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# ANNUAL REPORT

**Argyll & Bute Third Sector Interface**

27a Front Street  
Inveraray  
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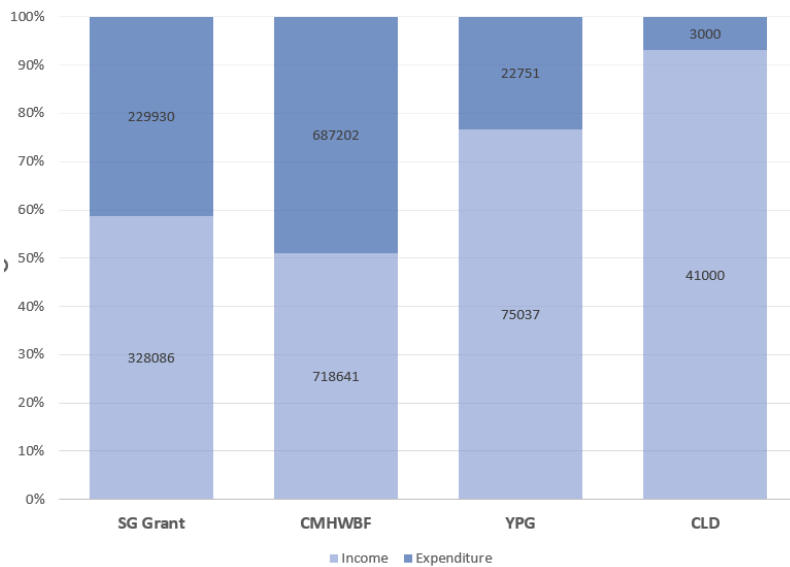


## Year in review

The focus of activity for this past year has been to help the third sector re-open and rebuild their capacity to deliver services after the hiatus caused by the pandemic. Many organisations had successfully transitioned to online and/or online support and whilst some of this new model will continue, we have increasingly seen groups fully reopen their services. Communities have differed in the response to the end of lockdown restrictions but whilst some vulnerable groups have been slower to return to face-to-face activity, others have been keen to increase their levels of social contact.

Another focus then was to make sure the Third Sector Interface was also equipped to support this mixed mode of service delivery and to help ready the sector for the shocks to come from the predicted recessionary environment, the cost-of-living crisis, the energy price rise and the war in Ukraine.

### INCOME & EXPENDITURE



### Statutory Partnerships

We have continued to play a strong role in advocating for third sector interests amongst statutory partners, via the Health and Social Care Partnership and the Community Planning Partnership, and as a result of this advocacy and partnership work there have been a considerable number of important new developments in 2021-2022 that will help support the resilience and strength of the third and social enterprise sectors in Argyll and Bute.



## Statement From CEO Takki Sulaiman

Argyll and Bute's Third Sector plays a key role in our communities and in our local economy. The sector worked with a range of statutory partners during the pandemic and this partnership approach will stand us all in good stead as we support our communities during the cost-of-living crisis. This will be a challenging time for many, and it is essential that we campaign and advocate for the most vulnerable in our communities. The TSI will do everything in its power to increase the capacity of the third sector to be the best that it can be and will improve its support to hard working volunteers who contribute so much.

## Feedback received

"It was an excellent event with I think the right tone for small community groups"  
*GDPR Training feedback*

"The meeting this morning was extremely well organised and ran like clockwork! Well done TSI."  
*Fund Development Session feedback*

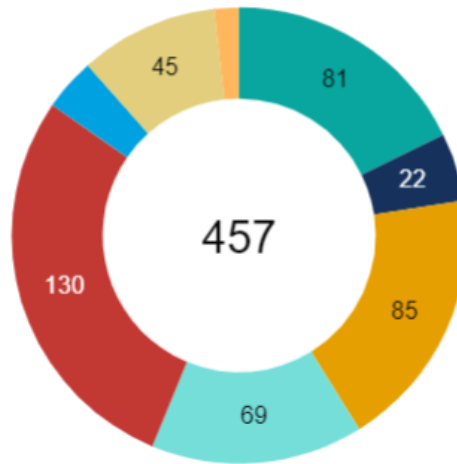
"Young persons guarantee has given me the opportunity to learn new skills, increase my confidence and i feel i have been well supported by my mentor and in my placement. I am now looking to the future and job opportunities that may come from what i have learnt on my placement" - *young person age 22*

