

***Integration Joint Board***

**Date of Meeting: 31 January 2024**

### Scottish Child Interview Model (SCIM)

Argyll and Bute Council continues to work in partnership with West Dunbartonshire Council and Police Scotland L Division in implementing the Scottish Child Interview Model.

There are significant challenges in implementing this model in, particularly our

Key, however is recognising that in turn our existing foster carers continue to be the heart of our service, continually stretching themselves to ensure the best outcomes for our most vulnerable young people and at this time of year it is always heart-warming to hear the many stories of continued connections or a place at the Christmas table, for young people who once lived with our foster families, and still consider this home.

## Maternity

Across Argyll & Bute maternity worked with GGC to implement routine oxygen saturation testing for babies to screen for cardiac defects. We have more midwives visiting GGC to consolidate their 'examination of the newborn' qualification which again allows for babies born here to have the same screening as those in big units.

The mid-Argyll team is being supported by other areas while they do not have a team lead in place, including midwives covering on-call commitments for them.

There was a flurry of local births over the holiday period, with Campbeltown, Mid Argyll and Oban having two births each around Christmas and New Year.

## Tackling Child Poverty

The Argyll and Bute Child Poverty Action Group has continued to meet throughout 2023 to look at ways of tackling child poverty, as has the Financial Advice and Inclusion Group. Both groups have been instrumental in tackling the impacts and causes of child and family poverty at a time of cost of living crisis and the ongoing effects of Covid19 recovery, Brexit and the war in Ukraine.

Actions and successes are numerous and have involved staff across many departments and agencies. Successes conclude:

*Getting Ready for UNCRC Incorporation Framework: A Practical Resource for Public Bodies in Scotland to prepare for UNCRC Incorporation*

[https://www.improvementservice.org.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0020/43382/Getting-Ready-for-UNCRC-Incorporation-Framework.pdf](https://www.improvementservice.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/43382/Getting-Ready-for-UNCRC-Incorporation-Framework.pdf)

An Argyll and Bute UNCRC Implementation Group was formed to look at these requirements and what actions were required to:

Allow our organisations and partners to be compliant with the new legislation and duties.

Increase the awareness of staff and help them to understand what changes they and their departments needed to achieve.

Work with children, young people and their parents to improve their work and decision making.

To this end, progress has been made in a number of areas including:

Work with Youth Voice and other groups with regards to future coproduction and involving them in decision making.

Obtaining £53,000 from the UNCRC Innovations Fund for a series of face to face and other engagements with children and young people across Argyll and Bute in the coming year. This will also include promoting understanding across a wide range of hard to reach groups. As well it will involve children and young people in creating and delivering an awards scheme for staff and departments as they work towards being UNCRC compliant.

Setting up information and training pages for children, young people and staff as well as an e-learning module to be available on LEON and TURAS.

-2023.

### Justice Services

We do not celebrate the work of Justice Social Work and the positive impact on individuals and our communities enough. As such we give some space to that in this report.

Despite some severe staffing challenges over the past nine months Justice social work has continued to provide a high quality service to the communities of Argyll & Bute. Our Unpaid Work scheme has undertaken a diverse range of projects in all localities of Argyll and Bute and include gardening, path and cycle path maintenance, painting, litter picking and fly tipping, building maintenance and clearing, repair and replace community benches, upkeep of war memorials. Some examples of this are:

Cowal Hub unpaid work squads assisted in helping this community asset be set up by painting the venue. The Hub offers invaluable help to the area by signposting people to the help, guidance and advice that they may need

Arrochar Community Development Trust there are three core paths in this area that are used for cycling and walking and enjoying the surroundings. Unpaid work maintain the paths by keeping them clear of litter and cutting back if necessary

Arrochar Primary School tidied infant garden area by removing broken





## Violence Against Women and Girls Partnership

The Argyll and Bute Violence Against Women and Girls Partnership is a multi-agency organisation. It reports to the COGPP (Chief Officers Group for Public Protection) and comes under the umbrella of the CPP (Community Planning Partnership).

It is part of a network of partnerships throughout Scotland who work to tackle and prevent domestic abuse and other forms of gender based violence against women and girls. There is a National VAWG Network which brings local partnerships together and acts as a focus for decision making.

Some of the work it has engaged in this year has included:

- Delivering 13 training events including; Domestic Abuse Awareness Raising, Dealing with Disclosure of Sexual Assault, How the Police Work with Domestic Abuse, Routine Enquiry, Domestic Abuse and Trauma.

- Working to forward the roll out of Safe and Together across Argyll and Bute by getting staff to undertake the Core and Management training.



This will enable the HSCP to support many more individuals within our communities who struggle to manage their own finances. It is notable that as new rules and regulations evolve it often requires increased administrative commitments.

### Eclipse

Following the implementation of Eclipse we set up an Eclipse Working Group for Children & Families to manage requests for changes to the system. This group is a mixture of Team Managers, Social Workers and Admin staff wh2(n)-oe-3(n(a)-1.92 1rt )-(g

## 10. RISK ASSESSMENT

None

## 11. PUBLIC & USER INVOLVEMENT & ENGAGEMENT

None

## 12. CONCLUSIONS

We ask the Board to recognise the range and depth of work going on within Children, Families and Justice Services. The report.

## 13. DIRECTIONS

Directions required to Council, NHS Board or both.	Directions to:	tick
	No Directions required	x
	Argyll & Bute Council	
	NHS Highland Health Board	
	Argyll & Bute Council and NHS Highland Health Board	

## REPORT AUTHOR AND CONTACT