



Argyll and Bute CPP Bulletin 8th July 2024

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

This regular 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.

In This Bulletin:

Argyll and Bute Outcomes Improvement Plan 2024-34

Outcome 1 – Transport Infrastructure

[Best Practice Guidance on Community Engagement for bus services](#)
[New Active Travel App launched for Mid Argyll](#)

Outcome 2 - Housing

[Argyll and Bute Housing Emergency continues to be tackled](#)

Outcome 3 – Community Wellbeing

[Child Poverty Practice Accelerator Fund](#)
[Scottish Public Health Observatory user survey](#)
[Royal National Mòd 2024 volunteers](#)
[Gaelic Hubs workshop](#)
[Water Safety Scotland toolkits](#)

Ongoing partnership work

Climate Change

- [Have your say: Flood Resilience Strategy](#)

Community Wealth Building

- [Community Wealth Building in Argyll and Bute: A Framework for Action](#)
- [Models of Opportunity](#)

Digital Inclusion

- [OFCOM mobile and broadband checker](#)
- [Digital Switchover](#)

Financial Inclusion

- [Help during the cost of living crisis](#)
- [UK Poverty 2024 report](#)

Community Planning Partnership news

[New Skills Development Scotland representative](#)

Previous Items You May Have Missed...

[Police Scotland- Right to Ask](#)
[Transformation Programme Launches Leadership Practitioner Forum](#)
[Investment Scams - Police Scotland Warnings](#)
[Argyll and Bute Council – Advice and Assistance in the Cost of Living Crisis](#)

Funding Links

Other bulletins and newsletters that may be of interest

Partner Websites

Argyll and Bute Outcomes Improvement Plan 2024-2034

The Community Planning Partnership has published [the Argyll and Bute Outcomes Improvement Plan 2024-2034](#), which will provide the focus for its work over the next ten years.

The Outcomes Improvement Plan for 2024-2034 will focus on improving:

Outcome 1: Transport Infrastructure

Outcome 2: Housing

Outcome 3: Community Wellbeing



The Community Planning Partnership Bulletin seeks to spotlight information relevant to each of these outcomes, as well as previously established partnership work.

Outcome 1: Transport Infrastructure

Best Practice Guidance on Community Engagement for bus services



Transport Scotland has published guidance on best practice in community engagement around bus services, following a short-life working group comprising community planning partners at a national level and a range of local and national bus operators. The document contains guidance for bus operators, Local Authorities and communities, with a particular focus on supporting those responsible for making decisions and encouraging community empowerment.

Community Planning Partnerships are mentioned specifically under 'Checklist 3: Planning' which includes:

- Agreeing focus, outcomes and indicators of success**
- Agreeing realistic timetables**
- Allocating sufficient resources**
- Engaging community before decision-making on network changes**
- Convening community partners and local stakeholders**
- Considering how service information sharing could inform/improve community engagement**

[Read the Best Practice Guidance on Community Engagement document](#)

New Active Travel App launched for Mid Argyll

The opportunities for active travel across Mid Argyll are being promoted through a new interactive mobile app launched by Argyll and Bute Council.

The Discovering Dalriada Mid Argyll app complements five existing apps highlighting active travel choices in and around the main towns of Argyll and Bute and also contains information on points of interest and family Eye Spy challenges.

The Council works with Community Planning Partners including HiTRANS and Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) on a range of active travel projects to expand the network of routes available for walking and wheeling throughout the area.



[Download the Discover Dalriada Mid Argyll App \(Google Play\)](#)

[Download the Discover Dalriada Mid Argyll App \(Apple\)](#)

Outcome 2: Housing

Argyll and Bute Housing emergency continues to be tackled

The Argyll and Bute Housing Emergency Summit was held on 27 November 2023, bringing partners together to forge commitments aimed at tackling the housing shortage by maximising resources, pursuing innovation, coordinating planning and targeting delivery capacity.

The Summit Outcomes Report, published in February, details the outcomes of Summit activity including the shortlisting and appraisal of housing emergency responses and the collective partnership pledge to act on each response.

Further progress reports have since been published capturing the ongoing work of Argyll and Bute Council and its partners including developing key worker accommodation, repurposing empty homes back into use, developing new housing sites and engaging with national house builders.

