



ARGYLL & BUTE ALCOHOL AND DRUG PARTNERSHIP BULLETIN

SUMMER
2026



Introduction- Welcome to our Bulletin!

Welcome to the latest edition of the Argyll and Bute ADP Bulletin. In this issue, we share updates on new initiatives, upcoming events and opportunities for collaboration across our communities. Please read on and share widely within your networks.

Contact us: nhsh.argyllandbuteadp@nhs.scot



Argyll and Bute ADP



@ArgyllADP

A&B Support App Launch

Following a recent showcase session, partners are encouraged to begin promoting the A&B Support App, a new digital resource developed to help keep communities across Argyll & Bute safe, informed and supported. The app brings together practical harm reduction advice, guidance on recognising and responding to overdose, local service information and directories, and clear information on rights, including the Charter of Rights and MAT Standards. The app is designed for people who use substances, as well as families, friends and staff supporting individuals locally. Developed in partnership with the Argyll & Bute ADP Local Early Warning Systems (LEWS) Group and people with lived experience, it supports consistent access to trusted information in one place.

Partners are being asked to support visibility by displaying the flyer within services and sharing QR codes with service users and colleagues.

Download the flier [here](#)

ROSC Lived Experience Conversations – Summer 2026

Argyll & Bute ADP is working in partnership with the Scottish Recovery Consortium to host a series of local conversations across the area this summer. These sessions are designed to create safe, inclusive spaces for people with lived and living experience of alcohol or drug use, and affected family members, to share their insights and ideas.

The focus is on listening, building connections, and ensuring that local voices directly inform how recovery-focused support is developed. Sessions will take place in communities including Oban, Lochgilphead, Dunoon, Bute, Helensburgh and Campbeltown throughout July, with further details to follow for Islay.

This engagement will play an important role in shaping future service design and strengthening a Recovery Oriented System of Care (ROSC) across Argyll & Bute. See full details [here](#).

Scan the QR
code to get the
App

Apple



Android





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Whole Family Approach Conference 2.0

In April, partners came together for the Argyll and Bute Whole Family Approach Conference 2.0, delivered by Scottish Families (SFAD). 39 participants attended from NHS, Police Scotland, third sector organisations, HSCP, Education, carers' organisations, community development, and local families.

The conference launched the Whole Family Approach Pledge for Argyll and Bute and highlighted project milestones, small-grant recipients, and a CRAFT taster session, along with input from LAAS.

Feedback showed strong engagement and confirmed the relevance of whole-family principles for anyone supporting individuals and families. The event marks a key step in embedding this approach locally. For more information, email Jim at jim.mcsorley@nhs.scot

New Scottish Alcohol & Drugs Fund Launched

The Scottish Government has launched the new Alcohol & Drugs Fund, managed by Corra Foundation, for the next three years to support prevention, harm reduction, treatment, recovery, and family support across Scotland.

The fund supports delivery of the Alcohol and Drugs Strategic Plan 2026–2035 and builds on learning from the National Drugs Mission. Funding is available to third sector organisations and public bodies working directly with people affected by alcohol or drugs, people in recovery, and their children and families.

The programme includes several strands, such as micro grants, local support grants, partnership funding, and funding focused on children, young people and families.

This funding presents an important opportunity for organisations to sustain and develop services, strengthen recovery-oriented support, and respond to local need. Please get in touch if you want to discuss this opportunity and consider how applications align with local priorities.

More information is available via Corra Foundation: <https://www.corra.scot/the-alcohol-and-drugs-fund-launches/>

Connect Bute

Connect Bute, a new community space in Rothesay funded by Argyll & Bute ADP and With You, held its official launch in May. The space has been developed as a welcoming, flexible environment to support wellbeing, connection and recovery activity on the island.

Located in the centre of Rothesay, Connect Bute offers meeting rooms and a garden area suitable for groups, workshops and community activity. It is open to local organisations and community groups, not only those delivering alcohol and drug support. Registered charities can book rooms at no cost, with low cost-recovery rates available for other organisations.

Partners are encouraged to consider how the space could support local groups, peer activity, training or partnership meetings, and to share this opportunity within their networks.

