

Complaints Handling Procedure Customer Leaflet

April 2021

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an attempt to reopen a previously concluded complaint or to have a complaint reconsidered where we have already given our final decision

abuse or unsubstantiated allegations about our organisation or staff where such actions would be covered by our Unacceptable Actions Policy

a concern about the actions or service of a different organisation, where we have no involvement in the issue (**except** where the other organisation is delivering services on our behalf).

a complaint about the conduct of a councillor these are dealt with by the Public Standards Commissioner for Scotland (39 Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh EH3 7SW at <u>www.publicstandardscommissioner.org.uk</u> or by telephone: 0300 011 0550)

If other procedures or rights of appeal can help you resolve your concerns, we will give information and advice to help you.

Who can complain?

Anyone who receives, requests or is directly affected by our services can make a complaint to us. This includes the representative of someone who is dissatisfied with our service (for example, a relative, friend, advocate or adviser). If you are making a complaint on someone else's behalf, you will normally need their written consent. Please also read the section on **Getting help to make your complaint** below.

How do I complain?

You can complain in person at any of our offices, by phone, in writing, by email or via the Council/Partnership's website. It is easier for us to address complaints if you make them quickly and directly to the service concerned. So please talk to a member of our staff at the service you are complaining about. Then they can try to resolve the issue. When complaining, please tell us:

your full name and contact details as much as you can about the complaint what has gone wrong; and what outcome you are seeking.

Our contact details

Telephone: 01546 605516 Email: <u>complaints@argyll-bute.gov.uk</u> Social Work Complaints Email: <u>argyllandbutehscp.feedback@nhs.scot</u> or <u>SWComplaints@argyll-bute.gov.uk</u> Website: <u>https://argyllandbute.custhelp.com/app/LAP_Forms/LAP_Complaints</u>

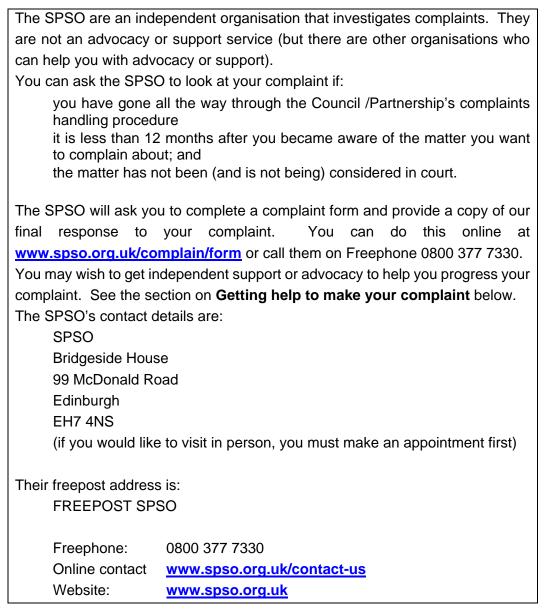
- we will confirm our understanding of the complaint we will investigate and what outcome you are looking for
- we will try to resolve your complaint where we can (in some cases we may suggest using an alternative complaint resolution approach, such as mediation); and
- where we cannot resolve your complaint, we will give you a full response as soon as possible, normally within 20 working days.

If our investigation will take longer than 20 working days, we will tell you. We will tell you our revised time limits and keep you updated on progress.

The outcome of the investigation should be communicated to you by letter or email, whichever is the preferred method of contact.

What if I'm still dissatisfied?

After we have given you our final decision, if you are still dissatisfied with our decision or the way we dealt with your complaint, you can ask the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman (SPSO) to look at it.



Our contact details

Please contact us by the following means:

Argyll and Bute Council Telephone: 01546 605516 Email: <u>complaints@argyll-bute.gov.uk</u> Social Work Complaints Email: <u>argyllandbutehscp.feedback@nhs.scot</u> or <u>SWComplaints@argyll-bute.gov.uk</u> Website: <u>https://argyllandbute.custhelp.com/app/LAP_Forms/LAP_Complaints</u>

We can also give you this leaflet in other languages and formats BrowseAloud technology on our website reads out text and resizes text for the visually impaired and has a built in translation service for those who require a different language.