



Creative Recovery Inverclyde





Creative Recovery Inverclyde is an arts initiative embedded within Your Voice's Lived Experience Network, specifically designed for individuals in recovery from alcohol and drug misuse. The project merges the experiences of people in recovery with the expertise of participatory and community artists from across Scotland. Its primary goal is to create a supportive space for creative expression, connection, and experimentation, using art as a tool for personal healing and community rebuilding.





Building on strong relationships with local partners like The Wyllieum, The Beacon Arts Centre, Rig Arts, Inverclyde Libraries, The Watt Museum, and freelance artists such as Indra Wilson and Elina Bry, Creative Recovery Inverclyde offers a wide range of artistic activities. These include film, sculpture, moving image, sound, writing, theatre, and performance.





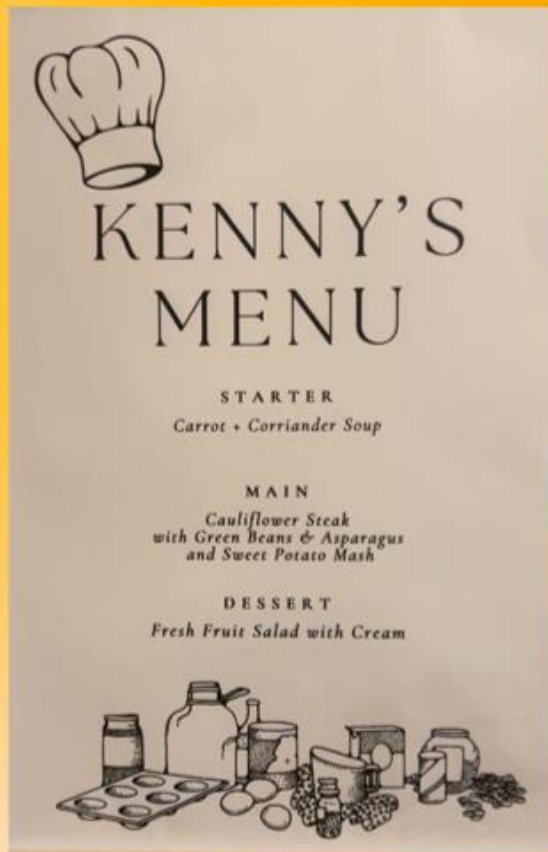
Centered on Greenock and Inverclyde, the initiative encourages individuals in recovery to explore their creativity, fostering personal growth and self-expression. The project also aims to strengthen connections within the community, helping participants rebuild their lives while contributing to the broader regeneration of the region. Through collaborative artistic engagement, Creative Recovery Inverclyde strives to support recovery journeys, empower individuals, and enhance community cohesion.



Kenny: It's helped in a lot of ways because I found a creative side of me that was always in there, but I didn't know it was there. Getting involved in the art groups helped bring out the creativity that was inside me. I got out of the house. It's done a lot for me. There's also been the drama group—these are things I only thought about doing, things most people dream about. It's been good for me. I would be worse without it. It's given me a purpose. When I stopped working in the kitchen, I needed to find something to fill the 16 hours of the day. It's getting better all the time.







Inspired by stories of artist residencies, a participant shared their desire for time away to focus on creativity and connection—this moment sparked the idea for our own Creative Recovery Residency. It reminded us how valuable trips away from familiar surroundings can be for reflection, growth, and building a sense of possibility. Dylan and Kenny, our resident chefs, eagerly stepped in to design the menu for the residency. Their enthusiasm was infectious, and the group's appreciation for their contribution gave a real boost to their confidence and sense of purpose.





We're planning a three-night Creative Recovery Artist Residency at Hospitalfield –an inspiring place with a rich history of supporting artists. This time away offers a valuable chance for participants to step out of their daily routines and immerse themselves in creativity, reflection, and connection.

During the residency, we'll collaborate with theatre maker Indra Wilson to create a short film exploring stigma and recovery in relation to our surroundings. Through storytelling and performance, we'll reflect on how place and personal experience shape one another. This residency will be a powerful space for growth, creativity, and community.







We're planning two major Creative Recovery events at the Wyllicum. The first will take place in September 2025 and will focus on engaging the wider community through a series of creative workshops, offering a chance for others to experience and take part in the work we do.

The second event, in September 2026, will be a celebration of everything we've achieved over the 18 months—bringing together performances, films, publications, and shared experiences. It will be an opportunity to reflect on the journey, showcase the participants' creativity, and highlight the impact of the project.



# Long-term goals

Now that we've secured funding for the next 18 months, we're excited to continue strengthening the partnership between Your Voice Recovery and Creative Recovery Inverclyde. This support allows us to deliver consistent, meaningful creative sessions while also building on everything we've learned over the past three years.

The creation of our first publication with participants has been a major milestone. It captures the depth of our experiences and reflections, and we're proud to use it as a way to share our work more widely. As part of this next phase, we're preparing to travel to Huntly to meet another recovery group—an opportunity to exchange knowledge, build connections, and grow a wider network of creative recovery communities across Scotland.

Welcoming a new artist into the project has brought fresh energy and deepened our collective commitment to the group's development. Since the beginning, we've witnessed powerful changes in participants' confidence, creativity, and wellbeing. The residency has created space for people to explore who they are and what they're capable of through creative expression.

With this new chapter, we're ready to expand our reach, continue nurturing this community, and share what we've built with others. We know we're still at the beginning of something important, and we're committed to the journey ahead.





SCOTTISH  
MENTAL HEALTH  
ARTS FESTIVAL



Community Award  
Scottish Mental Health Festival



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