

Report

Report to:	Education Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	18 September 2018
Report by:	Executive Director (Education Resources)

Subject:	Education Scotland Report – Inspection of Community Learning and Development in South Lanarkshire Council
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ♦ advise of the outcome of the inspection of Community Learning and Development (CLD) by Education Scotland inspectors

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the Education Scotland Report on Community Learning and Development in South Lanarkshire, published on 23 July 2018, be noted.

3. Background

3.1. Community Learning and Development partners within South Lanarkshire and the areas of Rutherglen, Springhall and Whitlawburn were inspected by Education Scotland during March and April 2018.

3.2. Education Scotland inspectors examined the quality of the strategic leadership of CLD and the quality of CLD provision in the area. They also examined how well paid staff and volunteers were developing their own practices and building capacity. They considered how partners contribute to current and evolving national policy objectives such as closing the poverty related attainment gap; prevention; reducing social isolation; tackling health inequalities; and empowering communities.

3.3. During the period of inspection, the Education Scotland team talked to children, young people, adults and community organisations. They worked closely with CLD managers, CLD providers, partners, paid staff and volunteers and observed a wide range of activity.

3.4. The report by Education Scotland was published on 23 July 2018.

4. Findings of Education Scotland Inspectors

4.1. Education Scotland made comment under the following headings:-

- ♦ strategic leadership of community learning and development
- ♦ the quality of learning and development in the community

- 4.2 Inspectors recognised that across South Lanarkshire strategic leadership of CLD is strong, that leaders demonstrate effective governance and that the skill set of CLD is valued. It is noted that political support is strong and that elected members have a very good understanding of the role that CLD plays, particularly in relation to work with young people. Inspectors recognised that partners use a good range of data to inform learning programmes and that these are well targeted at those experiencing poverty and deprivation.
- 4.4. The particular strengths of CLD in South Lanarkshire are identified as follows:-
- ◆ work with young people that is improving the learning offer across South Lanarkshire
 - ◆ effective targeting and inclusion of people facing additional barriers
 - ◆ learners accessing clear progression pathways
 - ◆ stakeholders with a positive approach to learning
 - ◆ creative and ambitious Community and Third Sector organisations
- 4.5. The following areas are identified for continued improvement:-
- ◆ strengthen the coordination between Strategic, Locality and Local Planning
 - ◆ improved use of target setting and shared evaluation to capture wider impacts
- 4.6 The Council is currently progressing a refreshed approach to community participation and empowerment, the key objective of which is to ensure a co-ordinated approach to community participation and empowerment which is demonstrably outward looking. The framework and range of features of this approach are detailed in the paper presented to Executive Committee on 27 June 2018, *Proposals to Develop a New Approach to Community Participation* <http://ecas.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/viewDoc.asp?c=P62AFQZ3ZLNTDXZL> and the range of planned activity will clearly address the area for improvement linked to strategic, locality and local planning identified in the inspection report.
- Improvements to planning processes to meet the needs and aspirations of learners and the improved identification of wider impacts will be incorporated into established service planning mechanisms.
- 4.7. It is noted that the inspection team was able to rely on the high quality self-evaluation provided by the local authority and that partners have a good understanding of their strengths and areas for improvement. Inspectors noted that communities are achieving very well. As a result of this, the inspection process is complete and there will be no further visits in relation to it.
- 4.8 Education Scotland evaluates four important quality indicators to help monitor the quality of CLD across Scotland. The results for this inspection are:

Improvements in performance	very good
Impact on the local community	very good
Delivering the learning offer with learners	very good
Leadership and direction	very good

- 4.9 The inspection report can be accessed by can be accessed by clicking the following web link:
<https://education.gov.scot/other-sectors/community-learning-and-development/688285>
- 5. Employee Implications**
- 5.1. None
- 6. Financial Implications**
- 6.1. None
- 7. Other Implications**
- 7.1. There are no direct risks associated with this report which is provided for information only.
- 7.2. There are no significant sustainability issues in connection with the recommendations contained within this report.
- 8. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**
- 8.1. There is no requirement to carry out an assessment in terms of the proposals contained within this report.
- 8.2. The content of Education Scotland reports are made publicly available.

Anne Donaldson
Head of Education (Inclusion)

23 July 2018

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- ◆ Improve achievement, raise educational attainment and support lifelong learning
- ◆ Protect vulnerable children, young people and adults
- ◆ Encourage participation in physical and cultural activities

Previous References

- ◆ None

List of Background Papers

- ◆ Education Scotland Report of 23 July 2018

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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