

HSCP 16 Alzheimer Community Outreach Programme

About the Proposal

Title of Proposal.

HSCP 16 Draft Alzheimer Community Outreach Programme

Intended outcome of the proposal.

Decommission the community outreach service with a budget saving of £118, 848 while protecting funding for statutory post diagnostic support.

How does your proposal align with strategy?

The HSCP recognises the value provided by third sector partner services and in respect of prevention does not consider that this aligns with national or local strategy. However we are required to work within a balanced budget and as such have had to undertake a review which prioritises services within the financial year. The proposal allows for the maintenance of some service rather than no service.

Alzheimer's have noted their position is that while decommissioning may offer short-term fiscal benefit, the resulting potential pressure on local GP services, A&E, and statutory social care may far exceed the cost of the Community Connections service delivered by Alzheimer Scotland

Description of proposal.

This service is currently provided by Alzheimer's Scotland alongside the statutory post diagnostic support which is a mandated service for a minimum of 12 months after diagnosis. Within the current financial situation the least worst option is to decommission the community outreach programme as this is not similarly mandated however it is part of the overall dementia strategy.

Alzheimer's operate two dedicated Dementia Resource Centres across the area, one in Helensburgh and the other in Oban. These Centres offer a comprehensive range of support, from expert advice to social activities for anyone living with a diagnosis and those who care for them. They are open Monday-Friday between 9am - 4:30pm, with a Community Cafe open in Helensburgh every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday between 1pm - 4pm. Highly trained staff are available throughout the week to provide confidential support and guidance.

We deliver a wide range of activities across the two Centres, including Football Memories, 'Dog Days', Gardening Groups, 'Tea & a Tune' sessions, and nature-inspired indoor activities among many others.

In review of the overall service, managers have explored multiple options in reduced funding with a reduced cost for reduced service.

This service currently runs in Oban and Helensburgh, there will be gaps that are identified and supported in the data section.

Lead and Appropriate Officers

Lead officer: Carol Jones

Lead officer job title: Clinical Services Manager - Older Adult Mental Health and dementia care

Lead officer service: Older Adult Mental Health and dementia care

Appropriate officer: Nicola Gillespie

Appropriate officer job title: Head of Service

Who will deliver proposal: Budget proposal to the IJB and decommissioned by the service and procurement.

Signed off by: Nicola Gillespie

Date: 17/03/2026

Evidence

Data - What data have you used to inform the IIA.

Alzheimer's Scotland have provided a service report, qualitative and quantitative service data and a subsequent proposal for reduced service and public engagement.

Other information - This may include reference to reports by other people / organisations relevant to the impacts you identified.

Options review undertaken by service improvement officer

Consultation - What consultation / engagement have you carried out to inform the IIA?

Considered as part of general consultation with online questionnaire, community conversations and working with the provider

Gaps in evidence.

Information concentrates on direct impacts to service users, service deliverers. Some indication of increased impact on unpaid carers noting socialisation as unofficial respite and additional strain in the overall system including increased requirements for primary care, A & E and social care.

Knock on affect.

Yes

Knock on affect details.

Impact to the financial position of the provider, impact on unpaid carers, potential systemic impacts on reduction of informal services

Monitoring - How will you monitor the impacts of your proposal.

Impact of reduction of one aspect of the service (outreach) will require to be monitored with concurrent monitoring of any impacts to statutory services or unpaid carer impacts

Fairer Scotland

Impact on service users

Category	Impact
Mainland rural population	Negative
Island population	No Impact
Low income	No Impact
Low wealth	No Impact
Material deprivation	No Impact
Area deprivation	No Impact
Socio-economic	No Impact
Communities of place	Negative
Communities of interest	Negative

Impacts details.

Fewer welcoming, stigma-reducing places for people with dementia to meet safely in Helensburgh and Oban.

