



North Ayrshire
Community Planning Partnership

Arran Locality Partnership

Thursday 17 September 2026 at 4.30 p.m. the Ormidale Pavilion

BUSINESS

Item	Subject	Pg No	Ref	Officer	Ask of the Partnership
1.	Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of Interest.	-	-	Cllr Currie	
2.	Action Note Review the action note and deal with any outstanding items.	Pg 4	Enclosed	Lesley Forsyth	Is this an accurate record of the meeting. Have all actions been completed?
DECISION REQUIRED					4.20 – 4.35. pm
3.	Grants Partnership to consider applications made to the Community Benefit Fund and Elderly Grants Fund.	Pg 9	Enclosed	Lesley Forsyth	LP to approve applications made to the Community Benefit and Elderly Grant Funds.
LOCAL MATTERS – TACKLING INEQUALITIES					4.35 – 5.00 pm
4.	Lochranza GP Branch Surgery Receive report from Ailsa Weir and Dr Greg Hamil	Pg 13	Enclosed	Ailsa Weir/Dr Greg Hamil	Receive update and consider partnership opportunities.
5.	Rural Area Childcare Receive update from Laura Potter.	-	Verbal	Laura Potter	Receive update and consider partnership opportunities.
ISLAND PLAN PRIORITY DISCUSSION					5.00 – 5.30 pm
6.	Environment Discussion This session will focus work linking to environmental strand of the Arran Island Plan.	-	Verbal	Katherine Dickens	Discuss progress and how LP can further support this work.
LOCAL MATTERS – TACKLING INEQUALITIES					5.30– 6.10 pm
7.	Islands Plan For discussion and direction on the work of the Arran Islands Plan.	-	Verbal	Chair and Island Plan Leads	Discuss progress and how LP can further support this work.
8.	Partner Updates For discussion and direction from the Locality Partnership on the work: - Police Scotland - Scottish Fire and Rescue - Education - Active Schools	Pg 21	Verbal/ Enclosed	Partners	Receive update and discuss learning and partnership opportunities.

	KA Leisure				
AOCB					6.10 – 6.15 pm
9.	AOCB Arran Housing Task Force	-	Verbal	Cllr Currie	LP to use this time to raise/discuss matters linking to the Locality, the LP priorities and tackling inequalities.
REPORT FOR INFORMATION					
10.	- HSCP Report - North Ayrshire CLD update	Pg 25 Pg 28	Enclosed		

Distribution List

Elected Members

Councillor Charles Currie (**Chair**)

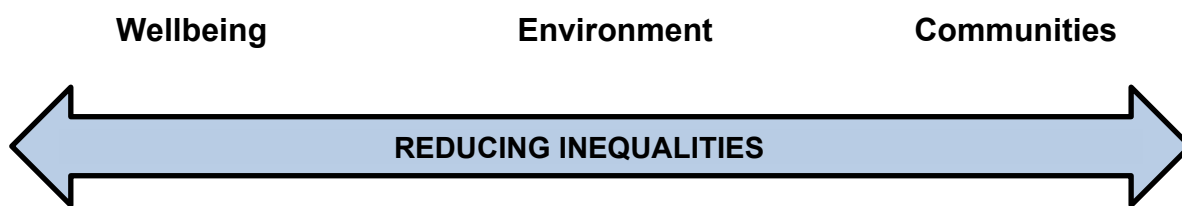
Community Representatives

Tom Young, Arran Community Council
Sheila Gilmore, Community Island Plan Lead
Alastair Dobson, Business Island Plan Lead
Michael Gettins, Environment Island Plan Lead

CPP/Council Representatives

Vicki Auld, Senior Lead Officer
Lesley Forsyth, Lead Officer
Ailsa Weir, NHS Ayrshire and Arran
Lisa Thomson, Police Scotland
Lesley Forsyth, North Ayrshire Council
Anne-Marie Hunter, North Ayrshire Council
Carol Norton, Arran CVS
Ricky Donnachie, Scottish Fire and Rescue
Vicki Lockhart, Head Teacher
Judi Worthington, Argyll College

Arran Locality Partnership Priorities



Arran Locality Partnership – Community Investment Fund	
The Arran Locality Partnership CIF allocation to date:	£194,000
Funded Projects	Total Funding Awarded
Arran Youth Foundation and Arran High Joint Bid - Young People's Mental Health	£45,226
Arran Geo Park	£79, 853
Remaining CIF Balance	£68,921

Action Note

Meeting:	Arran Locality Partnership
Date/Venue:	Thursday 18 June 2026 at 4.45 pm at Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick
Present:	Cllr Charles Currie, Chair Vicki Auld, Chief Executive Officer, Arran CVS (Senior Lead Officer) Lesley Forsyth, Senior Manager, North Ayrshire Council (Lead Officer) Anne Marie Hunter, Engagement & Participation Officer Sheila Gilmore, Island Plan Lead for Communities Sgt Claire Neilson, Police Scotland PC Andy McParland, Police Scotland Carol Norton, Operations Manager, Arran CVS
In Attendance	Alison Black, 1st Alliance Credit Union Calum Couston, Programme Manager (joined remotely) Kerry Logan, Head of Service (joined remotely) Stuart McMillan, Principal Manager (joined remotely) Jennifer McGee, Policy & Community Planning Officer (Notes)
Apologies:	Alastair Dobson, Island Plan Lead for Economy Ailsa Weir, NHS Ayrshire & Arran Michael Gettins, Island Plan Lead for Environment Ross Dobson, Active Schools Co-ordinator Sarah Baird, Senior Officer (Islands) Tom Young, Arran Community Council

