



REPORT TO: COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD ON 13 NOVEMBER 2019

SUBJECT: COMMUNITY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2018-2021 YEAR 1 REPORT

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

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1. To inform the Board of the first year's outcome of the Community Learning and Development (CLD) Plan 2018-21.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1. It is recommended that the Board:-

- i) **being mindful of the challenging resource, notes the achievements made; and**
- ii) **identifies any opportunities to meet need and raise CLD identity.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1. Moray published a second CLD Plan in September 2018 in compliance with the CLD regulations. 3 documents were produced: a plan of the shared partnership targets, an appendix of the individual partners' targets plus one relating to the current immediate CLD resource.
- 3.2. CLD seeks to particularly target the population who have poorer outcomes in education, health and wellbeing, and those who seek to make changes in their communities. A snapshot on poverty highlights the following:
- Moray Baby Bank was formed in 2019 offering families donated clothes and items for babies from birth to 2 years old.

- Moray School Bank had a rise in referrals from 204 to 302 in 2018/19
 - Moray Foodbank changed to Moray Food Plus in recognition of the rise of food poverty and supports required. Between April 2018 and March 2019, 4440 people were supported. 17 tonnes of quality surplus food was distributed with over 18000 litres of milk in Moray's communities.
 - The Council's Welfare Benefits Team figures from 1st September 2018 to 30 September 2019 highlighted that there have been 646 new cases to Income Maximisation and their overall benefit gain for that period was £1,372,677. Money Advice assisted 281 new clients and had an existing case load of 346 cases. Welfare Benefits assisted with 124 benefit appeals and 153 Mandatory Reconsiderations. Their success rate for appeals for this period was 84% and their overall benefit gain was £1,131,166.
- 3.3 The CLD Strategic Partnership is in a stronger place despite experiencing temporary chairing for the majority of the period. For a significant part of 2019 several partners were off ill and could offer no replacement to attend meetings. Despite this attendance and commitment was steady at around 9 partners. Formal education remains a gap in participation which is a challenge to fill. Two development sessions were delivered by Education Scotland HMI on improving performance and the learning offer, and there was no contact with the regional advisor during the year.
- 3.4 The Practitioners Targets related to the plan can be viewed in **Appendix A**.
- 3.5 The CLD Plan's progress monitoring can be viewed in **Appendix B** which focusses on the partnership targets that have not been fully achieved.
- 3.6 The immediate Staff Resource linked to the CLD Strategic Partnership can be viewed in **Appendix C**.

Inspection Activity

- 3.7 2018 was busy for inspection activity. January saw an Education Scotland inspection using the framework "How good is the Learning and Development in our Community" which had a strategic and place-based focus in the Buckie and Coast area:
<https://education.gov.scot/assets/contactorganisationinspectionreports/moraycouncilcldins300418.pdf>
- 3.8 Follow up engagement took place in November 2018 with a published report on the 17 Dec 2018:

<https://education.gov.scot/assets/contactorganisationinspectionreports/moraycevcld171218.pdf>

- 3.9 Ongoing engagement took place in March 2019 with the report published on 10 June 2019:
<https://education.gov.scot/assets/contactorganisationinspectionreports/cldmoraycouncil100619.pdf>
- 3.10 Almost all of the partners were also involved with the Integrated Children's Services follow-up inspection plus some school inspections which meant that a small strategic resource was very thinly spread.
- 3.11 It is anticipated that Education Scotland will continue dialogue with the partnership in the autumn with an inspection late spring. Education Scotland are currently reviewing their inspection framework.
- 3.12 The Council management restructuring decisions and aligning of services will have an immediate effect in this quarter on the CLD Strategic Partnership and a new Director designated responsibility for CLD. There has been early discussion about the reporting mechanism to the Community Planning Officer Group and the Board which had been limited previously.
- 3.14 In October an officer from Midlothian Council gave an input on governance and performance reporting to the CLD Strategic Partnership to influence decisions on how Moray progresses and implements this.