Loss of a central point for informal support, advice and signposting

More isolation, especially for people unable to travel far

Community cohesion weakened as social interactions reduce

Communities become less dementia-friendly and less connected

Increased burden on families providing care alone

Carers lose spaces to share experiences and reduce stress

People with dementia lose peer contact and confidence-building social routines

Impact on service deliverers

Category	Impact
Mainland rural population	Negative
Island population	No Impact
Low income	Don't Know
Low wealth	No Impact
Material deprivation	No Impact
Area deprivation	Don't Know
Socio-economic	Don't Know
Communities of place	Negative
Communities of interest	Negative

Impacts details.

Potential increased workload for statutory services with increased case complexity, reduced capacity for Alzheimer's Scotland early stage service with potential for socio economic impact on staff, reduced capacity to recruit and workforce impact.

Don't knows.

We have no explicit information in relation to service delivers but in the context of the information provided we have addressed assumptions based on what we know in respect of place, interests and workforce.

Due regard

This service operates within both highly populated areas of Argyll & Bute, we know that it provides support to individuals, 'unofficial respite' and maintenance. We do not know if people are travelling widely to access the service and if individuals require to access other or different care if this may cause a socio economic disadvantage.

Worsening carer strain contributes to poorer health, reduced income stability, and increased risk of crisis. People in socio-economically disadvantaged groups are more likely to reach crisis sooner when early-intervention community supports are removed. Removing free, in-person, preventative support disproportionately harms people with fewer financial and digital resources. Both areas are geographically well served in comparison with other areas of Argyll & Bute and further work would be required to identify and address socio-economically disadvantaged groups across Argyll & Bute.

Consumer duty

Does your proposal affect individuals, businesses or both?

Both

On the basis of your assessment, what are the likely impacts of your proposal?

Category	Impact
Choice	Negative
Fairness	No Impact
Redress	No Impact
Safety	Negative
Information	Negative
Access	Negative
Representation	No Impact

Positive impacts you have identified.

This would be a reduction in service to support maintenance of statutory service.

Negative impacts you have identified.

Reducing the service could potentially worsen outcomes for people who previously relied on it with less choice, however there is potentially still alternative service in the area. There would potentially be less visibility of service and increased demand in the longer term on statutory services which would require to be monitored.

What alternatives have you considered which can improve outcome for customers and/or reduce harm?

The service offers supports in two highly populated areas in Argyll & Bute with a range of care providers. A number of the providers are subject to a percentage cut retaining service however there is no cumulative service plan that supports what the pathway of care, range of choice and approach to sustainability of commissioned service is on place.

How have you reduced harm to consumers through the development of your proposal?

There is recognition that reduction of service has potential to impact on consumers. There requires to be an overall commissioning review to look at the service offering available in each locality. All of the services commissioned provide value but there may be benefit in provided less choice if this provides better sustainability.

If you have not been able to reduce harm to your consumers, why not?

An action to look at commissioning approach for the longer term could potentially increase sustainability of service however there may be some harm through reduction of choice.

Children rights and wellbeing

Are there any aspects to your proposal which directly impact on children?

No

Direct impact on children details.

[blank]

Are the any aspects to your proposal which indirectly impact on children?

Yes

Indirect impact on children details.

the loss of:

carer support

emotional/practical support

community hubs and groups that reduce isolation

When these supports disappear, stress in the household increases.

For children living with a parent, grandparent or relative who has dementia, this can mean:

More emotional strain at home

Less attention from the caring parent (who is more stressed and unsupported)

Higher exposure to crisis points (falls, confusion, distress)

Potential difficulty concentrating at school due to home pressures

Even if children are not direct carers, they feel the knock-on effect of carer burnout and household pressure.

Children rights

Complete the options relating to the general principles.

Category	Impact
Article 2: (non-discrimination)	Don't know
Article 3: (best interests of the child)	Don't Know
Article 6: (life, survival and development)	Don't Know
Article 12: (respect for the views of the child)	Don't Know

Have you identified any other article as being relevant to your proposal?

Children's wellbeing

Category	Impact
Safe	Don't Know
Healthy	Don't Know
Achieving	Don't Know
Nurtured	Don't Know
Active	Don't Know
Respected	Don't Know
Responsible	Don't Know
Included	Don't Know

For the indicators where you believe your proposal will result in reduced children's wellbeing, explain what these reductions will be.