ACTIONS

No.	Action	Responsible
1.	Welcome/Apologies/Declarations of Interest The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies for absence were noted. Declaration of interest was made from S Gilmore in relation to both applications made to the Community Project Fund.	Noted
2.	Action Note The action note arising from the meeting held on 19 March 2026 was approved. J McGee advised that in relation to the street naming report presented in March 2026, Planning have clarified why some names submitted by the community were not included as options in the report. J McGee advised that this information would be circulated to the LP for information.	Noted J McGee
3.	Community Project Fund The Partnership received a report from C Couston on the North Ayrshire Community Projects Fund – Pride in Place Impact Fund for Arran. The Arran allocation for the Community Grant Fund is £44,000 for community led projects. There was also £67,000 allocated for Council led projects.	

Action Note

	C Couston highlighted that applications had been assessed by a panel made up of locality representatives, a Connected Communities Officer and Irene Campbell MP. The panel recommended approval of two projects in Arran, with total recommended funding of £44,460. The Locality Partnership approved the funding of the following projects: • Heather Lodge CIC - £7,095 • Shiskine Public Hall Community SCIO - £37,365 C Couston highlighted that he has requested funding from small island grants to pay the difference. C Couston advised that the £67,000 for Council led funding to deliver improvements to community spaces has been awarded to Arran Outdoor Education Centre. The Partnership commented that having a catering facility in a community setting would fill a gap in market for weddings and events on the Island. The Chair thanked C Couston for his report and update.	C Couston
4.	1st Alliance Community Bank A Black provided an update on ongoing work to support financial resilience within island communities, including Arran and Cumbrae. The service offers a range of loans and savings accounts tailored to individual needs and circumstances, with a focus on supporting people to move away from high-cost payday lending. In addition to financial products, the Community Bank provides budgeting advice and signposting to local and national support services. Payroll deduction schemes were highlighted as a key offer, enabling employees to save directly from their salary. Engagement with local employers remains a priority to increase uptake of these schemes. A number of community-based initiatives are also underway. The savings club at Brodick Primary School has expanded to a whole-school approach, providing young people with practical experience of saving, with plans to extend this model to other schools across the island. Regular community pop-up sessions are also being delivered in Cumbrae every four weeks. It was noted that the organisation benefits from being based on the island, allowing for strong relationship building within the community. A Black confirmed she is keen to continue developing partnerships locally and has shared contact details with Locality Partnership members. The Partnership noted the wider context of financial vulnerability, with many individuals having limited savings, increasing the risk of debt and reliance on high-cost lenders. The Community Bank's role in promoting accessible savings and affordable credit was welcomed. During discussion, Cllr Currie confirmed he will share information with individuals who may benefit from the service. It was highlighted that a key challenge is encouraging broader engagement, as the service is available to everyone, not just those in financial difficulty.	

Action Note

	L Forsyth advised that the new Head Teacher at Cumbrae Primary School may provide an opportunity to strengthen engagement and offered to link A Black with Cumbrae Youth Forum and the Parent Council. Further opportunities to connect with Parent Councils and Health Visiting services on Arran were also identified. A Black noted that Armitage and Arran Haulage have signed up to the payroll deduction scheme, which was welcomed as positive progress. The Chair thanked A Black for providing the update.	L Forsyth
5.	Health and Social Care Partnership The Partnership received a report from K Logan, on revised HSCP locality planning arrangements for Arran. The new approach will align HSCP Locality Planning more closely with existing Community Planning Partnership Locality Partnership structures, replacing the previous standalone HSCP Locality Planning Review Groups. This is intended to reduce duplication, strengthen partnership working and support a more coordinated approach to improving outcomes at a locality level. HSCP Locality Leads will attend two Locality Partnership meetings each year, with a standing HSCP locality planning agenda item included to provide updates, share emerging priorities and identify opportunities for joint working. Written updates will be provided for the remaining meetings to maintain visibility of locality planning activity and relevant HSCP developments. It was noted that HSCP Locality Plans will be developed using locality data, community engagement, service input and partner feedback. Draft plans will be brought to the Locality Partnership for comment, ensuring partners have the opportunity to help shape local priorities and delivery. K Logan also provided a general update in relation to HSCP activity in the Arran Locality: • Engagement held on social care budget, leading to wider consultation. • Eligibility tightened to critical need, with reassessments underway. • Likely increased demand on partners, especially third sector. • New Chair of the ADP appointed • New Self-Directed Support website • Montrose House rated “Good” overall following unannounced Care Inspectorate inspection. • Launch of new fostering scheme in April 2026 The Chair thanked K Logan for her update.	
6.	Island Plan The Chair highlighted that S Baird submitted a report as part of the paperwork issued. The report provided updates on: • Progress of the North Ayrshire Islands Programme • The New National Islands Plan (2026–2031) • Refresh of Local Island Plans • Arran Intelligence Hub • Funding	

