable trusts and corporate sponsors.

How to access GRANTnet

You can access the Grantnet home page [here](#).

When using the system for the first time, go to the '**Log in / Register**' page [here](#) and enter your details including your e-mail address (this will become the username), name, organisation, postal address and telephone number. Clicking on the 'Register' button will generate an e-mail providing a password.

Using GRANTnet - When you log into the system you must answer some questions about your organisation and the project which you wish to undertake. GRANTnet will then provide an overview of all the funds available.

Funding help available for businesses

Funds to support businesses at this time can be found at [here](#).

COVID-19 Advice from NHS Inform

Covid 19 is still around – for the latest updated advice, visit the NHS Inform website by clicking: [here](#)



Other Partners General Information

Here is our partner websites with other useful information :-

[Police Scotland](#) - Information on Police Scotland.

[Fire Scotland](#) - Latest news and details.

[Highlands and Islands Enterprise](#) – Advice for businesses, communities and third sector organisations.

[Scottish Natural Heritage](#) – Tips to support and enjoy local wildlife.

[Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park](#) – Details of facilities and helpful advice for visitors and businesses.

[Argyll College UHI](#) – Student support and advice.

[Argyll & Bute Council](#) – Help and advice for residents, businesses, communities on council services.

[Scottish Enterprise](#) – Business continuity advice.

If you have information that you wish to share from your organisation please send this to cppadmin@argyll-bute.gov.uk



Argyll and Bute's economic success is built on a growing population

cppadmin@argyll-bute.gov.uk 01546 604464