[More information about the Argyll and Bute Housing Emergency and how it is being addressed](#)

Outcome 3: Community Wellbeing

Child Poverty Practice Accelerator Fund

A fund trialling new ways of combating child poverty has opened for a second round of applications. The Child Poverty Practice Accelerator Fund (CPAF) provides up to £80,000 for local projects which test and evaluate novel approaches that target one or more of the three drivers of reducing child poverty:

- Improving income from employment
- Supporting people with the cost of living
- Increasing awareness and uptake of social security benefits

[Find out more and apply to the Child Poverty Practice Accelerator Fund](#)

Closing Date for applications: 12th July 2024

Scottish Public Health Observatory user survey

The Scottish Public Health Observatory (ScotPHO) is a crucial source of public health data used to support strategic development and planning at a local level.



A user survey is being undertaken to help shape the development of a new strategy for ScotPHO based on the understanding of what partners perceive to be the strengths and weaknesses of the current Scot PHO collaboration.

[Take part in the survey](#) here or use the QR code.

Closes on 15th July 2024

Royal National Mòd 2024 volunteers

The Royal National Mòd 2024 takes place in its historic home of Oban from Friday 11th October to Saturday 19th October and volunteers are being sought to support a range of events taking place across the eight days.



The local organising committee of Scotland's Gaelic cultural showpiece is keen to hear from anyone interested in helping make this year's festival a success from assisting with the fringe programme to ensuring the smooth running of events.

[Read more about volunteer support for the Mòd](#) or email modanobain@gmail.com for more details.

Gaelic Hubs workshop

Opportunities for learning Gaelic in Argyll and Bute will be the topic for the first online Gaelic Hubs Workshop on 29th July.

Feedback from the successful Gaelic Gathering held in April identified the requirement for more Gaelic learning opportunities and this workshop will look at both the existing Gaelic learning groups across Argyll and Bute and the possibilities for new groups to be created.



[Join the Teams meeting on Monday 29th July from 6-7pm](#)

Water Safety Scotland toolkits

A series of mini toolkits have been created to help partners communicate, promote and raise awareness of prevention measures for three outdoor water-based activities.

Water Safety Scotland supported by Paddle Scotland and Just Dive have developed toolkits for:



[Stand Up Paddleboarding](#)
[Diving](#)
[Kayaking and Canoeing](#)

Further advice on safety for a wider range of water-related activities including angling, inflatables and tombstoning can be found on the [Water Safety Scotland website](#).

Ongoing Partnership work

Climate Change

Have your say: Flood Resilience Strategy

Scotland's climate is changing and one of the greatest challenges is the increasing impact flooding will have on our people, places and activities.

A warmer climate leads to higher amounts of winter rainfall and more intense periods of summer rainfall, together with sea level rises which increase exposure to coastal flooding events and erosion.

The Scottish Government is consulting on a Flood Resilience Strategy which is part of the National Adaptation Plan and will focus on how to make communities more resilient to increasing incidences of flooding.

[Flood Resilience Strategy: Consultation](#)

Closes on 13th August 2024

Community Wealth Building

Community Wealth Building in Argyll and Bute: A Framework for Action

In March 2023, the CPP approved the commissioning of a piece of work to map Community Wealth Building case studies within and outwith Argyll and Bute and to develop a set of recommendations for local action with the framework of the five pillars of CWB.

With input from stakeholders and individuals in the community and overseen by a steering group of community planning partners, the final report on Community Wealth Building in Argyll and Bute was received by the CPP Management Committee on 10th April 2024 and presented to the four Area Community Planning Groups in late April and early May 2024.

[Read the report - Community Wealth Building in Argyll and Bute: A Framework for Action](#)

Models of Opportunity

Through the citizen-led workshops conducted as part of the Community Wealth Building commission, two 'Models of Opportunity' have been identified which provide specific examples of how CWB could be implemented in Argyll and Bute.

The two models of opportunity are:

Building greater employee ownership in Argyll and Bute

Building community and shared ownership of the energy transition

[Read more about the Models of Opportunity](#)

Digital Inclusion

OFCOM mobile and broadband checker

OFCOM's mobile and broadband checker allows people to find out the predicted mobile and broadband coverage for their location based on information from the four major mobile network providers and major broadband providers.