Action Note

	Wee Grants for Islands S Gilmore noted that in the report the grant launch date was 12 June – nothing has been circulated. C Norton noted it was publicised on the main Council website and shared the link with Partnership members.	Noted
7.	Community Council Update Apologies submitted by the Community Council, no update provided.	Noted
8.	Island Emergency Cost of Living Fund C Norton provided an update on the Islands Emergency Cost of Living Crisis Fund, which offers grants of up to £2,000 to community groups and voluntary organisations operating on Arran. The fund is administered locally by Arran CVS on behalf of North Ayrshire Council and is targeted at supporting those experiencing financial hardship through locally delivered activity. C Norton was reported that a total of 32 awards has been made to date, comprising 16 awards to community groups and organisations and 16 directly to individual residents. Funded activity has included lunch clubs, warm spaces, food provision for events, youth and family activities, and direct financial assistance to individuals experiencing hardship. Arran CVS has also extended its reach to Cumbrae, including engagement with the local food larder/food bank. Through this work, five hardship awards have been made on Cumbrae £7,565 has been awarded to individuals and £26,584 to local groups and organisations. During discussion, S Gilmore sought clarification on access to the fund, and it was confirmed that individuals can approach Arran CVS directly or be referred by local services. L Forsyth highlighted the broader impact of the fund, noting that it has supported a wide range of initiatives, including provision of free summer sports activities through KA Leisure. The Chair thanked C Norton for her update.	
9.	Partner updates Police Scotland - Work experience – Five S5 and S6 students have completed a week of work experience in South Ayrshire where they visited various departments in Police Scotland. These included the mounted branch, dog branch, armed response, roads policing and the helicopter. Hope to make this more regular. - Campus officers attended Brodick Primary and delivered internet safety inputs to both children and parents. - PS Neilson and PC McParland have arranged to attend Kilmory Primary and deliver inputs to both early years and primary students around use of the 999 system and who to call in an emergency. - PC Graham attended Brodick primary assisted with cycle and road safety advice to students using pedal cycles.	

Action Note

	• PS Neilson accompanied NAC Licensing officer, Isaac Kerr, conducting premises visits around the island. • Roadshow was postponed due to ferry cancellations, plans to do this in the new year and will have a focus on vaping. The Chair queried about the potential for PSYV provision on the island. C Neilson undertook to explore this further and report back to him. The Chair thanked C Neilson for her update.	
10.	AOCB L Forsyth provided update on the summer of sport programme being delivered North Ayrshire Council, through its Connected Communities service, providing inclusive sport and physical activity opportunities for children and young people aged 3–26. The programme is supported by £315,000 investment from Sport Scotland (funded by the Scottish Government), as part of a national initiative to improve wellbeing and reduce inequalities through increased participation in sport. V Auld highlighted that the Ko-Nekt Nurture Programme offer a 10-week Nurture Programme supports parents to: • Understand behaviour and what's driving it • Manage emotions (theirs and their children's) • Build positive routines and calmer home life • Strengthen relationships and confidence Parents regularly tell us it's the first time they've felt properly understood and supported. V Auld shared flyers with the Partnership to gauge interest in running the programme on the Island. S Gilmore and C Neilson commented that this programme would be welcomed on the Island. V Auld highlighted a desire to engage Ko-Nekt, the high school and Arran Youth Foundation, noting ongoing challenges in securing engagement within the schools. L Forsyth advised that she would raise this with S Anson, as the work aligns closely with ongoing wellbeing activity.	

The meeting ended at: 6.20 pm



Locality Partnership: Arran Locality

Date: 17 September 2026

Subject: To advise the meeting of applications received in respect of the Community Benefit Fund and Arran Elderly Grants.

Purpose: To consider the applications as outlined in Appendix 1 of this report.

Background:

- **The Community Benefit Fund** has a balance of **£5,056.40** available for disbursement to Arran projects.
- **Arran Elderly Grants Fund** has a balance of **£2,841**.

