live Argyll



Annual Report 2025/26

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Welcome to our annual report 2024/2025



Welcome from Kevin Anderson liveArgyll Chief Officer

I am pleased to present this Annual Report and to reaffirm my ongoing commitment, and that of the wider organisation, to the delivery of high-quality services across Argyll and Bute. Our ambition remains clear: to ensure that services are accessible, inclusive, and responsive to the needs of our communities, contributing positively to the health, wellbeing, and resilience of residents and visitors alike.

It is important, however, to acknowledge the increasingly challenging operating environment in which liveArgyll continues to operate. Sustained inflationary pressures, rising operational costs, and a constrained and uncertain funding landscape have combined to place significant strain on service delivery. Organisational sustainability therefore remains a material and ongoing risk. In this context, it is essential that funding partners and stakeholders collectively consider the appropriate balance between the scope of services expected and the resources available to sustain them. Transparent and informed dialogue will be critical in ensuring realistic and deliverable service expectations for the future.

Despite these challenges, I remain immensely proud of what has been achieved during the year. The professionalism, commitment, and resilience demonstrated by our staff and management team have ensured that services remained welcoming, accessible, and affordable, often in the face of considerable financial and operational pressures. I am therefore pleased to report that services were delivered in line with the agreed service specifications and, where service deviations occurred, these were largely attributable to factors beyond our direct control. Simply maintaining the breadth and quality of provision across our geographically dispersed communities in such circumstances represents a significant achievement.

The report highlights a number of encouraging trends during the year. Community Lettings performance improved, demonstrating the importance of our facilities as valued community assets and supporting increased engagement across local communities. Our Community Learning service showed strong and consistent performance, providing opportunities for residents of all ages to develop skills, confidence, and social connections. Within Libraries, general usage levels were maintained, while digital library engagement increased modestly, reflecting changing customer behaviours whilst preserving access to traditional library services and community spaces.

Leisure services experienced a particularly challenging year due to the on-going closure of Helensburgh Leisure Centre. As expected, this had an impact on overall participation figures. However, it has been extremely encouraging to see the temporary arrangements established to support customers being well utilised. Uptake levels demonstrates both the loyalty of our users and the ongoing demand for high-quality leisure provision across Argyll and Bute.

liveArgyll delivers a diverse range of services across the full geographic and demographic spectrum of Argyll and Bute. These services are united by a simple but powerful purpose: making a difference. Throughout 2025/26 we continued to work proactively and collaboratively with a wide range of national, regional, and community-focused organisations. This partnership approach has enabled us to deliver outcomes with significant social value and lasting impact for our communities. The value of our services is further evidenced by the overwhelmingly positive feedback received through our recent service user survey. The scale and strength of the response provided compelling evidence of the difference that our services make in people's lives, reinforcing their importance within the social, cultural, educational, and wellbeing infrastructure of Argyll and Bute.

As I reflect on the year, I do so with a strong sense of pride in what has been achieved. The continued commitment of our staff, the support of our partners, and the loyalty of our customers and communities have enabled liveArgyll to continue delivering services that have a genuine and lasting impact across Argyll and Bute. The year under review has demonstrated not only the challenges facing public service delivery but highlighted our resilience, adaptability, and strength of our organisation.

While the financial and operating environment remains uncertain and significant challenges undoubtedly lie ahead, I remain confident that by working collaboratively, embracing innovation, and remaining focused on the needs of our communities, liveArgyll can continue to adapt and evolve. I would like to express my sincere thanks to our staff, volunteers, partners, Board Members, customers, and stakeholders for their continued support throughout the year. Together, we have continued to make a real difference across Argyll and Bute, and I look forward to building on these achievements as we continue our mission of improving lives, strengthening communities, and delivering services that matter.









OUR FACILITIES & SERVICES

LEISURE
Aqualibrium Leisure Centre
Helensburgh Leisure Centre
Mid Argyll Sports Centre
Rothesay Leisure Centre
The Queen's Hall Gym
Riverside Leisure Centre

HALLS & COMMUNITY CENTRES
Queen's Hall, Dunoon
Victoria Hall, Campbeltown
Victoria Halls, Helensburgh
Ramsay Hall, Isle of Islay
The Corran Halls, Oban
Kintyre Community Centre
Lochgilphead Community Education Centre
Moat Centre, Rothesay

LIBRARIES
Campbeltown
Cardross
Dunoon
Helensburgh
Lochgilphead
Oban
Rosneath
Rothesay
Tarbert
Tiree
Tobermory
Sandbank Office *(including Library Headquarters and Local Studies)*
Islay Mobile Library

ARCHIVES
PITCHES
COMMUNITY LETS
CAMPBELTOWN MUSEUM

SERVICES
Active Schools and Sports
Community Learning












THE ORGANISATION

liveArgyll was launched on 2nd October 2017 and provides sport, leisure, recreation and cultural opportunities for the communities of Argyll and Bute.

liveArgyll is a not-for-profit charitable company, limited by guarantee.

(Charity No SC047545)

We have 6 Trustees, all of whom are volunteers and support the strategic direction and governance of the company led by Kevin Anderson, Chief Officer.

OUR VISION

"Our communities and visitors lead richer and more active lives."

