



**ARGYLL & BUTE
THIRD SECTOR
INTERFACE**

ANNUAL REPORT

2020/2021

Third Sector
Interface
Argyll and Bute



ANNUAL UPDATE

From CEO and Board of Trustees

April 2020 - March 2021

The focus of our core activities, and therefore our impact, has been significantly affected this year by realigning our activity towards the response to Covid-19 and latterly to activities related to recovery and renewal. A significant number of third sector organisations successfully transitioned their services to online/telephone support and delivery whilst others such as building based services had to mothball their services. The impact on third sector organisations on their staff, volunteers, activities and their finances is therefore highly varied. However, we have continued to directly support third sector organisations - charities, social enterprises and community groups in new ways including online, via phone and through advocacy.

We have also continued to represent

Argyll and Bute's third sector at national and local levels, including through the TSI Scotland national network where the 32 TSI's across Scotland join together to influence national policy and practice affecting third sector organisations and interests. We have also been strong advocates for third sector interests with our statutory partners in Argyll and Bute, including through the local Community Planning Partnership (CPP) and Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP).

In CEO address add this line somewhere: At the end of this reporting period a new CEO, Takki Sulaiman, joined Argyll and Bute TSI. A new strategy is being delivered, funded by our reserves, which will deliver significant improvements in service delivery. Progress will be reported in next year's annual report.

1000 Voices

During Covid, the 1000 Voices team were responsible for setting up "Together Argyll and Bute" on facebook. This service offered daily challenges, quizzes etc and ran until the end of the project. The 1000 voices 5 year project came to an end in March 2021. Prior to the end of the project a mapping exercise was carried out to identify similar alternative service provision across Argyll and Bute ensuring there would be continuity for service users when it was safe to resume face to face services post COVID restrictions.



WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING



Argyll Community Lottery

It was decided that to support the sector to generate unrestricted income and enable growth and resilience we would invest in bringing a community lottery to Argyll & Bute. Gatherwell Ltd were chosen as the External Lottery Manager and we launched the lottery in March 2021 with over 40 organisations across Argyll and Bute attending an online launch and presentation by the Managing Director of Gatherwell. Early indications show that the lottery will prove to be a success.

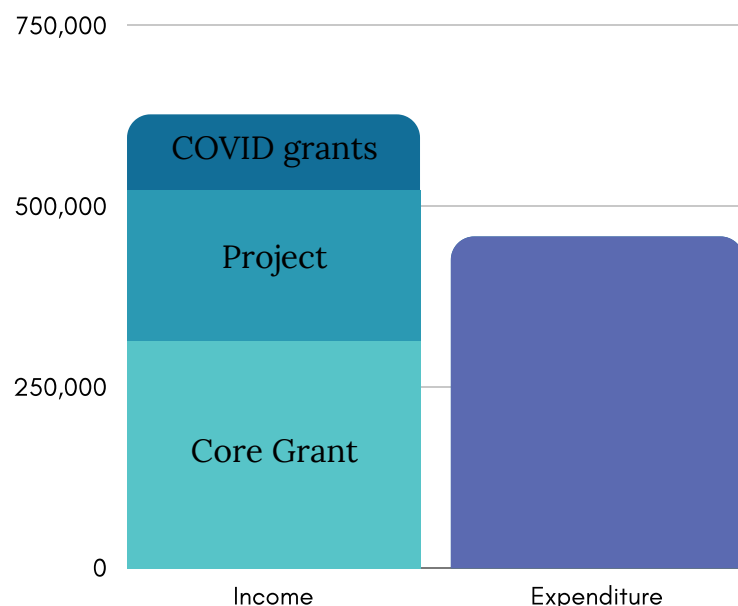
COVID-19 response - Caring For People

As part of the Caring for People response to COVID we co ordinated the 'Keeping in Touch' telephone befriending service for Argyll and Bute. Over 200 volunteers signed up as befrienders to provide this service for the most vulnerable in Argyll and Bute. 83 individuals received this service for a number of months helping to combat the feelings of loneliness and isolation during a very bleak time.

Inspire and Engage events

During March 2021, we held a series of online events. Over 100 attended the events which ranged from Zero Waste: practical ways for organisations to play their part, Arts and Mental Health; How can Art improve Health and Well Being and Digital Inclusion. The final event held was a Funders Fayre with speakers from The Gannochy Trust, National Lottery Community Fund and The Ideas Fund.

Finance





At the beginning of the Pandemic a dedicated section of our website was produced with relevant third sector information regarding things such as funding, furlough, restrictions, operating safely, Covid volunteering guidance and much more.



Additions to the self-serve section of our website during COVID-19 included;

- Supporting your people to work remotely
- Cyber Security – working safely and securely
- Working in the Cloud
- Virtual Meetings and Video Calls
- Enabling your staff to work from home
- Safe Premises
- Safe Services
- Supporting Staff and Volunteers

Comms

Did you know?

Our Website had 16,000 views

A new approach to communication with the sector was undertaken that involved more regular social media posts being posted daily allowing us to bring the latest news to the sector in a more timely fashion. The addition of a quarterly TSI newsletter was introduced with updates on internal TSI news and plans for the future.

Did you know?

Our mailings were opened over 35,000 times

Response, Recovery & Resilience Fund & the Wellbeing Fund
TSI assisted with the organisation and delivery of the total amount of £46,000 amongst organisations in Argyll and Bute through the RRR Fund and the Wellbeing Fund. This allowed organisations to adapt their services during COVID-19.