Key Points for Locality Partnership

- Consideration to be given to the applications at Appendix 1 of this report

Action Required by Locality Partnership

- To consider the applications for grant funding as outlined in Appendix 1 to this report.
- **The Community Benefit Fund**
 - Arran Geopark - £4,125
- **Arran Elderly Grants Fund**
 - Arran CVS - £2,841

For more information please contact:

Angela Morrell, Senior Manager, Connected Communities, Cunninghame House,
Irvine, KA12 8EE

Email: amorrell@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

Completed by:

Sharon Fleming, Grants & Performance Officer, Connected Communities

Email: sharonfleming@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

Date: 6 August 2026

COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND Officer Report

Applicant Contact Details

Arran Geopark (SCIO)

Description of Applicant Organisation

Number of Members: 7 Trustees	Established: July 2023
Group Meeting Place: Arran CVS	Date of Contact: 6 August 2026
Description of the Project Background: Arran Geopark is a voluntary organisation originally formed in 2017, established as a SCIO July 2023, and recognised as a UNESCO Global Geopark in 2025. Arran Geopark promotes and protects Arran's geological, archaeological and natural heritage. Working with local partners and stakeholders, the organisation supports heritage conservation, environmental education and sustainable tourism across the Isle of Arran. The organisation currently employs one member of staff and is overseen by an experienced management board. Project for Funding: The project will install two fixed visitor monitoring sensors at King's Caves and Machrie Moor Stone Circles, two of Arran's most significant heritage attractions. Currently, no reliable visitor data exists for either site, limiting opportunities to secure future funding and plan maintenance and conservation activities. Recent incidents of vandalism and damage have highlighted the need for improved site management. Developed in partnership with Drumadoon Estate and Archaeology Scotland, the project will provide robust visitor data to support the long-term protection and management of these important heritage assets. Two additional mobile sensors will also be purchased which can be utilised at other visitor hotspots, as and when required. This may include high-footfall locations such as Fisherman's Walk (Brodict) and Newton Point (Lochranza), where accurate data collection is paramount to enabling footpath repairs and ensuring environmental protection. Funding will support: • Purchase of four remote-access visitor counters. • Annual data upload and reporting functionality for a 10-year monitoring period. • Postage and installation, including materials. • Long-term collection of visitor data to support maintenance, conservation planning and future funding bids. The applicant estimates the project will ultimately benefit approximately 40,000 annual visitors to these key Arran heritage sites through improved management and protection of the local environment and archaeological assets.	

Funding

Amount requested: £4,125	Contribution by Group: £525.00
Total Project Costs: £4,650	

Confirmed cost breakdown received from applicant:

Item	Unit cost	Qty	Total	Total inc. VAT
Pedestrian counter	£370.00	4	£1,480	£1,776
Annual data fees, years 1 to 3	£44.00	12	£528	£634
Annual data fees, years 4 to 10	£50.00	28	£1,400	£1,680
Postage	£35.00	1	£35	£35
Installation	£175.00	3	£525	£525
Total			£3,968	£4,650

Supporting Information Provided

Constitution/Memorandum of Articles: Available	
Bank Details: Available	Balance in Bank: Available

Additional Comments on Scoring

<u>Criteria:</u>			
Charitable	x	Educational	x
Community	x	Environmental	x
Renewable Energy		Energy Efficiency	
Sustainable Development	x	General Community Amenity	x
Level of environmental enhancement: The project directly supports protection of scheduled monuments, important landscapes and designated natural heritage sites. Data collected will inform footpath maintenance, visitor management and future conservation interventions, addressing existing concerns regarding vandalism, erosion and environmental damage. The anticipated long-term environmental benefit is considered significant.			
Level of community involvement: The project has been developed collaboratively with local stakeholders and partner organisations including Drumadoon Estate and Archaeology Scotland. While the project is primarily infrastructure-based, the resulting benefits will extend to local communities, volunteers, land managers and visitors.			
Level of funding secured or available: The applicant has provided a detailed breakdown confirming total costs of £4650 including VAT, with the grant request of £4,125. Arran Geopark is contributing through in-house staff installation costs and materials (estimated at £525) and meeting the balance between the requested grant and total project cost. The organisation has also committed to ongoing monitoring and maintenance beyond the grant period, demonstrating organisational commitment and leverage against the requested funding.			
Experience of group to deliver project: Although established relatively recently (2023), Arran Geopark employs dedicated staff and is governed by an experienced board drawn from tourism, heritage and conservation sectors. The project itself is straightforward, with installation and ongoing management to be undertaken directly by the organisation alongside project partners.			
Future sustainability of project: The equipment is intended to operate over a period exceeding ten years, with ongoing monitoring and maintenance commitments already identified by the applicant. The information generated is expected to support future funding bids, conservation work and potentially additional staffing resources. Benefits will therefore continue well beyond the grant-funded period.			
Location of Project: King's Caves and Machrie Moor, Isle of Arran. The project clearly falls within the Arran locality and will benefit one of the island's most visited heritage and environmental destinations.			