Customer Feedback

"I like leading Bookbug for so many reasons – I'm meeting people, using some of my skills to support parents, engaging the little ones, singing for pleasure, and feeling part of the Oban community"

Sarah MacGill
Oban Library

Customer Feedback

"Parent and baby lessons have absolutely been the foundation to the confidence both Scott and I have now"

Emma
Riverside Leisure Centre

OUR VALUES

EMPLOYEES

The trust values all employees. Through investment we will maximise their potential, helping them to achieve their career aspirations and deliver high quality customer service that exceeds expectations

CUSTOMER SERVICE

We are passionate about delivering the highest level of customer service

SAFETY

Ensuring the health and safety of employees and customers, going above and beyond legal requirements to provide a safe environment for all

INCLUSIVE

Continuing to adopt an inclusive approach, recognising and respecting the needs of all within our communities

EXPERTISE

The trust will continuously build and enhance the knowledge and expertise of its workforce and strategic partners to deliver high quality services that respond to our customers' needs

EQUALITY

Maintaining in depth policies and procedures to ensure equality in the workplace and for customers alike

DEVELOPMENT

A continuous cycle of improving and introducing new products, services or processes

INNOVATION

Understanding the need to be innovative across all areas of the business to reach and deliver new benchmarks in service delivery

ASPIRATION

The trust has a culture of being aspirational and will strive to challenge its status and align itself with continuous improvement and examples of best practice

LEISURE AND LIBRARY TRUSTS MATTER...

Why Charitable Trusts are great!

Charitable Trusts come in all shapes and sizes but they all have two things in common; to do good and make things better, and liveArgyll is no different as a local charity operating within Argyll and Bute.

Every penny made is reinvested back into local facilities and programmes. This cross-subsidy approach distinguishes the model from other public leisure services because profit generating activities subsidise non-profit generating activities such as health and wellbeing, libraries and outreach programmes. With a combined turnover of £2 billion a year, that's a lot of money going back into the local economy. It also enables income from users who can afford to pay to be ring-fenced to subsidise access to activities.

Importantly, Trusts don't have shareholders and they are not private businesses. liveArgyll is run by board members from the local community. liveArgyll work in partnership with the Council, we listen to communities and are fully transparent. Each trust delivers slightly different programmes which reflect the need within the community. It's not just councils our members partner with however. Partnership working is part of our DNA and we work with health and social care partners and other third sector organisations and charities both at local and national level.



How do Charitable Trusts make a difference?

Why do Trusts do what they do?

Because all 113 Trusts across the UK share a passion to improve social, mental and physical wellbeing and the difference they make together is remarkable. Improving people's health and wellbeing means reducing the cost of treatment and care later in life. It can help reduce crime and improve educational outcomes as well as increasing personal happiness. That carries a social value of £1.5 billion.

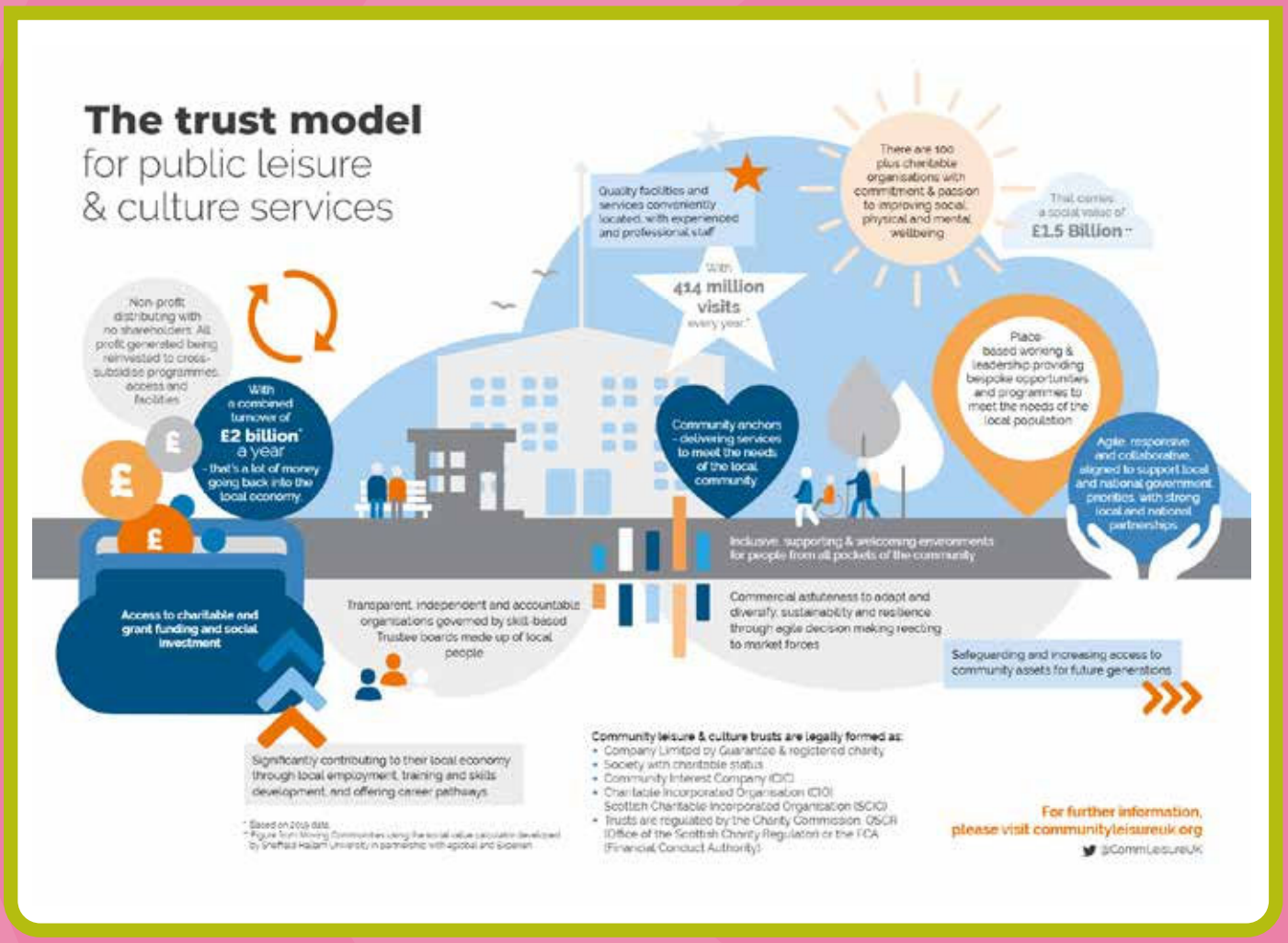
This figure is from the Social Value calculator developed by Sheffield Hallam University in partnership with 4global and Experian. The social value calculator measures 15 outcomes grouped under 4 categories:

