Strategic Partnership Highlight



& Exception Report

| Strategic Partnership (Name of Partnership you are reporting on) | Argyll & Bute Social Enterprise Network |
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| CPP Thematic Group (i.e Economy, Environment or Social Affairs) | Economy |
| CPP Outcome (please select – you can select more than one outcome) | CPP/CP01 – competitive and successful businesses |
| Please refer to attached table for more detail on each CPP Outcome. | CPP/CP02 – sustainable economic assets |
| | CPP/CP03 – vibrant towns that are centres of economic growth |
| | CPP/CP04 – promoting our cultural, social and natural heritage |
| | CPP/CP05 – Utilising our environment to create employment and prosperity |
| | CPP/CP06 – Protecting our unique area |
| | CPP/CP07 – services are planned and delivered based on local need |
| | CPP/CP08 – overall health, wellbeing, independence and social inclusion are improved |
| | CPP/CP09 – people feel safe and secure |
| | CPP/CP010 – our diverse culture is celebrated |

| Activity Summary | in |
|-------------------------|----|
| Period | |
| / | |

(please state period you are reporting on)

May 2011 - July 2011

- ABSEN member survey completed.
- Working with Argyll & Bute Local Services Initiative (ABLSI) on key themes of Procurement & Risk Management, Funding & Open Book Budgeting, Skills assets & Physical Assets.
 - Workshop held for recycling groups on risk & procurement
 - Meetings and tele-conferences with Recycling groups – reviewing funding cuts and future business plans.
 - Event held on 26th May with organisations funded through Children & Families to look at how the Council & providers can work together to deliver best service possible whilst absorbing latest funding cuts.
 - Follow on workshop with council & providers took place on 5th August in Lochgilphead, next workshop scheduled for 20th September.
 - Meeting with A&B Heads of Services to look at areas of business which could potentially be outsourced to social enterprises.
- Support visits to 16 potential/new and existing social enterprises.
- ABSEN Regional Meeting held in Arrochar (May)

Key Challenges & Actions to Address

- Support recycling organisations as they try to cope with the loss/reduction of funding which will significantly impact on level of services provided. Main issues are vulnerability of groups, loss of services and loss of staff.
- Support to user consultation workshops resulting from Children & Families event.
- Reports from Members Survey to be finalised for general publication.
- ABSEN AGM & Conference being held in Rothesay on 5th/6th and 7th October, 2011. Programme/invites issued.
- Continuing support to social enterprises impacted by current economic situation.

Support provided via following activities -

- Involvement in meetings, conference calls e.g. with A&B Council on recycling
- Provision of appropriate training/alerting organisations to other training available.
- General business support through ABSEN Associates.
- Provision of networking opportunities through Regional Meetings, Annual Conference.
- Regular communication with social enterprises through

| | twice monthly newsletters, bulletins, and web site. Representing ABSEN & members at appropriate meetings, workshops, conferences, training events etc. Development Manager support through visits to potential, new and existing social enterprises. |
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| Name | Bill Stewart |
| Date | 18 th August, 2011 |

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