Officer Details

Name:	Sharon Fleming	Position:	Grants & Performance Officer
E-mail:	sharonfleming@north-ayrshire.gov.uk	Date:	12/08/2026

**ELDERLY GRANTS FUND
APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE 2026/27**

Grant Allocation for Arran LPP Area

**£
2,841**

Group	Purpose of Grant	Grant Allocated to Group	Amount Requested
Arran CVS (distributed to groups on Arran on our behalf)	Arran CVS is part of the TSI in North Ayrshire along with TACT. We support community groups on Arran, as well as running a number of our own projects. Distribution of grant money to Arran groups for outings, meals and activities. The activities planned by each individual group will be aimed at enabling elderly people to engage in activities outside their own homes & reduce social isolation. In the main the groups choose to host a Christmas party or meal, or other events that bring people together, for the older people in their communities. Project costs will vary by group. Previous year £2025/26 £2379.00 - funds raised by individual groups.	£ 2,841	£ 2,841



Locality Partnership: Arran Locality Partnership

Date: 17th September 2026

Subject: Lochranza GP Branch Surgery

Purpose: To invite the Arran Locality Partnership to acknowledge the risks and healthcare concerns associated with the Lochranza GP Branch Surgery remaining unoccupied for the past six years, and to consider support for its permanent closure. The report also provides assurance that the healthcare needs of local residents continue to be met safely, effectively, and sustainably through alternative arrangements across Arran. In addition, it seeks support for a managed review of prescription collection arrangements to ensure that individuals who currently rely on this service continue to receive appropriate and accessible support.

Background

The Lochranza GP Branch Surgery, serving the communities of Lochranza and Catacol, has remained closed since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic and has not delivered routine clinical services for more than six years. Prior to this the clinic had operated once a week and was manned by a GP or Practice Nurse who worked alone. The surgery at this time also dispensed medication and monthly prescriptions. Following the temporary closure during the pandemic, healthcare provision has successfully continued through Arran Medical Group's practices in Brodick, Lamlash, Shiskine and Whiting Bay, supported by GP and District Nursing home visits where clinically appropriate. Importantly, ongoing monitoring has not identified evidence of unmet clinical need arising from the closure of the building.

The proposal recognises that the branch surgery was valued by local residents and that many people may feel a sense of loss associated with the permanent closure of a longstanding community facility. However, the recommendation is based upon careful consideration of patient safety, staff wellbeing, service sustainability and value for public resources. Extensive discussions have taken place between Primary Care, Health and Community Care, NHS Property Services and Arran Medical Group, resulting in a shared professional view that reopening the facility would not provide a safe, sustainable or effective model of care going forward. NHS Ayrshire and Arran would look to cease ownership

however opportunities may be available to explore community asset transfer with community organisations.

Key Points for Locality Partnership

Patient Safety and Workforce Sustainability

A key factor underpinning this recommendation is the increasing recognition of the risks associated with lone working in remote and rural healthcare settings. Current healthcare standards place a strong emphasis on staff safety, peer support, and the ability to respond rapidly to emergencies. Operating a single-clinician service from an isolated branch surgery would present significant challenges for both staff and patients and is increasingly difficult to justify as a safe and sustainable model of care. The realities of living and working on Arran, including long travel distances, adverse weather, and potential delays in emergency response, further increase these risks.

Lone working can leave clinical and administrative staff more vulnerable when managing medical emergencies, aggressive behaviour, or unexpected incidents without immediate support from colleagues. Delays in accessing assistance may affect both staff wellbeing and patient safety. These challenges are heightened by Arran's geography. Limited transport links, adverse weather conditions, and the island setting mean incidents occurring in branch surgeries may take longer to resolve than in mainland locations. Risks that might be manageable elsewhere can therefore have a greater impact on service delivery and patient safety on Arran.

There are also important workforce implications. Reducing lone working risks often requires additional staffing, placing further pressure on an already stretched rural workforce. This can reduce flexibility, increase costs, and limit the availability of staff to support services elsewhere on the island. As a result, lone working is not only a safety concern but also a significant factor in workforce resilience, recruitment, retention, and the long-term sustainability of healthcare services on Arran.

Condition of the Building

Property assessments have confirmed that the building after lying vacant for 6 years, is no longer suitable for modern healthcare delivery. Significant issues include damp ingress, flood risks and the need for substantial refurbishment to meet current standards. Investment in excess of £120,000 would be required before any redesign or recommissioning costs were considered. Given the ongoing availability of alternative healthcare provision elsewhere on

the island, there is currently no economically sustainable case for investment for this work to be done.

Continued Access to Healthcare

Healthcare services for residents over the last 6 years, have continued to be available through Arran Medical Group's existing practice network and through home visiting arrangements where clinically appropriate. Evidence gathered through review of clinical activity, service utilisation and population data demonstrates that healthcare needs, continue to be met through these established arrangements. The registered population has remained stable and there is no evidence that closure of the building has resulted in increased clinical risk or unmet demand.

Prescription delivery

Prescription delivery arrangements that were introduced during the pandemic have naturally reduced over time as service models and patient needs have evolved. The number of people using the service has fallen from 115 patients in 2019 to around 13 regular users today, with no new patients joining since the surgery closed. While the current delivery service continues to provide valuable support to those who depend on it, it is largely sustained through the goodwill of staff, and is unsustainable going forward. The arrangements have also developed in a way that means access is not consistent across the island, resulting in variation in the level of support available to different patients. All affected patients who currently receive a prescription delivery service, will receive an individual review and personalised support plan to ensure their needs continue to be met safely, appropriately and fairly.

