

My comments are based on my experience as a Panel member for 14 or so years, but all within the Inverclyde area.

Whilst recognising that the Children's Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011, states that AST can comprise one or more of the existing local authority areas, the proposal to lump Inverclyde with Argyll and Bute does not make sense, given the extreme geographical spread of the latter local authority area. The report also fails to substantiate how such a huge AST will in any way better the present arrangements serving the Inverclyde area. I fully recognise that the ferry links between Inverclyde and Dunoon and Rothesay may make links to Inverclyde appropriate, but places such as Oban and further north in Argyll and Bute have closer ties with Stirling and even Fort William. The report fails to offer any solution to these problems

The report makes specific reference to the types of cases experienced in Inverclyde but does not go ahead with any comparisons or how this might affect relationships with a much more rural community.

There are absolutely no financial figures produced to justify any of the proposed arrangements nor is there any attempt to do so.