- Physical and mental health
- Mental wellbeing
- Individual development
- Social and Community development

This is an impressive figure but it is hard to convey or even imagine the thousands of individual lives changed for the better each year. From people now living healthier lives after embarking on their fitness journey to those living happier lives being part of a creative programme.

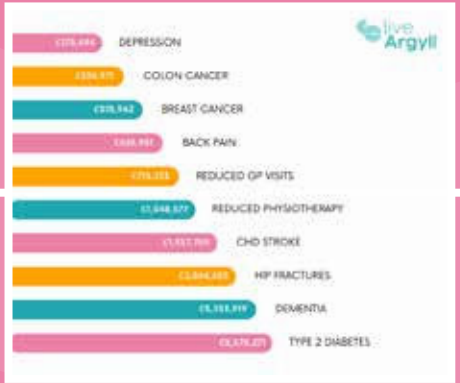


LEISURE AND LIBRARY TRUSTS MATTER...









A YEAR IN NUMBERS

98,317
Visits to Active Schools Sessions

571
Active Schools Volunteers

348
young people completed Bikeability Training

115,105
Visits to Libraries

166,804
PressReader issues opened

93,480
Books issued

30,043
Borrowbox issued

544
Library-led Bookbug sessions

6,109 Children attended

5,166 Adults attended

Accredited learning qualifications/ Awards achieved by

230 Young people

117 Adult Learners

Wider Achievement awards achieved by

113 Young people

731 Adult Learners

2,788 Adults

1,997 Young people

engaged in Community Learning

4,020 Adults

5,186 Young people

attended one off drop-in-sessions

6,563
Leisure Members
(16% of the Argyll and Bute Population)

Monthly average of **614** young people took part in learn to swim programme.

109,867
visits to fitness classes

282,571
visits to a gym swimming pool or health suite

4,970
sports pitch bookings

99,400
attended a sports pitch

2,234 followers

7,175 followers

351 followers

1,800
visits to Campbeltown Museum

263
Archive Enquiries

130,000
people attended an event at a hall or community centre

Active Schools: Girls Golf

Active Schools has been working in partnership with Glencruitten Golf Club and Scottish Golf to explore ways of promoting golf, particularly among women and girls. Glencruitten Golf Club successfully applied for Scottish Golf's Women and Girls Fund, which supported the creation of a paid Women and Girls Coordinator role, as well as initiatives focused on encouraging more girls to take up the sport.

To help inspire girls to be more active and try something new, Active Schools partnered with Rebecca, the Women and Girls Coordinator at Glencruitten Golf Club, to deliver a series of golf taster sessions for P4–P7 girls across the Oban cluster. These sessions took place on Sunday 22 February 2026, with three one-hour sessions running throughout the day. The sessions were structured using a station-based format, with club coaches leading each activity. Stations included the practice bays, putting green, and one of the golf holes, offering a mix of fun games, challenges, and skill-building activities. This provided a well-rounded introduction to golf in an engaging and supportive environment.

As participants came from a range of different schools, the event also gave girls the opportunity to meet new people, build friendships, and enjoy being active outdoors. A total of 60 girls attended across the sessions, each bringing varying levels of experience and understanding of golf. It was fantastic to see such a strong turnout, clearly demonstrating the enthusiasm and demand among girls to try golf.



> I really enjoyed the girl's golf session, I especially liked the activities around the course. I would really like more golf sessions
>
> ***- P4 Girl***

Active Schools: Girls Golf

Following the sessions, I met with Rebecca to discuss future opportunities and how we could best support junior membership while continuing to motivate girls to take up golf. Currently 10 girls have signed up for the membership. This will include a programme of five one-hour sessions focused on developing golf skills and building confidence in a supportive environment. We have also explored the possibility of delivering similar taster sessions for secondary school girls, using the same successful format, to encourage participation within this age group and provide further opportunities to try golf.

In addition, Scottish Golf currently delivers a school-based programme called Unleash Your Drive. One of my schools within the Oban cluster was successful in their applications which enables them to access online resources and equipment to support the delivery of golf sessions. A further round of funding is expected to open in future, and we will continue to promote this opportunity to local schools to encourage wider engagement with the sport.

The overall aim is to establish an Oban cluster after-school golf club for P4–P7 girls, providing a consistent pathway for participants to continue developing their skills and confidence in golf.

- Charlotte Forbes,
Active Schools Coordinator

sportscotland activeschools ARGYLL & BUTE



> It was a fantastic turnout for the girl's golf session, letting the girls explore the green while learning the sport has encouraged my daughter to take the sport up
>
> ***- Parent***

Leisure: Personal Training

One of the best decisions I've ever made was starting personal training with Ampa at Live Argyll Campbeltown. At 44 years old and weighing 13 and a half stone, I felt uncomfortable in myself and was constantly battling low energy and a lack of motivation. It became especially noticeable at work - wearing body armour on top of my own excess weight made even routine tasks feel exhausting. That was the moment I realised something had to change.

I never set out to be skinny; my goal was simply to feel healthier and stronger. From that very first session with Ampa, things began to shift. Now, a year and a half later, I've lost nearly three stone - but more importantly, I've gained the energy to actually live life again.

In the beginning, I focused mainly on strength training, building muscle and getting stronger. That alone made a huge difference to my weight and overall fitness. Cardio, on the other hand, was never my strong point - aside from the occasional spin class, which I still have a love–hate relationship with! Every year I entered the MOK 10k, though I never took it too seriously (if I'm honest, I was mostly there for the Danish pastry at the finish line). Running was something I'd disliked since school.

But when I turned 45, I decided to challenge myself and aim to beat my previous 10k time of 1 hour 10 minutes. Ampa continually adapts the programmes he creates, and as my running began to improve, he adjusted my training to support that progress - helping me avoid injury while still maintaining my strength work.

That approach has clearly paid off. Last week, I completed the 10k in 59 minutes and 44 seconds - a milestone that anyone who knows me will appreciate. I've even signed up for a half marathon... although I can't promise I've learned to love running just yet!

Personal training has kept me accountable and consistent. Knowing there's always support, guidance, and someone invested in your progress makes all the difference. Honestly, I'd feel a bit lost without it now.

I think a lot of people feel intimidated by the gym, worrying they'll be judged or out of place. My experience has been the complete opposite - it's one of the most welcoming and sociable environments you could step into. My advice to anyone would be simple: just give it a go.

I'd still like to lose a bit more weight, especially around my middle, but I'm in no rush. I know it will come with time. At the end of the day, the real goal is to stay strong, mobile, and able to get off the toilet when you're 70 - and if I end up with calves like Ampa's along the way, even better!





Leisure: Ageing Well

Impact of Live Argyll Services



I retired early in April 2025 aged 59. I wanted to make some changes to my lifestyle which up to that point had been pretty sedentary. I was overweight and suffering from osteoarthritis in knees and hip. I had never set foot in a gym and hadn't been swimming in over 20 years. I had been assessed by a physiotherapist for a walking stick as climbing stairs was painful.

I approached the Aqualibrium in June 2025 and was given an induction to the gym. Since then, I have taken out a membership and follow a workout programme about 3 times a week under the guidance of a fitness instructor. The programme is for rehabilitation and strengthening and I am happy to report that I am making steady progress.

I started going swimming again as well as attending Aquafit classes. When going into the pool at first, I could only manage 4 lengths! I now regularly swim 32 - 40 lengths and am enjoying feeling fitter as a result of this.

I have attended the gentle fitness classes and enjoyed the social aspect of these workouts.

To sum up, using a range of Live Argyll Services is ensuring that my retirement is on course to being a fitter and healthier version of myself. And, I no longer use that walking stick!

I also must mention the great staff at the Aqualibrium - always so encouraging and welcoming.

- Lesley Ronald

Leisure - Swim Programme

Scott's Journey

Emma and Scott joined our parent and baby swimming lessons when Scott was a newborn. Emma was nervous about swimming, as she had not had a positive experience as a child, and this made her apprehensive about bringing Scott to lessons.

The parent and child classes are a great way to meet other parents and babies, helping parents build confidence and learn ways to support their children throughout their swimming journey.

> Parent & baby lessons have absolutely been the foundation of the confidence both Scott and I have now.
>
> ***– Emma***

Engagement and participation from liveArgyll Swim Co-ordinator Chloe and her staff at Rothesay Pool have always been a key part of the parent and child lessons. They help parents and babies have fun while learning new ways to support children as they learn to swim. We love to sing songs, play games, and teach children that there is nothing scary about being splashed from time to time.

Emma consistently brought Scott to lessons every week and also took him swimming at weekends to further develop his swimming ability and confidence.



> I was very nervous about taking baby Scott to the pool, but the lessons built my confidence. By bringing Scott swimming at the weekends, the lifeguard team further strengthened my confidence, encouraging me to let Scott go further, jump into deeper water, and dive for sticks. It has always been a safe environment.
>
> ***– Emma***

When Scott turned three, Emma enrolled him in our swimming lesson programme. He progressed through Aqua Fun in a matter of months and, thanks to the foundation provided by the parent and child classes, he had already met the majority of the criteria needed to move on to Swim Skills 1. Since then, he has progressed from Swim Skills 1A to Swim Skills 1B.

Leisure - Swim Programme

His lessons now teach him the fundamentals of swimming correctly, which his parents love to watch. As he learns to respect others and listen to instructions, he is always excited to tell his mum what he has done during the lesson and whether I saw his jump.

During the summer, Emma enrolled Scott in our one-to-one swimming lessons. The family were planning a holiday with access to a deeper pool, and she wanted Scott to build on his confidence and knowledge in deeper water. Scott attended a 30-minute session every week and made significant progress. He was excited to show his mum what he had learned in preparation for the holiday.

> During the holidays, the 1:1 lessons with Chloe were brilliant. Scott has days when his attention span is short, but Chloe was always very patient whilst remaining encouraging, knowing exactly which activity to start with to keep him engaged and help him continue the lesson.
>
> ***– Emma***

Scott is now excelling in his Swim Skills 1B class, and both his confidence and Emma's confidence have grown tremendously through everything they have learned with us.