Equality and Island Community Considerations

A comprehensive Equality Impact Assessment and Island Communities Impact Assessment have been completed to ensure that the needs of local residents have been fully considered. Particular attention has been given to the experiences of older people, unpaid carers, people living with disability, frailty and long-term health conditions, and those who may face transport challenges. The registered population of Lochranza and Catacol has remained stable, increasing slightly from 206 patients in 2019 to 222 patients in June 2026.

The population includes a relatively small number of children and young people, with 18 residents under 19 years of age, including 2 pre-school children. The community has a significant older population, with 101 residents aged over 65, reflecting Arran's wider

demographic profile where 34.5% of residents are aged 65 and over, compared with 20% nationally. This suggests a continuing demand for healthcare services, particularly for older adults. Essential healthcare services have continued to be delivered safely through alternative clinical sites and home visits, ensuring support for individuals with frailty, disabilities, mental health needs, learning disabilities, and those who are housebound. Community Nursing and Care at Home services continue to provide care as required.

Both assessments concluded that despite the Lochranza GP Branch Surgery remaining closed for six years, the evidence indicates that the healthcare needs of residents in Lochranza and Catacol have continued to be met safely and effectively through alternative service arrangements. Population trends remain stable, essential services are maintained, and there is no evidence that the building's closure has adversely affected access to care.

Listening to the Communities affected

Recognising the importance of the facility to local residents, a targeted engagement exercise has been undertaken across the communities of Lochranza, Catacol and Pirnmill. Patient letters and questionnaires were distributed to approximately 336 residents to provide an opportunity for people to share their views and experiences. Feedback from this engagement will form an important part of the decision-making process and will be considered alongside all clinical, equality, island impact and property evidence before a final decision is reached. A summary of the responses received are in **appendix 1** below.

Risks and Mitigating Actions

Risk	Mitigation
Concern regarding access to prescriptions	Individual patient reviews and tailored support arrangements to meet specific needs.
Perception of reduced service provision	Clear evidence demonstrating that healthcare services have continued to be delivered safely and effectively through alternative arrangements since 2020 with no unmet need identified.
Impact on older or vulnerable residents	Utilisation of home visits, family and carer support, volunteer transport, and personalised care planning to support healthcare provision.

Community concern regarding closure	Formal engagement - community consultation with surveys delivered to all households affected.
Legal challenge	Completion of all required governance processes, including the Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) and Island Communities Impact Assessment (ICIA).

Action Required by Locality Partnership

The Arran Locality Partnership is asked to:

1. Note the evidence demonstrating that healthcare services have continued to be delivered safely and effectively through alternative arrangements since 2020.
2. Consider the patient safety, workforce sustainability and property condition issues which support the recommendation not to reopen the building.
3. Note the findings of the Equality Impact Assessment and Island Communities Impact Assessment and the range of mitigating measures available to support residents.
4. Note the outcome of community engagement activity and support continued dialogue with affected communities.
5. Support the recommendation to submit the proposal for permanent closure of the former Lochranza GP Branch Surgery following review of all factors discussed and progress through the appropriate governance processes.

For more information please contact:

Ailsa Weir- Senior Manager Arran Services

Fiona Campbell-Practice Manager AMG

Michelle Sutherland- Senior Manager North HSCP

Lorri McColl- Primary Care East HSCP

Completed by: Ailsa Weir Senior Manager

Date: 11/9/2026

Appendix 1

Survey Response Summary

336 Letters/surveys were distributed to affected residents in Lochranza, Catacol and Pirnmill and a total of 35 responses were returned (10.4%). The consultation identified that approximately 77% of respondents expressed concerns or objections to permanent closure, while approximately 23% were supportive of, or accepting of, the proposal. These figures are based on analysis of the qualitative responses, as the survey did not include a specific yes/no questions on closure.

Access to Healthcare and Travel Challenges

The most frequently raised concern was the impact on access to healthcare services for residents in the north of Arran. Respondents highlighted the significant travel required to attend appointments in Brodick, Lamlash or Shiskine, particularly where public transport is limited or unavailable. Many described appointments becoming lengthy journeys, especially for those reliant on buses.

Impact on Older and Vulnerable Residents

There was strong concern about the effect on older people, individuals with mobility difficulties, carers and those who do not drive. Respondents felt that local access to services was particularly important for maintaining independence and ensuring timely access to care.

Equity of Access across Arran

Many respondents questioned whether permanent closure would result in unequal access to healthcare across the island. Several highlighted that there would be no surgery facility serving the north end of Arran, while services remain concentrated elsewhere on the island. Equity and fairness were recurring themes throughout the feedback.

Community Sustainability

A number of residents linked the availability of local healthcare services with the long-term sustainability of north Arran communities. Concerns were expressed about attracting and retaining residents, supporting an ageing population and maintaining essential local services.

Preference for Alternative Service Models

Many respondents suggested that alternatives should be explored before permanent closure, including:

- Nurse-led clinics.
- Phlebotomy and screening services.
- Vaccination clinics.

- Weekly or fortnightly outreach sessions.
- Greater use of community facilities such as the village hall.

