

INVOLVEMENT OF THE ARGYLL AND BUTE ADVICE NETWORK IN COMMUNITY PLANNING

The Argyll and Bute Advice Network is the result of a year-long pilot partnership established by the Scottish Executive to address existing barriers and shortcomings in the provision of legal advice (advice relating to people's rights) and information with the aim of improving the quality and co-ordination of advice services across Scotland. Since completion of the various pilot partnerships across Scotland, the Scottish Executive has begun producing guidance on the establishment of Advice Networks and has sought information from Argyll and Bute on good practice as a result of the Argyll and Bute Advice Network Pilot.

Members of the Argyll and Bute Advice Network currently comprise:

- Argyll and Bute Council
- Bute Advice Centre
- Argyll and Bute Care & Repair
- Argyll and Bute Woman's Aid
- Fyne Homes
- MacArthur Stewart
- Argyll and Bute Citizens' Advice Bureau
- Argyll CVS
- Islay and Jura Advice Centre
- Mull and Iona Information Service
- NHS Argyll and Clyde (who also served as CPP representative)

Some of the benefits of the Advice Network include:

- Better joined up services for the end-user
- More flexible working practices to meet the needs of a diverse and hard-to-reach population
- Partners will have a better understanding of each agency's skills and knowledge to better enable them to refer cases appropriately and with confidence.

The Management Committee is invited to discuss how the Advice Network can best link into the structure of the Community Planning Partnership.