



**REPORT TO: EDUCATION, CHILDREN'S AND LEISURE SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON 20 FEBRUARY 2024**

**SUBJECT: INFORMATION REPORT: HIS MAJESTY'S INSPECTORATE
PROGRESS VISIT AND COMMUNITY LEARNING AND
DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

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

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Committee of the publication of the positive His Majesty's Inspectorate (HMI) Progress Visit Report into Community Learning and Development (CLD) provision which was published in December 2023.
- 1.2 To inform the committee of how it is proposed to integrate the HMI improvement actions from that process as stakeholder engagement takes place to prepare the new Partnership CLD Plan, considering any recommendations made as a result of the recently announced Independent Review of CLD.
- 1.3 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section III (D) (1) of the Council's Scheme of Administration relating to exercising all the functions of the Council as Education Authority within the terms of relevant legislation with regard to nursery, primary, secondary, and further education; community learning and development and to determine the Council's policies in regard thereto.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 It is a statutory requirement for each local authority to produce a CLD Plan and the current Moray Partnership CLD Plan (2021-24) was endorsed by Education, Communities and Organisational Development committee and the Community Planning Partnership prior to publication in September 2021. This progress report will also be provided to the Community Planning Board.
- 2.2 HMI have responsibility for inspecting CLD provision across Scotland and they visited Moray in October 2023 as part of their programme of Progress Visits which are designed to '*support improvement and provide external assurance of the quality of CLD provision in Scotland*'.

- 2.3 The Progress Visit was built around two high level questions culminating in a final report to identify what is working well and any areas for improvement.
- 2.4 The questions were *'How effective is the leadership of the local authority and their CLD partners in improving outcomes?'* and *'How well does the performance of the local authority and their CLD partners demonstrate positive impact?'*
- 2.5 The Progress Report (**Appendix 1**) was published on the Education Scotland website on 5 December 2023 and reported positively on progress and identified some areas for improvement.
- 2.6 In terms of the leadership question the report confirmed that *'leadership of CLD is effective'* and is *'supported by regular self-evaluation and routine monitoring of progress'*. The CLD Plan *'...aligns well with local and national priorities and partners ...share a common purpose with a focus on social justice, tackling inequality and improving synergy across strategic lead partnerships.'*
- 2.7 During their visit the inspection team of three met a range of groups and learners and commented favourably on the fact that *'local community organisations and community members are actively planning and delivering aspects of local service'*.
- 2.8 In terms of the second question regarding evidence of impact they noted that *'data gathered over the last three years shows that engagement in CLD activity is on an upward trend, with provision recovering from the pandemic'*. Taking into account the wider CLD provision they recognised that *'CLD partners, including volunteer-run community organisations, deliver a wide range of targeted services'*.
- 2.9 The inspectors evidenced that *'Adult learners are developing a wider range of skills through CLD service adult and family learning programmes'* and that *'local employability partners are providing targeted and person-centred support to learners...to help them access appropriate learning pathways'*.
- 2.10 The CLD Strategic Partnership had identified some areas for improvement in their pre -inspection self-evaluation process which was developed further through the inspection with the key improvement priority being that *'The CLD Strategic Partnership needs to identify how they can best expand the partners involved in CLD plans. This should explore how the independent youth organisations, community activists and organisations, and learners can best contribute to planning and decision-making processes.'*
- 2.11 One of the actions that will contribute to this is *'... a need for greater clarity about how strategic groups link together to better demonstrate their collective impact'*.
- 2.12 The CLD Strategic Partnership met in January 2024 to discuss the report and are developing an Improvement Action Plan as part of the process of preparing the next CLD Plan which will come into place in September 2024. A key element of this process will be identifying the wider range of CLD delivery

organisations across Moray and to be able to quantify that in the next version of the CLD Plan and in performance reporting in relation to that.

- 2.13 On the same day that the Progress Report was published a letter was sent to local authority Chief Executives and CLD leads across Scotland announcing an independent review of community learning and development (CLD) across Scotland. The review will *‘consider the extent to which CLD is contributing to delivering positive outcomes in line with Scottish Government priorities, including examination of the respective roles and responsibilities of those involved...This will help us(Scottish Government) to understand the breadth and impact of CLD on learners in Scotland’s communities, and where services support outcomes for marginalised learners’*.
- 2.14 Kate Still has been appointed as the independent lead for the review and [Terms of Reference](#) (TOR) have been produced which confirm that the scope of the review will be around the ‘learning’ component of CLD.
- 2.15 The TOR states that *‘This review is being undertaken in a period when the Scottish Government is considering wider education reform, and as such is intended to provide useful input on the role CLD plays, and will continue to play, as an integral part of Scotland’s learning landscape. Given that backdrop, the review Terms of Reference focus on the education elements of CLD. The cross-cutting nature of CLD provision means that there is a likelihood of the community development/empowerment element of CLD being raised by stakeholders in the course of the review. Nevertheless, the focus will remain on the educational elements’*.
- 2.16 The review will report back in June 2024 – which is when the new CLD Plan will be being finalised to meet committee cycles for approval before the September publication date. The timescale presents challenges in relation to how the recommendations of the independent review can be incorporated into the new Plan. The current CLD Plan has a priority around ‘Learning for Life’ which is likely to remain in the new plan which means it should be possible to incorporate the recommendations from the Independent Review into the plan as its focus is also in relation to learning.

3. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

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

As evidenced in the HMI Progress Visit report there will need to continue to have a clear alignment between the CLD Plan and both the LOIP and Corporate Plan priorities.

(b) Policy and Legal

There is a statutory requirement to produce a CLD Plan which sits with the local authority. In terms of the HMI Progress Visit Improvement Actions the service will require to report on what has been done to meet

the improvements identified, after which HMI will decide if they need any further visits.

(c) Financial implications

None.

(d) Risk Implications

The timing of the independent Review of CLD is not ideal as it is intended to report in June and the new CLD Plan is supposed to be operational by 1 September. The new plan will have to take account of the Independent Review and depending on the nature of the recommendations this may have an impact on the process to update the plan and get it formally approved.

(e) Staffing Implications

None.

(f) Property

None.

(g) Equalities/Socio Economic Impact

The current CLD Plan included an Equalities Impact Assessment, this will be updated in the new format for an Integrated Impact Assessment as part of the work to update the plan and any necessary amendments or actions will be incorporated in the new version of the CLD plan.

(h) Climate Change and Biodiversity Impacts

It is likely that activity and groups engaged with the CLD Plan will continue to include work to address climate change locally

(i) Consultations

The Head of Education Resources and Communities, Equal Opportunities Officer and Caroline O'Connor, Committee Services Officer have been consulted on this report.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The recent HMI Progress Visit Report confirmed that there is effective leadership of CLD through the partnership approach and that there is good evidence of impact.**
- 4.2 The main improvement action is in relation to how we can 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.**
- 4.3 The Council will achieve this through the Improvement Action Plan being developed by the CLD Strategic Partnership which will be implemented as we engage with stakeholders in developing the new Partnership CLD Plan priorities.**

4.4 The refreshed CLD Plan will also have to take account of the recommendations of the national independent review of CLD which is due to report in June 2024.

Author of Report: Kevin McDermott.
Background Papers: CLD Progress Visit Report
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