"It's a really fantastic venue and was perfect for what we needed. It's hard to find a suitable venue that is central in Argyll and affordable but the hub was perfect. We will definitely use it again in the future." -  
*Waverley Care*

Watching our Young People grow in confidence and develop a sense of purpose and achievement is always rewarding. Bigger steps for some more than others, certainly, but helping them to move forward is a necessary and exciting challenge.  
*Brian Grout YPG Mentor*

## Achievements

In 2021/22, our board of Trustees agreed to an investment programme to launch a new database and the start of the development of a Community Directory, a new Inveraray Hub offering state of the art facilities for member organisations who wish to use hybrid meeting facilities and a refocused staffing structure centred around direct support to third sector organisations. Inveraray Hub has been used over 30 times by both the voluntary sector and public/private sector (for which there is a charge).



- Interaction Type
- Group Meeting (External) ●
  - Incoming Call ●
  - Incoming Email ●
  - One to One Meeting ●
  - Online One to One Meeting ●
  - Outgoing Call ●
  - Outgoing Email ●
  - Other ●

The staffing change resulted in a doubling of our capacity to provide direct support for local groups and there are now four Third Sector Support Advisers each covering one of the four administrative areas of Argyll and Bute containing approximately between 250 and 300 organisations and community groups.

Over 457 specific requests for support were received and met for the year with the majority being requests for funding advice followed by advice on governance and strategy.

## Database & Community Directory

We also employed a database officer who was responsible for building the database which will form the backbone of the Community Directory launched in September 2022. The database will form a key part of the TSI's strategy to map strengths and identify gaps across Argyll and Bute and will be working with partners to ensure this becomes a rich resource of third sector intelligence and evidenced based policy making and commissioning.



Inveraray Hub

## Partnership Working

Work with the local council, the HSCP, SDS, DWP and others – continues apace and we have made significant progress in ensuring that the new commissioning strategy for the HSCP reflects a co-produced approach to prevention and early intervention combined with transparency in commissioning intentions. Work with the Community Planning Partnership has also been fruitful with the TSI working on Community Wealth Building and Volunteering and this work is expected to yield positive outcomes in 2022-2023.



## Training & Development

Access to a new online learning platform has been purchased which contains over two hundred and fifty courses and is free to members. We have also refreshed our approach to thematic sector network events, such as the Social Enterprise and Adults networks, and have adopted a more democratic approach to agenda setting so that topics are current and are of interest to members. A total of 51 events were held across the year. Training courses included using evaluation, UNCRC, Youth VIP Managing conflict in the third sector, Cyber resilience, GDPR, brand and trustee training. The TSI is also an accredited Volunteer Friendly provider, and we are using this framework to support local volunteer involving organisations. In 2022-23 we will take this further and seek to build upon the strengths identified within our volunteer networks in Argyll and Bute during the pandemic to encourage new volunteers and provide a shared and more sustainable approach to volunteering.



## Volunteering

Another key project in the year has been the successful delivery of the volunteering aspect of the government's Young Person's Guarantee programme where over 40 young people have been supported by TSI employed mentors to help young people progress towards positive destinations in their employment journeys. This programme will be expanded to other vulnerable groups pending identification of additional funding.

[argylltsi.org](http://argylltsi.org)

# Funding & events

## Communities Mental Health & Wellbeing Fund

Argyll and Bute TSI were pleased to have played a key role in the delivery of the Scottish Government's Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund. The TSI took the lead in a partner reference group that devised a funding programme to tackle mental health and social isolation and by February 2022 were able to have co-produced 49 successful applications for funding bringing in £700,000 into the local third sector economy to meet the needs of many vulnerable communities.

## Volunteer of the Year 2022

AFTER two years of strict COVID restrictions and being limited to online interactions only, the Argyll & Bute Volunteer of the Year Awards were finally held in person at Dunoon's Queen's Hall on Friday 3rd of June.

The night, attended by over 100 people saw many awards presented to 12 worthy nominees who had spent years dedicating their lives to volunteering across Argyll & Bute, with a special lifetime achievement award for a Mull resident who had spent 30 years committed to volunteering in his local community.



Speakers and winners from Volunteer of the Year 2022

The event was held in partnership with Live Argyll and the Health & Social Care Partnership

The evening started with music and canapes; it was great to be able to finally celebrate in person. A mix of videos and volunteer interviews produced by local Community Interest Company (CIC), AyeGlas, showcased the invaluable contribution volunteering makes to Argyll & Bute. The event was also livestreamed directly to YouTube for those unable to attend.