Feedback on the Prescription Collection Service

The majority of respondents who commented on the prescription service expressed a wish for some form of local collection arrangement to continue. Common themes included:

- Supporting independence for older residents.
- Reducing travel burdens.
- Ensuring access for those without transport.
- Providing an opportunity for social contact.
- Reducing reliance on neighbours and informal support networks.

Where respondents accepted that the current model may not be sustainable, many suggested alternative collection points within Lochranza, including use of the village hall or alignment with existing outreach services.

Views Supporting Closure

A smaller number of respondents considered permanent closure appropriate or inevitable. Reasons included:

- The surgery has not operated routinely for several years and many residents have already adapted to alternative arrangements.
- Concerns about the condition and suitability of the building including it sitting on the flood plain.
- Recognition of wider NHS financial pressures impacting Arran budgets and the need to prioritise resources.
- Suggestions that the building could be repurposed for alternative community benefit, including housing or other community uses.

Key Messages

The consultation demonstrates that whilst some residents recognise the practical and financial challenges associated with maintaining the Lochranza Branch Surgery, there are a number of concerns regards the permanent closure that could have an impact on access to healthcare, particularly for older residents and those without access to private transport.

The strongest messages emerging from the consultation were:

1. Concerns about healthcare accessibility in the north of Arran.
2. The need to consider equality of access across the island.
3. The importance of maintaining support for older and vulnerable residents.
4. Strong support for retaining some form of local healthcare presence or outreach model.

5. A desire to develop a local prescription collection solution if the current arrangements change.

In summary, residents were not simply commenting on a building; many respondents expressed concern about the future accessibility of healthcare services in north Arran and sought reassurance that any decision would be accompanied by sustainable alternative arrangements.

Arran Locality Partnership Update

—

Scottish Fire and Rescue



North Ayrshire
Community Planning Partnership

Economy

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) continues to play a key role in supporting the resilience and sustainability of Arran's economy. By working closely with local businesses, community organisations and partners, SFRS helps reduce the impact of fire and other emergencies on people, property and infrastructure. Prevention, protection and preparedness activities support business continuity, safeguard employment opportunities and contribute to Arran remaining a safe and attractive place to live, work and visit. Through efficient emergency response and community engagement, SFRS supports the conditions necessary for economic growth, tourism and long-term community wellbeing across the island.

Environment

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) is committed to protecting Arran's unique natural environment through prevention, preparedness and partnership working. SFRS works with local agencies, landowners and community groups to reduce the risk of wildfires, promote responsible land management and raise awareness of environmental hazards that can impact communities, wildlife and natural habitats. Through emergency response, community education and support for climate resilience initiatives, SFRS contributes to safeguarding Arran's landscapes, biodiversity and natural resources, helping to ensure a sustainable environment for current and future generations.

Community

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) remains committed to supporting safe, resilient and inclusive communities across Arran. Through targeted prevention and education initiatives, home fire safety visits, engagement with vulnerable individuals, and partnership working with local agencies, SFRS helps reduce risks and improve community wellbeing. By working closely with residents, schools, community groups and partner organisations, SFRS promotes safety awareness, supports community resilience and contributes to addressing local challenges. These efforts help ensure that people across Arran feel safer, better informed and more connected, supporting the overall health and wellbeing of the island's communities.



Locality Partnership: Arran

Date: 17th September 2026

Subject: HSCP Partner Update

Purpose: For Information and Awareness

General HSCP update

Children, Families & Justice Services

- Care Leaver Payments- the Scottish Government has introduced a £2,000 payment for eligible young people moving from care into adulthood and independent living. Scottish Government has committed to fully funding local authorities to administer and deliver the payment.
- Child protection communications- following engagement with young people, the Child Protection Committee is developing content for North Ayrshire Youth Services social media channels to promote key child protection messages. A survey for young people aged 11 and over has been launched to identify their preferred platforms and approaches to online engagement.
- Vaccination programmes- eligible young people across Ayrshire have been able to book meningococcal B vaccination appointments from 6 July, ahead of the 2026/27 academic year. The annual school flu programme is also being rolled out across North Ayrshire, with vaccinations scheduled from 14 September to 4 December and parents and carers encouraged to return consent forms promptly to support uptake.

Health & Community Care

- Transfer of Care Programme and Home First Approach- NHS Ayrshire & Arran continues to experience significant system pressures, including high hospital occupancy, delayed discharges, Emergency Department congestion and reliance on non-standard capacity. In response, NHS Ayrshire & Arran, the three HSCPs and Acute Services have developed the Transfer of Care Programme to expand community capacity and redesign discharge pathways around a Home First approach. Following IJB approval in June 2026, implementation is progressing to expand community-based support to enable timely discharge and reduce hospital pressures. North Ayrshire planned investment includes up to 25 additional care-home placements, up to 35 additional Care at Home and reablement packages, and 5 step-down beds at Anam Cara through the discharge to assess pathway. This will strengthen rehabilitation and recovery support, improve patient flow and help more people return home safely.
- Unscheduled care improvement- In June North Ayrshire HSCP received £1.081 million from The Scottish government to support Phase 1 of the Whole System Implementation Plan: £746,000 to strengthen hospital-based multidisciplinary capacity

and £335,000 to increase Mental Health Officer capacity. These enhancements have been implemented to support patient flow and discharge planning.