[OFCOM mobile and broadband checker dashboard](#)



Digital switchover



BT group has refined its switchover programme from the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) to digital landlines, following the introduction of measures to better protect more vulnerable customers and those with additional requirements including telecare users.

It is anticipated that other Internet Service Providers will be taking a similar position.

[Read the BT article on its digital switchover programme](#)

Financial Inclusion

Help during the cost of living crisis

The Scottish Government has put together a website which signposts available help to mitigate the cost of living crisis, this includes:

- Urgent help with food or fuel
- Help with debt and money
- Energy and household bills
- Benefits and income
- Children and families
- Health and wellbeing
- Older or disabled



Support for businesses is also signposted

[Cost of living crisis website](#)

UK Poverty 2024 report

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) has published a report on the current poverty picture across the UK as a whole and for different demographics and geographies.

Poverty has returned to close to pre-pandemic levels with children and working-age adults with children experiencing the highest rates of poverty. Minority ethnic groups and people with a disability also face high levels of poverty.



[Joseph Rowntree Foundation UK Poverty 2024 report](#)

Community Planning Partnership news

New Skills Development Scotland representative



We are delighted to welcome Susan MacRae to the Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership.

Susan is Skills Development Scotland's Area Manager for both Argyll and Bute and Eilean Siar and her role involves overseeing local authority wide service delivery, ensuring high-quality career interventions, promoting work based learning opportunities and working collaboratively with stakeholders to create a vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable future for our region.

Hailing from the Isle of Lewis, Susan has a personal and professional understanding of the unique challenges and opportunities that face rural communities and brings over 26 years' experience in the Careers Information and Advice sector.

Susan takes over from Anthony Standing as Skills Development Scotland representative on the Community Planning Partnership and the partnership wishes to recognise the considerable contribution made by Anthony to community planning in Argyll and Bute.

Anthony was invited to share some reflections from his time on the Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership:

"I look back with very fond memories of being involved as an active member of A&B CPP over what must now be around 10 years. My overriding thoughts are that despite members coming and going on and off the partnership as their jobs and careers change, the ever present constant is that generally there is a collaborative 'we're all in this together spirit.'

I've always felt the sense of partnership was very strong as people realise we are operating within a very challenging area – geographic spread with limited transportation options, and that we all need to put our shoulders to the wheel to get things moving. I've always felt that partners are willing to listen to each other to understand situations better, share data or evidence to build up a picture or share a narrative. The CPP support team from the council is right up there with the best of them in my opinion, and I have been present on up to 6 different CPP boards from across the H&I's.

Work done around induction for new members is exemplary and the willingness to embrace new technology to make community planning more effective is an example other boards elsewhere should take a look at.

Overall the feel I get from being involved with this group is that it's a very modern forward thinking partnership with fantastic commitment and representation from the public and third sectors. I think everyone has a voice and is encouraged to use it. I often talk about my experience in A&B with other partners on different boards, I guess it's my way of sharing what I think is good and effective practice. Even though I will be handing on the baton to my colleagues in SDS, Suz MacRae, I will still keep close to all things A&B and will endeavour to play a part, albeit behind the scenes.

I wish partners all the best and would encourage to keep energy and focus on those key areas we all agree are the top priority areas for the communities we serve. It's been an honour to play a small part in it all."



Previous Items You May Have Missed

Police Scotland- Right to Ask

You have the #RightToAsk

If you're concerned for your own safety, or someone else's, you can ask confidentially about a partner's history. Where we have information that a person may be at risk of harm of domestic abuse by their partner, we have the power to tell them.

Reporting domestic abuse could save a life.

[Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse in Scotland](#)



Transformation Programme Launches Leadership Practitioner Forum



A new Leadership Practitioner Forum is being launched as part of the current Improvement Service and Solace Scotland transformation work, looking at proposals for a future operating model for councils and options for the future delivery of council services.