CLD Rewind highlights

- 3.15 In reviewing the year's activity some highlights have been included from the Strategic Partnership to show the breadth of CLD and can be seen at <http://www.moray.gov.uk/downloads/file128646.pdf>

Unmet Need

- 3.16 Highlighting unmet need continues to be a requirement of CLD Plans. Austerity decisions by all partners are impacting on the work that can be done with reduced opportunities offered to learners, communities and the workforce. Some of the issues raised in the original plan, equalities impact assessment and Fairer Scotland Duty have not gone away namely:
- Barriers to participation linked to transport, childcare, cost and accommodating shift patterns
 - Consistent Youth Work opportunities not being available in each large community because resources follow need, thus achievement and wellbeing opportunities are reduced

- Leisure class provision has reduced which often is a first step back into potential accredited learning
- Locally based traditional CLD services are not available, however Development Trusts, tsiMORAY' s temporary funded Community Development posts and networks are endeavouring to bridge some of this gap.

3.17 In addition:

- Let charges may prevent community provision from developing and being sustainable where there were previous free lets.
- Within core CLD services opportunities to volunteer, be supported, trained and developed have reduced because there is not the capacity or infrastructure to enable this to happen
- Austerity measures limit the amount of networking locally and nationally. Opportunities to attend courses and conferences have significantly reduced. Digital solutions requested if available have often been inadequate. This has been highlighted as an issue through the professional network.
- There are fewer options available for people seeking a professional CLD qualification and less staff are able and competent to train, mentor and supervise student placements. There is an older age profile of existing qualified CLD practitioners in Moray and similar issues have been highlighted in the National CLD Workforce study:
<http://cldstandardscouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/WorkingwithScotlandsCommunities2018SummaryReport.pdf>
- Pre level 4 English as a Second Language one to one provision is extremely limited, particularly for potential learners not living in Elgin.
- Reduced library opening times in some areas limits families who have no home ICT.

Whilst there is not consistent opportunity in each community, we are satisfied that our services are being directed to meet priorities and we will regularly revisit these issues.

Opportunities in 2019/20

- 3.18 The wider CLD network and partnership shall meet to review the second year's targets in November in light of reduced resources and Community Planning Board guidance.
- 3.19 Early Years family learning developments; the Listening Well Project; Moray Employability Pathway Consortium, Community Asset transfers,

Participatory Budgeting, new Development Trust activity plus the Growth Deal should all feature in the next Moray CLD chapter. In addition the revised Youth Work and Adult Learning strategies should influence the priorities and resource allocated linked to the Locality Outcome Improvement Plan.

- 3.20 The impact of Community Empowerment Legislation will influence and change the way almost all organisations have previously functioned and the development of Locality Plans brings this back to the heart of communities. The challenge for partners will be to knit opportunities together, with the values and an understanding of CLD, for the benefit of Moray's residents and in particular the more vulnerable.

4 SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There has been mixed achievement within the CLD Plan, with some national awards gained and rising community ownership. As public services diminish and community involvement is explored, supported and delivered, participation will inevitably continue to change with a different type of accountability and timescale that fits volunteers or providers. The pulling together and sharing of this information by all partners will be crucial for the CLD Strategic Partnership to have the intelligence required for governance to ensure learner's needs are met and the most valuable information is collected so resource is not wasted.
- 4.2 The removal of any core services will heighten the unmet need in communities and whilst it is the Local Authority's responsibility to identify this through the CLD Plan, it is the Community Planning Partnership's responsibility to seek solutions, identify resources and direct the CLD Strategic Partnership. It is recognised that there will be ongoing tension here on the level of disclosure as third sector groups in particular try to access funding to survive. A commitment to open sharing of information will be required.
- 4.3 The existing CLD regulations have been particularly scrutinised this year within the Partnership and do not provide strong enough clarity and guidance on levels for "adequate" provision. This has been raised with the relevant bodies.

5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The practitioners targets and review/rewind of the first year of the CLD Plan reinforces that the CLD Strategic Partnership are working better together on an improvement journey. This information with the poverty context and growth opportunities will influence the refinement of the 2019-2020 targets in November 2019. An annual report will be created following the Board's scrutiny and will include feedback with the voices of learners and activists on the first year.

Author of Report: Karen J. Delaney

Background Papers: <http://www.moray.gov.uk/downloads/file123130.pdf>

Ref: