



**REPORT TO: EDUCATION, CHILDREN'S AND LEISURE SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON 14 MAY 2024**

**SUBJECT: PARTNERSHIP COMMUNITY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT
PLAN (2024-2027)**

**BY: DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE (EDUCATION, COMMUNITIES AND
ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT)**

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 To update the Committee on the process that the Community Learning and Development (CLD) Strategic Partnership (CLDSP) are going through to meet the Statutory Requirement to produce a new Partnership CLD Plan for Moray and to give members the opportunity to contribute to the development of the Plan themes.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section III (D) (1) of the Council's Scheme of Administration relating to all the functions of the Council as an Education Authority.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **It is recommended that Committee comment on the suitability of the current themes of the CLD Plan (1 - Lifelong Learning, 2 - Participation & Community Voice, 3 - Active Citizens & Community and 4 - Workforce Development) and identify any other priorities or cross-cutting themes for consideration in the 2024-27 update.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 An [information paper](#) was shared with this Committee on 20 February 2024 on the results of a Progress Visit report published by His Majesties Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) in December 2023.
- 3.2 The HMIE Progress Visit Report confirmed that there is effective leadership of CLD through the partnership approach of the CLDSP and that there is good evidence of impact. The main improvement action was to further enhance links with independent youth organisations, community activists/organisations and adult learners to help shape the next CLD Plan and to fully capture the impact of wider CLD provision in Moray.

- 3.3 The information paper noted the announcement of a national independent review of CLD by The Minister for Higher and Further Education and Veterans. This review would be engaging with learners and strategic partners until the end of March with the intention of reporting back to Ministers in June 2024. The Communities (CLD) service formally responded to the consultation via an online survey and our Adult and Family Learning Team co-ordinated an Adult Learner focus group session with the review team.
- 3.4 The timing of the national review is challenging as the statutory requirement on local authorities to produce a CLD Plan by 1 September 2024 remains. The Partnership CLD plan will therefore need to be go to the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) for final approval in August 2024 to meet the deadline. The current Lifelong Learning theme (or its successor) is where partners will have scope to consider how to strategically respond to any recommendations that come out of the Independent Review of CLD
- 3.5 New Guidance was issued by the Scottish Government on 26 April 2024 which recognised the challenge in 3.4. The Guidance stated that all previous Guidance issued for producing earlier plans remain in place and accepting therefore that new plans would be *'carrying forward much of the content of their existing plans and only reflecting significant changes which have impacted communities and learners'*. The Guidance then states *'Where such an approach is taken, once the independent Review of CLD is published, education authorities are encouraged to consider whether it is appropriate for their area to undertake a more substantial learner and partner consultation and update their plan accordingly.... for the remaining two years of the plan cycle'*.
- 3.6 The CLD Strategic Partnership have already been consulting with stakeholders around the current themes as they believe that these are still relevant and consistent with the purpose of CLD – which is in line with the new Guidance issued and referred to in 3.5. The current plan has four themes – Lifelong Learning, Active Citizens, Participation & Community Voice and Workforce Development. The CLDSP are considering whether to merge the Active Citizens and Participation & Community Voice themes in the updated version.
- 3.7 The Workforce Development priority will remain as this is one of the main themes of the current national CLD Review. Moray is part of the Learn North partnership group of Local Authority and Third Sector learning providers and draws down a small grant from the CLD Standards Council annually. Currently there is a survey across all authorities to ascertain workforce development priorities.
- 3.8 The Plan also has cross-cutting themes of addressing rurality and poverty; improving mental health and well-being and addressing social isolation. (**Appendix 1** - Plan on a Page).
- 3.9 The process of engaging on the new CLD Plan creates a space to identify new or emerging priorities and thus delivers on the HMIE Progress Visit recommendations to widen partnership involvement in producing the new plan. Staff have engaged with third sector partners in settings such as the tsi

Moray Join the Dots Conference; the Voluntary Sector Managers Forum; Children and Young People's Forum, Third Sector Development Trust Managers Group and the Fairer Moray Forum Action Group etc. This process will continue alongside an online survey for organisations and a separate one for individuals.

