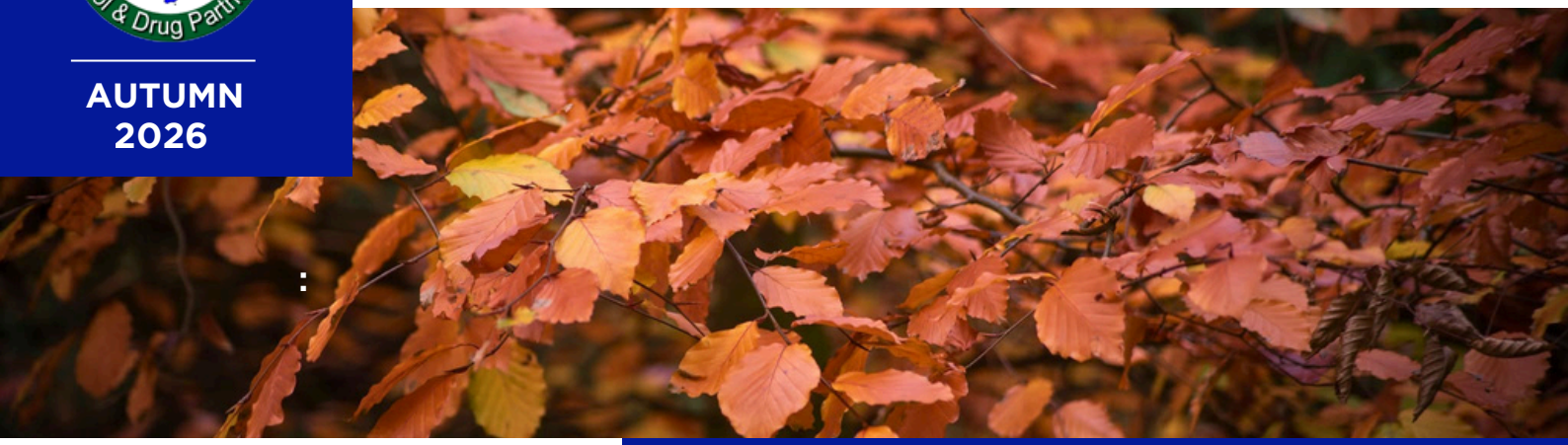
ARGYLL & BUTE ALCOHOL AND DRUG PARTNERSHIP

BULLETIN

AUTUMN 2026



Introduction- Welcome to our Bulletin!

Welcome to the latest edition of the Argyll and Bute ADP Bulletin. Please read on and share widely within your networks.

Contact us: nhsh.argyllandbuteadp@nhs.scot

Argyll and Bute ADP

@ArgyllADP

ADP Strategy Development Day - *Partners come together to help shape the next ADP Strategy*



The ADP held its Strategy Development Day in Arrochar on 29th October, bringing together 30 partners from across Argyll & Bute to start looking at what should inform our next Strategy.

The day included a look back at progress under the current ADP Strategy, alongside discussion about the new national Alcohol and Drugs Strategy and what this means locally. There was also time to consider what we have heard from recent community engagement and where we need to focus next. A lot of useful discussion took place during the day, particularly around recovery, rights, community involvement and how partners can work better together. The ideas from the day will now be used as we start work on the next ADP Strategy.

Thank you to everyone who came along and contributed. Participants were also asked what they found useful, what they took away from the day and what we could do differently next time.

Hearing from People across Argyll & Bute



Over the summer, we visited communities across Argyll & Bute in partnership with Scottish Recovery Consortium (SRC). The purpose was to hear from people with lived and living experience about how they would like to be involved with the ADP and have a say in the way local alcohol and drug services and support are planned. There has been plenty for us to think about from those conversations. We now want to make sure people hear what came out of the work rather than simply asking for views and then moving on.

The ADP Support Team will be going back out to communities to share the findings in more detail, discuss what happens next and continue the conversation with people who took part.

SRC SCOTTISH RECOVERY CONSORTIUM

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ROSC Activity in Dunoon and Helensburgh

There has been plenty happening through our local Recovery Oriented Systems of Care (ROSC) groups over the past couple of months.

In September, the Dunoon ROSC Group held a marketplace event and a Recovery Ceilidh. Local services and organisations were there to share information and the ceilidh gave people a chance to come together and celebrate recovery.

The Helensburgh ROSC Group held a Family Fun Day at Hermitage Park in October. As well as information about local services and support, there were arts and crafts, music, a treasure hunt, face painting and activities for families.

Both events were about making recovery visible locally and creating relaxed opportunities for people to meet, find out what's available and get involved.

Thanks to everyone who helped organise the events and to everyone who came along.

Oban workshop discusses response to drug-related harms

Partners met in Oban in September for a workshop on responding to drug-related incidents and emerging harms.

The session explored how services share information, communicate concerns and identify opportunities for earlier intervention. Partners also discussed harm reduction and joint working when new issues begin to emerge.

A key theme was that different services often hold different pieces of information. Sharing these appropriately can help build a clearer picture of local concerns and support timely action when needed.

Learning from the workshop will be taken forward through existing local arrangements, including the Local Early Warning System (LEWS).

Have you heard about RADAR?

RADAR helps identify new and emerging drug harms across Scotland.

By bringing together reports from different services and areas, RADAR can help identify patterns, investigate concerns and share harm reduction information.

In Argyll and Bute, RADAR links closely with the Local Early Warning System (LEWS). **If you spot something that may be relevant, please report it here, even if you don't have the full picture.**

Get the Argyll & Bute Support App



If you haven't already downloaded the Argyll and Bute Support App, it's available from both the Apple App Store and Google Play Store.

The app brings together information about alcohol and drug services and support across Argyll and Bute in one place.

Following feedback from people with lived and living experience, push notifications have also been developed so that important information can be sent directly to people using the app.

If you already have the app, make sure you have notifications switched on so you don't miss an update.

If you work in a service, please also let people you support know about the app.

Scan the QR code to get the App

Apple

Android

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Free Volatile Substance Use Training

Following the popularity of previous sessions, Re-Solv is offering more free online training on gas and solvent use for staff and partners across Argyll and Bute.

The training covers gases, aerosols, nitrous oxide, poppers and solvents, including current trends, risks and practical harm reduction advice.

Two sessions are available:

Wednesday 16 December 2026, 11.30am–1pm – 16 December • 11:30 AM - 1 PM GMT | Eventbrite

Thursday 21 January 2027, 1pm–2.30pm – 21 January 2027 • 1 PM - 2:30 PM GMT | Eventbrite

Previous sessions have proved popular, so book early if you don't want to miss out. Please also share with colleagues who may find the training useful.

Re-Solv

Latest Alcohol and Drug Death Figures

The latest figures for Argyll and Bute show nine drug-related deaths in 2025, down from 13 in 2024, a reduction of 30%. This is the first time in four years that the local figure has fallen below 10. Argyll and Bute drug deaths fall by 30 per cent in 2025

Alcohol-related harm remains a concern, with 22 alcohol-specific deaths in 2025, unchanged from 2024.

While the reduction in drug-related deaths is welcome, every death is a reminder of why preventing harm and improving access to support remain a priority for the ADP.

Connecting with the Community at Oban Pride

The ADP joined colleagues from Argyll and Bute's Public Health Team at Oban Pride in August, with the focus very much on getting out and speaking with people in the community.



The event gave the team and colleagues the chance to have informal conversations about alcohol awareness and harm reduction, promote the new A&B Support App, and share information about the support available locally.

The event was very well attended, with a positive response from people visiting the stall. It was a useful opportunity to meet people in a relaxed setting, answer questions and raise awareness of the ADP and local support.

VAWGP Online Training

The Violence Against Women and Girls Partnership is offering three upcoming training sessions:

- DASH Risk Assessment Training: Scotland- 23rd November 10.00-4.00
- Young Persons Abuse Training: Scotland- SafeLives - 27th November 10.00-4.00
- Sensitive Routine Enquiry- 8th December 9.30 - 1.00

To book a place or find out more, contact Mary Holt at mary.holt@argyll-bute.gov.uk.

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Planet Youth- Argyll & Bute

Planet Youth activity in Argyll and Bute has continued to gain momentum through community-led initiatives that strengthen protective factors for children and young people.

A particular highlight was the successful return of the Mid Argyll Lantern Parade in Lochgilphead on 7 November, which brought together local schools, families, community organisations and residents in a celebration of creativity, connection and community spirit. The event demonstrated the strength of partnership working through the Planet Youth coalition and provided meaningful opportunities for young people to engage positively within their community.

The Youth Conference on 11 November further supported the Planet Youth approach by creating opportunities for young people to share their views, influence local decision making and contribute to shaping future priorities for Argyll and Bute.



Mental Wellbeing Support in Argyll and Bute

We know that mental wellbeing and alcohol and drug use can often be closely linked, so it is important that people know where they can find support for both.

The Mental Health Hub — Living Well in Argyll and Bute brings together local and national support, including mental health and suicide prevention resources, crisis support, counselling, self-help tools and practical wellbeing advice. It is a useful resource for ADP partners, particularly when supporting someone whose alcohol or drug use may be affecting their mental wellbeing, or where mental health is part of the wider support they need.

Please take a look and share it through your teams, services and networks.

Mental Health Hub — Living Well in Argyll and Bute