

**Argyll and Bute
MAKI - Area Community Planning Group
Partner Update – Police Scotland**

Dementia Safeguarding Tag

During the summer of 2021, the [Herbert Protocol](#) was launched in Argyll and Bute. This involved promotion of the Herbert Protocol for every person living with dementia whether they are living at home, or within another setting in the event they go missing in order that Police Scotland can use the information on the form to find them sooner and therefore, safer. This work has been well received and continued to be promoted with both statutory and third sector services as well as featuring regularly on social media and other platforms.

Police Scotland are experiencing an increase in incidents pertaining to people living with dementia, who have been out in their community and have become distressed, confused or disorientated. Often this happens in cafes, retail outlets or on public transport. The normal response to this is that members of the public, normally those working in these premises, will engage with the person and try and lessen their distress. They will try and establish their name and an emergency contact. In most incidents, Police Scotland are contacted to assist as what we would class as a “concern for person” incident. Upon officers attendance, normally 2 officers in high visibility police uniform and a marked police car, they will try and establish their identity and of course, their wellbeing. Whilst officers will always be compassionate in their response, their very presence can often increase someone’s distress, mainly owing to the uniform and police car.

The principal aim of the Dementia Safeguarding Tag is to provide everyone living with dementia, at least one Dementia Safeguarding Tag which can be attached to a handbag, mobile phone, walking aid, house keys, or item of clothing most worn. This would be for the person themselves or their family/support network to agree on based on the individual. The Dementia Safeguarding Tag looks like a keyring (around the size of a 2p coin) and contains what is known as Near Field Communication (NFC). NFC is the mechanism that enables chip and pin cards to work and can be operated by a mobile phone to use for payment means such as Apple Pay.