- Digital housing and independent living- The Envision: Digital Blueprint for a Smart Home of the Future report provides an evidence-based framework for housing that integrates digital health, adaptable design and low-carbon construction. Housing and HSCP colleagues will explore how learning from the framework can inform future planning and service development to support health, wellbeing, independence and net zero ambitions.
- Adult Support and Protection- a staff survey has been launched across HSCP and partner organisations. Findings will inform the Adult Protection Committee's biennial report and future business plan, helping to shape priorities and continued improvement in adult protection arrangements.

Mental Health

- North Community Learning Disability Team- the team received the Team Award at the Scottish Learning Disabilities Nurses Network Awards for their work to reduce health inequalities for people with learning disabilities in North Ayrshire.
- Alcohol and Drug Partnership- the North Ayrshire ADP has published its latest newsletter, providing information on recent community activity, available supports and this year's Overdose Awareness Day event.

Planning, Performance and Transformation

- Beam Notes- the AI-supported documentation tool previously known as Magic Notes is being rolled out across North Ayrshire HSCP social work services. Training is underway and use has expanded to additional service users from 20 July. The tool is intended to support quicker drafting of records and documentation, reduce administrative time and enable practitioners to focus more on direct engagement and conversations with the people they support.
- Care at Home Service review- The HSCP is currently doing a review of the Care at Home service and staff are being invited to dedicated engagement sessions to discuss current service delivery, improvement opportunities and help shape future developments. Separate sessions for frontline and office-based staff will ensure that operational experience and staff feedback inform the review and future planning.

Other

- Set Aside arrangements- work continues across Ayrshire to implement statutory Set Aside arrangements for delegated hospital services. This includes developing a joint commissioning plan, strengthening IJB directions to NHS Ayrshire & Arran and agreeing a transparent methodology for fair resource allocation across the three Ayrshire partnerships.
- IJB voting rights- from 1 September 2026, third-sector representatives, service users and unpaid carer members will have full IJB voting rights under the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2025. Recruitment is underway to fill the service user/ unpaid carer representative role.

Action Required by Locality Partnership

To note the HSCP updates.

For more information please contact: Kerry Logan, *Head of Service, Health and Community Care, HSCP/ Rebecca Black, Team Manager, Strategic Planning & Equalities*

Completed by: *Rebecca Black, Team Manager, Strategic Planning & Equalities*

Date: *26th August 2026*



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

New Scots, Core Skills and Gaelic Team

Locality Partnership Progress Update



Poverty/Financial Inclusion

- Delivered New Scots drop in events for families with school related applications and processes – **NA Wide held in Saltcoats**
- Provided support through community hubs, helping individuals access information, complete forms and connect with appropriate services, including support relating to financial and practical issues – **NA wide held in Kilwinning and Garnock Valley**

Health and Wellbeing

- New Scots community picnic at Eglinton Park was attended by 30 people, bringing adults, children and families together through physical activities, games, conversation and shared food. The event supported intergenerational participation, social connection and community wellbeing – **NA wide held in Eglinton Park**
- Intergenerational bingo and board game activities was delivered in Kilbirnie and Saltcoats, providing opportunities for social interaction and reducing isolation – **Held in Kilbirnie and Saltcoats**
- Youth work Community Mental Health & Wellbeing project officer delivered a four day fitness programme for New Scots boys aged 11–15, promoting physical activity, wellbeing and positive social interaction – **Held in Kilwinning Academy**
- New Scots Youth Forum summer event in Eglinton Park saw 23 New Scots young people come together and participate in health and wellbeing activities – **NA wide held in Eglinton Park**



New Scots, Core Skills and Gaelic Team Locality Partnership Progress Update

Community Engagement/Participation and Voice

- Supported delivery of the Lok Oi community event, 100 attendees enjoyed opportunities for engagement and participation within the New Scots community – **NA wide held in Irvine**
- New Scots Youth Forum have been engaging with its membership and partners to identify activity and a programme for the next year – **NA wide**

Community Engagement/Participation and Voice

- Fèis Arainn had a successful week seeing young people from Arran and the mainland participate in Gaelic language and culture activities. Ending with a concert held in Arran Hight School on the last day – **NA Wide held on Arran**

Work and Skills

- ESOL provision continued to support learners to build literacy, numeracy, digital and communication skills, often linked directly to real life and work related scenarios such as jobcentre appointments, applications, volunteering and workplace communication. Many learners progressed to volunteering or employment during the reporting period – **NA Wide**
- Delivered weekly ESOL Employability and IT class supporting learners to develop CVs, cover letters, interview skills and basic digital skills – **NA Wide held in Kilwinning**
- Supported seven ESOL volunteers to undertake an ESOL Literacy training course, strengthening volunteer capacity to support learners with literacy needs – **NA wide held online**