> Scott will happily swim a length unaided at four years old, although he knows his limits. While on holiday, he was confident swimming underwater and keeping himself afloat. We believe the foundation he received in the Parent & Baby class has given both him and us the confidence to be safe and confident in and around water.
>
> ***– Emma***

Halls: Argyll Suite

The Queen's Hall has been used for weddings and functions for many years, taking place in the Main Hall. In more recent times there has been a shift from customers requiring larger gatherings to more intimate, smaller events as the larger spaces can sometimes feel a bit too big at times. Working with the local Council wedding registrars and bespoke local wedding event co-ordinator – Argyll Weddings and Events, we realised the town lacked a space that could accommodate 70-120 people comfortably. Spaces locally were either too big (Queen's Hall and the Burgh Hall) or too small, including most hotels.

The idea of a smaller area able to tap into this market came to fruition and the Argyll Suite was born, coming into use in March 2025. This 300sqm space has beautiful views over the Clyde estuary, has plenty of natural light and is a warm and welcoming space. We immediately aimed at the wedding and small function market and also advised our other hirers who perhaps use the main auditorium for conferences and would like the extra break out space available. Working with partners at Caladh and Co-Op Funerals we also moved into the funeral market.

The space has many advantages. There is a small kitchen on this level so caterers can use this when prepping the food which also allows for quick delivery. Hirers have the choice of the fully stocked foyer bar, which is complete with couches and other furniture making for an excellent break out space, giving people the chance to mingle away



from the main space if they wish, or a bespoke bar in the function room itself. We can offer 5ft or 6ft round banquet tables for dressing, or hirers can utilise the rectangle type tables or have a mix of both. We have also hired the children's soft play area to some hirers who have children attending their events – think long wedding days and you can see the advantages here for families attending with young children.

The space is used extensively out with this as well. We have 3 meeting spaces of varying sizes depending on hirers needs, and these are available for when no events are booked. We offer a range of equipment for hire – screens and PA for small conferences and speaker events and internal catering is available for light refreshments

To date the area has achieved some £24,000 in extra income from weddings, funerals and smaller functions, and we continue to get interest in this relatively new space again for this year.

Community Learning: Kilmartin Museum

Sewing for Hope

There was a clear need to provide adult learners in Mid Argyll with accessible opportunities that support wellbeing, reduce social isolation, and strengthen community connections. Discussions with learners also highlighted a strong interest in understanding climate change and the need for a safe, inclusive space to explore the topic in a creative and relevant way.

The Sewing for Hope project responded to this by combining adult learning, creativity, and climate education. Participants contributed to a national initiative after being invited by Kilmartin Museum to take part in the Climate Change for All programme, led by National Museums Scotland and supported by the Scottish Government.

In Week 1, learners attended a session at Kilmartin Museum that included a presentation and discussion on climate change. They then designed and created individual felt squares using recycled materials, expressing their views and hopes for the future. The session was flexible and discussion-led, encouraging open conversation while developing creative skills.

In Week 2, participants returned to view their work as part of an exhibition and took part in a reflective discussion with staff.

The completed panels will be exhibited nationally, with a final display planned at the National Museum of Scotland in 2026. Participants hope to organise a group visit to see their work featured in the exhibition.

live Argyll Adult Learning



The project had a positive impact on learners' confidence, well-being, and sense of belonging. Participants engaged actively with climate change themes while developing creativity, planning, problem-solving, and teamwork skills. Learners reported feeling proud of their contributions and valued as part of a wider community and national initiative. The sessions supported social connection, reduced isolation, and encouraged meaningful participation, while increasing awareness of climate change through creative expression.

Community Learning: Kilmartin Museum

The exhibition visits further strengthened learners' sense of achievement and connection to the wider project. Key impacts included:

- All learners completed their individual felt squares during the session
- Strong peer support and teamwork were observed
- Feedback showed learners were proud of their work and excited to see it displayed
- Exhibition discussions highlighted enjoyment, learning, and a strong sense of achievement
- Reflective discussions demonstrated increased understanding of climate change and motivation to engage in future projects

> I learned more about climate change and what is happening in the world.

> I thought it was great, it had a good feel to it, it lifted me up to see my work in the exhibition, and I felt proud. It highlighted and reminded me of the importance of helping our environment.

> I felt proud to be part of it, part of making a difference.

> I felt honoured and proud to be part of the exhibition and to see my work as part of it.

> I felt proud to be part of something intergenerational and seeing young people involved for their future.

> I really loved when we were working together, connecting, chatting and the feeling of calm as we worked.

> I found it inspiring, especially seeing all the different thoughts and messages.

> I found it motivational and powerful because of the message it sends across (MD).

Community Learning: Kintyre and Bute Youth Voice

Having worked together to explore Article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), the Kintyre and Bute Youth Action Groups recognised the need for a youth-led voice structure. This structure aims to empower young people by giving them a chance to express their opinions and influence local issues that matter to them. The groups created and developed their own youth voice model, inspired by positive examples from other areas and tailored to their specific local needs.

To further refine these models, the Action Groups decided to visit the award-winning Aberdeen Youth Movement. Their goal was to learn from the experiences of this organisation and gain advice and insights that could help them advance their own initiatives.

Eight young people from each area - Kintyre and Bute - who had taken the lead in developing their own models travelled to Aberdeen for a two-night stay during the Easter holidays in 2025. During their time there, they engaged in various recreational activities with members of the Aberdeen Youth Movement to build relationships and begin networking while also supporting their social and mental health and well-being.

The groups participated in a full day of workshops led by the Aberdeen Youth Movement. They learned about the movement's structure, the obstacles and challenges it faces, the ways it brings about positive change, how it promotes its work, and how it effectively uses social media. These elements have been instrumental in driving the Aberdeen movement forward.