The Forum will be a network for aspiring Chief Executives, Directors and Heads of Service, led and supported by the Improvement Service with current local authority Chief Executives. Members of the Leadership Practitioner Forum will attend a series of events that focus on [the anchors and associated workstreams of the transformation programme](#), bringing colleagues together to explore topics and challenges.

These events and the wider Forum will also provide an opportunity for members to contribute to the development of the six anchors and answer key questions about the direction of the transformation programme and how it can progress.

Getting involved with the Leadership Practitioner Forum is a great way to ensure that this radical transformation programme aligns with the priorities of your local council or Community Planning Partnership (CPP).

[Improvement Service - Leadership Practitioner Forum](#)

Investment Scams - Police Scotland Warnings

Police in Argyll and Bute have identified an increase in victims of fraud in our communities, who have been scammed through Investment Scams.

An investment scam is where you are convinced to move your money into a fictitious fund or pay for a fake investment which promised a high return.

People may be targeted by cold callers or presented with fake investment opportunities promoted on search engines and social media pressuring you to act quickly.



[Police Scotland information to help protect yourself and others from becoming victims of fraud](#)



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

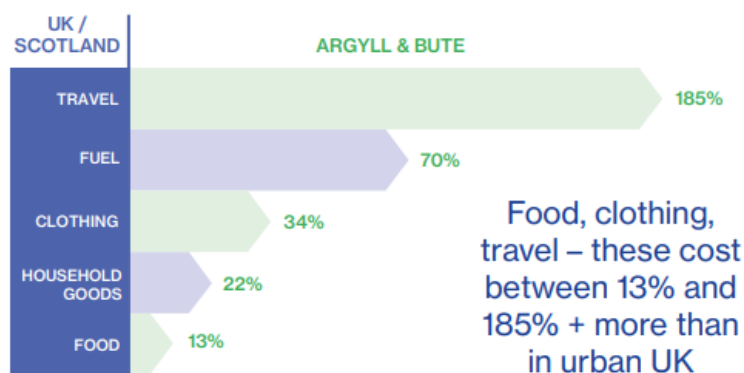


The council and partners are working to support people and businesses affected by the cost of living crisis in Argyll and Bute.

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). This includes information about warm spaces – (link may be slow to load) <https://www.argylltsi.org/warm-spaces/>

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 ALI Energy, 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 planning for schemes for Dunoon, Rothesay, Oban and Lochgilphead, Tarbert, Islay and Mull. [School uniform scheme information](#)

Support

Additional funding for advice agencies. The Council has provided £40,000 in funding to ALI Energy, 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 \(argyll-bute.gov.uk\)](#).

Funding Links

Argyll and Bute Third Sector Interface Funding Information

[TSI funding and grants](#)

Funding for Communities

[Funds to support communities at this time](#)

Sign up to Funding Alert

[Sign up to receive the Argyll and Bute Council monthly Funding Alert](#)

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

[Access the GRANTnet home page](#)

When using the system for the first time, [go to the 'Log in / Register' page](#) 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

[Funding to support businesses at this time](#)

COVID-19 Advice from NHS Inform

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



Other bulletins and newsletters that may be of interest

Community Development Bulletin

Circulated monthly and 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 \(argyll-bute.gov.uk\)](#)

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.

Partner Websites

[Argyll & Bute Council](#)

[Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership](#)

[Argyll and Bute Third Sector Interface \(TSI\)](#)

[Argyll and the Isles Coast and Countryside Trust \(ACT\)](#)

[Bòrd Na Gàidhlig](#)

[Department for Work and Pensions \(DWP\)](#)

[Highlands and Islands Enterprise](#)

[Highlands and Islands Transport Partnership \(HITRANS\)](#)

[Historic Environment Scotland](#)

[LiveArgyll](#)

[Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park](#)

[Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament \(MSYPs\)](#)

[NatureScot](#)

[NHS Highland](#)

[Police Scotland](#)

[Scottish Ambulance Service](#)

[Scottish Enterprise](#)

[Scottish Environment Protection Agency \(SEPA\)](#)

[Scottish Fire and Rescue Service](#)

[Skills Development Scotland \(SDS\)](#)

[sportscotland](#)

[Strathclyde Partnership for Transport \(SPT\)](#)

[UHI Argyll](#)

[visitscotland](#)