Where families must travel further or pay for replacement activities, this creates:

Reduced household resources

Less money available for children's activities, transport, or essentials

Higher stress for families already managing socio-economic challenges

potential for children to share the caring role with parents

Children in low-income households feel the ripple effect most strongly.

For the indicators where you believe your proposal will result in improved children's wellbeing, explain what these improvements will be.

[blank]

If you have identified any indicators as being relevant to your proposal, but you do not know what the impacts will be, explain how you will monitor impact as your proposal progresses.

We have no data on the impact of Alzheimer's or other dementia directly on children through this engagement, however we can make some assumptions based on the knowledge and understanding of the unpaid adult carers role and what we learn from other reporting in Child Poverty. We do not know if this may also impact on a young person taking on caring duties they may not have otherwise undertaken.

Island Community

How many islands does your proposal affect?

None the service is only available in Helensburgh and Oban

Which islands are affected by your proposal?

This service is not available on islands however the other cumulative impacts could reduce access to statutory service with greater demand and highlights an inequality to a proportionate service on island.

Does your proposal impact on Island communities?

Category	Impact
Demography	Don't Know
Economy	No Impact
Society	Don't Know

Describe any positive impacts you have identified.

not applicable as no service exists

Describe any negative impacts you have identified.

Negative impacts would potentially be impacts from increased demand on statutory service.

If you do not know what the impacts will be, you should reflect this in your monitoring arrangements for the proposal.

We would require to monitor further reaching impacts however while this has reduced choice other services are available

Describe how your proposal affects the islands communities you have identified differently from other communities including other islands communities and mainland areas.

No service is delivered on island and as such no impact on reduction of service however there may be impact on statutory demand. We don't know if this will happen.

How will you ensure your proposal delivers equivalent levels of service to the islands communities you have identified compared to other areas, including mainland areas?

No service is delivered on island and as such no impact on reduction of service however there may be impact on statutory demand. We don't know if this will happen.

If you have not been able to mitigate impacts, why not?

Alzheimer's Scotland do not provide a comparable commissioned service on island.

Equality impact

Equality impact on service users

Category	Impact
Disability	Negative
Race	No Impact
Marriage and civil partnership	No Impact
Religion or belief	No Impact
Sex	Don't know
Pregnancy and maternity	No impact
Age	Negative
Sexual orientation	No Impact
Gender reassignment	No Impact

Impact on service users.

Removing this support primarily affects older adults, especially as dementia is age-related. Adults are also living with complex needs

Don't knows identified.

We do not know the full demographic of the current service user group.

Equality impact on service deliverers

Category	Impact
Disability	No Impact
Race	No impact
Marriage and civil partnership	No Impact
Religion or belief	No Impact
Sex	No Impact
Pregnancy and maternity	No impact
Age	Don't Know
Sexual orientation	No Impact
Gender reassignment	No Impact

Impact on service deliverers.

Potential increased workload for statutory services with increased case complexity, reduced capacity for Alzheimer's Scotland early stage service with potential for socio economic impact on staff, reduced capacity to recruit and workforce impact.

The health and social care third sector workforce, particularly at Alzheimer Scotland, is likely to be predominantly female. Where staff hours or posts are affected, a "No Impact" rating for Sex requires justification

Don't knows identified.

We do not know the workforce of the organisation and would require to monitor any impacts as part of the decommissioning process or transition planning

Due regard.

This proposal highlights areas which are identified within the workforce strategy. This will require a long term approach to sustainable workforce planning and commissioning. We are taking responsible proportionate action to ensure that we maintain some service to address the underlying risks and impacts until we can take a wider look at the collective provision, stages of provisions and how this can be addressed sustainably. We will continue to work with the provider, potentially in an enhanced way to ensure that the breadth of care available in areas is signposted to individuals and unpaid carers.

We will monitor

Monitor:

Crisis demand increasing

Carer stress levels

Any increased staff sickness/attrition

Complaint themes

Island-specific issues

Gendered workforce impacts

Equality issues raised at forums