- 3.10 The Adult and Family Learning team facilitated a very well attended Learner Link-Up event for adult learners which has fed into both the national CLD review and the CLD plan refresh. The Youth Work Network has been meeting again and the partners are working together collectively to identify how best we can work together to support pro-social activities for young people. Third sector and community partners have also shared case studies with the Fairer Moray Forum Action group which will form the third Inequalities in Moray report.
- 3.11 From the discussions at the CLDSP and with the range of partners in 3.9 and 3.10 there are emerging issues coming through

Themes	Considerations
Youth Work provision & Voice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More Life Skills and Employability opportunities for young people - More community-based youth work - Need for more social integration and youth work opportunities. - Responding to CLD review
Adult & Family Learning & Voice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ability to access more informal Community Based Adult Learning and accredited learning opportunities. - More opportunities to connect with people who are isolated. - CLDSP to look at developing a clear pathway for adult learning opportunities in Moray. - Responding to CLD review
Community Development & Voice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Funding landscape is very unclear for third sector partners. - Third sector partners would like to see continuation of participatory grant making processes. - Increased expectations on volunteers – particularly if public services are reducing.
Workforce partnership provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Learn North survey will give indication of priority areas.
Emerging issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of affordable activity/meeting spaces in general – including both localities in the LOIP. - Need to recognise climate change as a cross-cutting theme in the new plan alongside the poverty, social isolation and mental health and

	<p>well-being themes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Following up on HMI Improvement Actions.
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4. **SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

(a) Corporate Plan and 10 Year Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP))

The work of the council Communities (CLD) team explicitly addresses the Corporate Plan priorities of ‘Building thriving, resilient, empowered communities’ and ‘Tackling Poverty and Inequality’. Both themes also translate into the LOIP priorities and the support of Localities Work.

(b) Policy and Legal

There is a statutory requirement to produce a three year Community Learning and Development (CLD) Plan in line with [the requirements for Community Learning and Development \(Scotland\) Regulations 2013 \(CLD Regulations\)](#). Responsibility for ensuring this is done sits with the local authority with sign off required through the Community Planning Partnership (CPP).

(c) Financial implications

The CLD requirements are that Local Authorities must ensure ‘adequate provision’ of CLD.

(d) Risk Implications

The current National Review of CLD will only be reporting to the Minister in June 2024 so there is likely to be a lag from that time until any recommendations become policy or strategy. The CLD Plan should be flexible enough to respond to any change of emphasis which comes out of the Review process as outlined in 3.5

(e) Staffing Implications

Communities (CLD) commitments in the Plan will be based on current staffing resources – with the option to broaden/accelerate the scope of delivery if external funding allows. In the three years of the current plan this approach allowed partners in the CLDSP (CLD service, UHI Moray and LEAD Scotland) to use The Multiply Scheme to widen delivery of numeracy based adult learning. Similarly, the CLD Adult and Family Learning Team were able to reinstate community-based English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes through Refugee and Asylum Resettlement funding.

(f) Property

Partners and stakeholders have consistently identified the need for affordable access to meeting spaces.

(g) Equalities/Socio Economic Impact

An EIA will be included with the final report to the CPP.

(h) Climate Change and Biodiversity Impacts

Responding to climate change has featured in feedback from stakeholders and will feature in the final Partnership Plan.

(i) Consultations

Work is ongoing with community planning partners on the development of the partnership plan.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The CLD SP are consulting on the new Partnership CLD Plan and will use the feedback from this process to produce the new Plan in time for the 1 September publication deadline.**
- 5.2 The current priorities are likely to remain as they capture the core purpose of CLD, but there is scope for other issues to be more prominent within a particular strand or to become a future cross-cutting theme.**
- 5.3 The committee is asked to comment on the suitability of the current themes of the CLD Plan (Lifelong Learning, Participation and Community Voice, Active Citizens and Community and Workforce Development) and identify any other priorities or cross-cutting themes for consideration.**

Author of Report: Kevin McDermott
Background Papers: [Information paper to Committee](#) (Feb2024)
Appendix 1 – Plan on a Page
Ref: SPMAN-9425411-367