Additionally, the young people had personal and social time together while staying in self-catering accommodation. This experience allowed them to enjoy a taste of independent living, take responsibility for themselves and one another, and develop closer relationships with group members they didn't know well.



Young people from both groups have learned that their work is not isolated to their local areas; rather, it is part of a larger social and democratic movement aimed at developing genuinely youth-led structures for positive change in support of UNCRC Article 12. They also discovered that their model is quite unique, as they have created it themselves at a very young age. This is especially notable given the differences in ages and experiences between the local Argyll and Bute Youth Action Groups and their counterparts in Aberdeen. This realisation has motivated some participants, making them proud of what they have accomplished at such an early stage.

Additionally, the young people gained valuable insights into the opportunities and challenges they may face moving forward, as well as strategies to better develop their plans and overcome obstacles when they arise. They learned how to utilize their own social media channels to enhance their skills, boost their confidence, and raise awareness of their work to engage more local young people in democratic processes. Consequently, each group has identified youth social media leads who will soon undergo training to take control of their social media channels, thereby enhancing their outreach efforts.

Community Learning: Kintyre and Bute Youth Voice

Participants also noted improvements in various areas, including their general confidence, mental health and well-being, core and transferable skills, social and teamwork abilities, and self-esteem. They have developed an increased understanding of youth voice and are now more motivated to participate in similar projects and activities to further advance their group's initiatives.



live Argyll youth Work

> I loved meeting new people from other groups.

> It was really good learning about how we can use social media to reach and influence other young people.

> I loved going to the fun fair.

> I learned about how they created their model and have new ideas to make our youth voice movement better.

> I learned how important it is for young people to be heard and get their points across collectively.

> It was great to see how young people can help so much when they come together and make their voices heard.

Libraries: The Power of Volunteering

Sarah's Story

Volunteers play a vital role in bringing liveArgyll Libraries to life, helping us create welcoming, inclusive spaces that support families and strengthen communities. Sarah MacGill, a dedicated Bookbug volunteer at Oban Library, is a wonderful example of the difference one volunteer can make.

Sarah has been volunteering with Bookbug since 2022 and is a valued member of the Oban Library team. Alongside supporting weekly Bookbug sessions, she has also helped deliver outreach sessions, extending the programme beyond the library and into the wider community.

Having moved to Oban in 2020, Sarah was keen to find ways to meet people and become involved locally. Her connection to Bookbug began as a participant, bringing her granddaughter along to sessions and rediscovering her love of stories, songs and shared moments with young children.

> I moved to Oban knowing very few people and was exploring ways to get involved. I'd always loved singing with my granddaughter at Bookbug, and I've always enjoyed activities with children as a mum, ***- Sarah***

With a background as a childminder and later as an occupational therapist supporting adults with learning disabilities, Sarah brought a wealth of experience to her volunteering role. Her skills, combined with knowledge of Makaton and an interest in British Sign Language and Gaelic, contribute to a warm, inclusive and supportive environment for families.

> I like leading Bookbug for so many reasons – I'm meeting people, using some of my skills to support parents, engaging the little ones, singing for pleasure, and feeling part of the Oban community. ***- Sarah***

The Bookbug programme at Oban Library continues to thrive, with two well attended sessions taking place every Thursday morning. Sarah is a huge part of this success and is loved by families for her care, enthusiasm and engaging sessions filled with stories, songs and rhymes.

Sarah's story highlights the power of volunteering – not only in supporting our services, but in creating meaningful connections and a sense of belonging for everyone involved. Volunteering with liveArgyll Libraries offers opportunities to develop skills, share experience and be part of a friendly, supportive team making a real difference locally.

Sarah inspires us, and we hope her story encourages others to consider volunteering with liveArgyll Libraries.



Libraries: A year of Creativity, Community and Curious Minds at Campbeltown Library

This year, Campbeltown library was a vibrant hub of activity for children, families and the wider community, offering creative events, learning opportunities and welcoming shared spaces.

Easter 2025 brought colour and excitement with a colouring competition led by volunteer **Marion Morris**, Easter scavenger hunts and a special Bookbug session funded locally by **Helen Gilchrist (The Jolly Monday Show)**. Across all Easter activities, we welcomed **38 adults and 46 children.**

In **June**, we were excited to host **Campbeltown Grammar School pupils**, who chose a library visit to work with materials from our local collection - marking the start of a new relationship with the English Department.

August was our busiest month. A hugely successful **Dinosaur Week** delighted all ages with crafts, displays and Bookbug activities, supported by community funding. This was followed by bracelet making sessions during the school holidays. We also held our first **Library Open Day**, welcoming approximately **168 visitors**, showcasing library services and community creativity, and raising **£120** through donations. Alongside this, we displayed a much loved collection of local pen and ink postcard drawings by **John Trappe**.

During **Autumn and Winter**, school visits continued with **Dalintober Primary's Cosy Reading Club** and collaborative events such as a **Christmas colouring competition with Kintyre Foodbank**. Our **Bookbug Twilight Session, Book Week Scotland author visit**, festive Bookbug sessions and **Christmas wreath making workshop** were all very well received.





Libraries: A year of Creativity, Community and Curious Minds at Campbeltown Library

In 2026, activities included **Pancake Day Bookbug, Children's Mental Health Week** displays, a **World Book Day Bookbug session**, and a successful six week reading and activity programme with **Dalintober P7 pupils**.

Clubtastic continued throughout the year, with children returning to enjoy crafts, STEM challenges, awareness days and reading time. Many contributed to library displays, reinforcing their sense of ownership and pride in the space.