Further information is available at <https://www.connectbute.org/>





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Recovery Event & Ceilidh- Dunoon

A Recovery Event & Ceilidh is being organised by the Dunoon Recovery Oriented System of Care (ROSC) Group as part of Recovery Month celebrations across Argyll & Bute. The event will take place on 18 September, with market stalls and activities from 1.00pm and the ceilidh is 4.00–7.00pm at Dunoon Burgh Halls.

The ceilidh will be led by local band Inverhooley and is a safe, alcohol- and drug-free event, open to anyone who wants to come together to celebrate recovery, connection and community. It aims to provide a welcoming space for people in recovery, families, friends and the wider community.

Partners and community members who would like to be involved with the event can get in touch with Ailie Law at Ailie.Law@argyll-bute.gov.uk or Pam Cheng at pam@ab-rc.org.uk.

With You- Team Changes

There have been a number of recent changes within the With You team delivering the ADP Community Recovery contract across Argyll & Bute.

Partners are encouraged to note these updates and ensure local contact information is kept up to date to support effective communication and coordination across services.

Current staffing and contact information can be found [here](#)



Argyll & Bute ADP Strategy Development Day- 29th October- Save the Date

The ADP invites partners to join us for the Argyll & Bute ADP Strategy Development Day on 29 October 2026 at Three Villages Hall, Arrochar.

The day will bring together colleagues from health, social care, recovery services and partner organisations to support the next stage of planning for alcohol and drug services in Argyll & Bute.

It's a chance to contribute to shared priorities, strengthen partnership working and help shape future delivery across the area.

More details will follow. For now, please save the date and make sure your service is represented.



Kintyre Forest Project- Award-Winning Film Highlights Impact of Outdoor Recovery

The Scottish Press Awards Video of the Year is now available on Dailymotion, showcasing the Kintyre Forest Project and its impact on people affected by alcohol and drug use in Argyll & Bute. Our Local Community recovery contract providers With You have been using outdoor, woodland-based activity to support recovery, wellbeing and connection, offering a positive and purposeful environment for people at different stages of their recovery journey.



The film builds on recent media coverage showing how time in nature, routine and meaningful activity can support confidence, mental health and long-term recovery. With You participants describe the forest setting as a place that reduces isolation, builds skills and helps people reconnect with everyday life. The video is a useful resource for partners to understand how outdoor and community-based approaches support recovery, and to highlight the value of local, asset-based initiatives. <https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x9qgan0>



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Oban Test of Change

The Oban Test of Change brought together a range of partners to explore how support for people affected by alcohol and drugs could be strengthened locally. This collaborative work identified a number of shared priorities, including improving access to support, strengthening referral processes and data sharing, addressing stigma, and embedding lived experience in service design and decision making.

Following a partner vote, a Development Worker model was agreed as the preferred approach. A steering group oversaw the recruitment process, with Carr Gomm appointed as the host organisation. Deborah Graham took up post on 18 May.

The Development Worker role will act as a key connector across services and communities, supporting clearer pathways into support, building relationships between partners, and helping to coordinate local activity. The project aims to improve outcomes for people experiencing problematic alcohol or drug use, as well as those in recovery.

For further information, or to link in, Deborah can be contacted at:
DeborahGraham@carrgomm.org

Planet Youth- Argyll & Bute

Planet Youth is a community-led prevention approach focused on improving outcome for children and young people across Argyll & Bute. It brings together parents, carers, schools, communities and services to support young people's health, wellbeing and relationships.

Nine local areas have been reviewing data gathered from young people to better understand local need and inform targeted action. This work will be led through local coalition groups, who will develop and deliver place-based action plans to strengthen protective factors and reduce risk.

Partners from across Scotland have also come together to share learning and explore how collaboration, data, and community-led approaches can support stronger prevention activity.

Local leads have now been identified to coordinate this work across Argyll & Bute:

- Lynn Jonhstone from MAYDS will be covering Mid Argyll, Tarbert, Campbeltown & Islay.
- Jackie Buchanan from Oban Youth Cafe will be covering Oban.
- Jack McGinnigal from eXp Youth Group will be covering Dunoon.
- Dorothy McDonald from Bute Community Land Company will be covering Bute
- Gillian Izatt from New Way will be covering Helensburgh.
- Jen Skinner from Screen Argyll will be covering Tiree.

This work will support a more coordinated, community-informed approach to prevention across the area