Library rooms were more widely used than ever, hosting groups such as the **Textiles Group, French learners, Kintyre Writers Circle**, art sessions, Mahjong, and community activities - providing both social value and financial support to liveArgyll.

Our **People's Network** enabled creative digital projects, including a locally created map that featured in our Open Day display.

Overall, this has been a year defined by engagement, collaboration and community - and we look forward to building on this strong foundation in the year ahead.



FACILITY DEVELOPMENTS

The past year was filled with challenges, with few opportunities to deliver property development projects, the focus was shifted to maintenance and sustainability. The following projects were successfully completed in liveArgyll facilities, all funded by Argyll and Bute Council:

Bute & Cowal

Riverside Leisure Centre:

Our largest investment project this year was the structural work undertaken at Riverside Leisure Centre. Earlier surveys revealed remedial works were required within the pool hall, health suite, changing village and basement areas. Under the guidance of Structural Engineer, the main contractor delivered the £305,000 project within the allocated timeframe, ensuring the safe continued use of the leisure centre. There are ongoing monitoring protocols in place to ensure the building remains fit for purpose. The scope of work also included the installation of new pool hall lights, which have resulted in improved luminescence at a greater energy efficiency.

Queens Hall:

Having created a new reception and catering area within the entrance lobby, it was found that the heating was insufficient for our customers' comfort and work was undertaken to improve on the design and function of the heating supply to this area. Work to the amount of £7,700 was undertaken and ensured the comfortable use of this space throughout the winter months.



FACILITY DEVELOPMENTS

Kintyre

Aqualibrium:

As this building is now reaching its 20th birthday this year, it was found that a number of areas needed significant maintenance and refurbishment. The following work was completed this year.

Renewal of the main pool circulating pump.

Both public and service lifts underwent a complete refurbishment.

A completely new fire detection, fire alarm and public address system was installed.

Roof work was required at the northern elevation of the building to address water ingress issues.

Burnett Building, Campbeltown

Works were undertaken to stabilise the ground conditions under the Burnett Building which is a shared use building housing the Campbeltown Museum. Geopolymer resin was used to improve the ground bearing capacity, this method provided a fast and minimally disruptive solution with the works completed efficiently and on budget whilst providing a minimum impact on building operations. The use of this method provided the council with an environmentally beneficial solution including reduced material usage, lower carbon impact and reduced excavation waste.

Mid Argyll

Lochgilphead Community Centre:

Work was undertaken to change the heating system supplying to the library area from an open too a closed system. This has resulted in a significant improvement to maintain the required ambient temperature within this space.



Helensburgh

Helensburgh Library Pavillion:

liveArgyll took occupancy of this facility last year and reverted it to a public library. As a 'Passivhaus' designed building, it posed challenges to maintain the correct temperatures throughout the summer and winter months, and specialist contractors were tasked to design and to make suitable alterations to both the ventilation and heating systems.



LOOKING AHEAD

As we look towards 2026/27, we do so with a renewed sense of optimism and ambition. Whilst the past year has continued to present challenges across the public sector, it has also demonstrated the resilience of liveArgyll, the strength of our partnerships, and the enduring value of the services we provide to communities across Argyll and Bute.

Our focus for the year ahead will be on restoring and enhancing our full service offering across leisure, culture, libraries and community services. The anticipated return of key facilities and continued investment in our infrastructure provides an opportunity not only to recover from recent disruptions but to strengthen our services for the future. We remain committed to delivering accessible, high-quality services that improve health, wellbeing, learning and community connection.

Central to this ambition is our ongoing collaboration with Argyll and Bute Council and a wide range of partners. We will continue to work closely together to identify opportunities for facility improvements, capital investment and service developments that meet the evolving needs of our communities. Through shared planning and collective investment, we aim to ensure that our facilities remain fit for purpose, sustainable and capable of supporting future generations.

Alongside local developments, we will continue to engage proactively with the Scottish Government, national agencies and sector partners to ensure that leisure, library, cultural and community services are increasingly recognised as essential components of Scotland's preventative public service agenda. The evidence is clear that these services contribute significantly to physical health, mental wellbeing, educational attainment, social inclusion and community resilience. Our objective is to help embed these services into the very fabric of local communities, ensuring they are viewed not as discretionary services, but as fundamental elements of thriving places and healthy lives.

Over the coming year we will continue to focus on:

- Re-establishing and enhancing our full range of services across Argyll and Bute.
- Supporting the reopening and development of key facilities, including continued improvements to the customer experience.
- Working with Argyll and Bute Council to explore opportunities for investment, modernisation and service innovation.
- Strengthening partnerships with health, education and community planning organisations to maximise the impact of our services.
- Further demonstrating the social value generated through leisure, culture and learning services and their contribution to preventative health and wellbeing.
- Supporting our workforce through investment in skills, wellbeing and leadership development.
- Maintaining strong financial stewardship while seeking new opportunities for income generation, external funding and service sustainability.

As ever, our greatest strength remains our people. The dedication, professionalism and commitment demonstrated by staff, volunteers, trustees and partners continues to make a positive difference in communities every day. Together, we will build on the progress already achieved, restore services where required, embrace new opportunities and continue to create healthier, more connected and more resilient communities throughout Argyll and Bute.

This continued focus on partnership, sustainability and community impact will ensure that liveArgyll remains well placed to support the people of Argyll and Bute both now and into the future.

Kevin Anderson
Chief Officer

Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating the income and expenditure account) for the year ended 31 March 2026

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Pension Fund £	Total Funds 2026 £	Total Funds 2025 £
Income:						
Donations and legacies	5	1,575	1,259	-	2,834	2,494
Charitable activities	4	3,038,094	542,807	-	3,580,901	4,462,083
Management fee	4	3,265,604	-	-	3,265,604	3,265,604
Additional management fee	4	459,383	-	-	459,383	-
Income from fixed term deposit		16,894	-	-	16,894	67,806
Total income		**6,781,550**	**544,066**	**-**	**7,325,616**	**7,797,987**
Expenditure:						
Charitable activities	6	(7,201,164)	(529,609)	81,000	(7,649,773)	(8,544,312)
Other trading activities		-	-	-	-	-
Total expenditure		**(7,201,164)**	**(529,609)**	81,000	**(7,649,773)**	**(8,544,312)**
Net (expenditure) / income		**(419,614)**	**14,457**	**81,000**	**(324,157)**	**(746,325)**
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	-
Other recognised (losses) / gains:						
Actuarial (losses) / gains on defined benefit pension schemes	15	-	-	(81,000)	(81,000)	148,000
Net movement in funds		**(419,614)**	**14,457**	-	**(405,157)**	**(598,325)**
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward		726,979	74,952	(11,000)	790,931	1,389,256
Total funds carried forward		**307,365**	**89,409**	**(11,000)**	**385,774**	**790,931**

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All income and expenditure derives from continuing activities.

Company Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating the income and expenditure account) for the year ended 31 March 2026

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Pension Fund £	Total Funds 2026 £	Total Funds 2025 £
Income:						
Donations and legacies	5	1,575	1,259	-	2,834	2,494
Charitable activities	4	3,038,094	542,807	-	3,580,901	4,462,083
Management fee	4	3,265,604	-	-	3,265,604	3,265,604
Additional management fee	4	459,383	-	-	459,383	-
Income from fixed term deposit		16,894	-	-	16,894	67,806
Total income		**6,781,550**	**544,066**	**-**	**7,325,616**	**7,797,987**
Expenditure:						
Charitable activities	6	(7,201,164)	(529,609)	81,000	(7,649,773)	(8,544,312)
Total expenditure		**(7,201,164)**	**(529,609)**	81,000	**(7,649,773)**	**(8,544,312)**
Net (expenditure) / income		**(419,614)**	**14,457**	**81,000**	**(324,157)**	**(746,325)**
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	-
Other recognised gains:						
Actuarial (losses) / gains on defined benefit pension schemes	15	-	-	(81,000)	(81,000)	148,000
Net movement in funds		**(419,614)**	**14,457**	-	**(405,157)**	**(598,325)**
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward		725,900	74,952	(11,000)	789,852	1,388,177
Total funds carried forward		**306,286**	**89,409**	**(11,000)**	**384,695**	**789,852**

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All income and expenditure derives from continuing activities.

Consolidated Balance Sheet
as at 31 March 2026

	Note	£	2026 £	£	2025 £
Current assets					
Stock	12	17,961		19,179	
Debtors	13	210,675		162,994	
Fixed term deposit		-		1,271,192	
Cash and cash equivalents		980,803		104,111	
Total current assets		**1,209,439**		**1,557,476**	
Current liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(812,665)		(755,545)	
Net current assets			**396,774**		**801,931**
Net assets excluding pension liability			**396,774**		**801,931**
Defined benefit pension scheme asset/(liability)	15		(11,000)		(11,000)
Net assets			**385,774**		**790,931**
Funds					
Unrestricted funds	16		307,365		726,979
Restricted funds	16		89,409		74,952
Pension reserve	15		(11,000)		(11,000)
Total Funds			**385,774**		**790,931**

Company Balance Sheet
as at 31 March 2026

	Note	£	2026 £	£	2025 £
Fixed assets					
Investments	11		1		1
Total fixed assets			**1**		**1**
Current assets					
Stock	12	17,961		19,179	
Debtors	13	210,675		162,994	
Fixed term deposit		-		1,271,192	
Cash and cash equivalents		979,723		103,031	
Total current assets		**1,208,359**		**1,556,396**	
Current liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(812,665)		(755,545)	
Net current assets			**395,694**		**800,851**
Net assets excluding pension liability			**395,695**		**800,852**
Defined benefit pension scheme asset/(liability)	15		(11,000)		(11,000)
Net assets			**384,695**		**789,852**
Funds					
Unrestricted funds	16		306,286		725,900
Restricted funds	16		89,409		74,952
Pension reserve	15		(11,000)		(11,000)
Total Funds			**384,695**		**789,852**

Operating results (excluding the pension adjustment)

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2026 £	Total Funds 2025 £
Income:				
Donations and legacies	1,575	1,259	2,834	2,494
Charitable activities	3,038,094	542,807	3,580,901	4,462,083
Management fee	3,265,604	-	3,265,604	3,265,604
Management fee variation	459,383	-	459,383	-
Income from fixed term deposit	16,894	-	16,894	67,806
Total income	**6,781,550**	544,066	**7,325,616**	**7,797,987**
Expenditure:				
Charitable activities	(7,201,164)	(529,609)	(7,730,773)	(8,385,312)
Total expenditure	**(7,201,164)**	**(529,609)**	**(7,730,773)**	**(8,385,312)**
Net expenditure	**(419,614)**	**14,457**	**(405,157)**	**(587,325)**
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
Deficit from operations	**(419,614)**	**14,457**	**(405,157)**	**(587,325)**

The operating results for liveArgyll for the year ended 31 March 2026, excluding the pension adjustment, report an overall deficit of £405,157.

THANK YOU

Thank you to our partners, funders and stakeholders for their invaluable support throughout the year. As a local charity we couldn't achieve what we do without you!

