

Report

Report to:	Hamilton Area Committee
Date of Meeting:	20 December 2006
Report by:	Executive Director (Education Resources)

Subject:	Aspect Inspection of Community Learning and Development in Larkhall, South Lanarkshire Council : HMI Report
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ advise the Hamilton Area Committee of the outcome of the aspect inspection of Community Learning and Development in Larkhall, South Lanarkshire Council.

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to note the:-

- (1) HMI report on Community Learning and Development in Larkhall.

3. Background

- 3.1. Community Learning and Development in Larkhall was inspected by HMI in June 2003 as part of its programme to trial the framework and methodology of How Good is Our Community Learning and Development? The services inspected were;
- Youth Learning Services, the Community Learning Service and aspects of Integrated Children's Services in Education Resources;
 - aspects of Regeneration Services in Enterprise Resources.
- 3.2. Inspections of practice focused on aspects of service delivery in Larkhall: engaging with adults and activities that build community capacity. The new methodology being trialled by HMle included scoping, core and proportionate phases of inspection and the use of the new six point scale. The scoping phase recognised that the authority was performing well in all aspects of Community Learning and Development in other parts of South Lanarkshire.
- 3.3. Members of the inspection team carried out interviews with staff, members of relevant organisations and participants in activities and held focus groups with participants.
- 3.4. The report was published on 1 September 2006 on the internet as part of the arrangements for trialling new methodology.

4. Findings of HM Inspectors

- 4.1. The report noted that Larkhall is the newest of South Lanarkshire's four main areas of regeneration, commenting on the planned changes on the area such as new house building, the Schools Modernisation Programme and the connection of Larkhall to the Strathclyde Passenger Network.
- 4.2. The report also noted the vision set out in Fourcast, the Council Plan and in Stronger Together, the Community Plan, to improve the quality of life for all in South Lanarkshire.
- 4.3. The key strengths identified in the report were:
 - Participants had positive experiences of learning and were well supported by all Community Learning and Development staff teams.
 - School staff in local primary and secondary schools had developed productive relationships with Community Learning and Development staff through Home School Partnership, Adult Literacy and *Active Breaks* programmes.
 - Local community groups and organisations had been effectively supported in meeting their aims and objectives by Community Learning and Development staff teams.
 - The provision of guidance and vocational training was developing as a result of the key role Community Learning and Development staff teams and undertaken in supporting partnership working.
 - The local community were well served by highly motivated and committed staff.
- 4.4. HMle identified in addition good practice by the Youth Learning Service in co-ordinating and supporting young people to produce a video raising environmental issues and encouraging more responsible use of Morgan Glen. Discussion is currently taking place regarding a section of the HMle website which will feature aspects of good practice such as this.
- 4.5. HMle identified the following main points for action:
 - Learners' initial assessment and the recording of their progress and outcomes should be improved to enable successful progression to other learning opportunities and employment.
 - Learners in Larkhall should have access to learning resources, materials and accommodation of a consistent level of quality.
 - Adult learners in Larkhall should have access to a more varied programme of community based adult learning opportunities.
 - The service should implement fully the community engagement strategy and increase the involvement of local residents in regeneration activities.
 - The service should develop staff development systems to further embed and support partnership working.
- 4.6. An action plan to take forward these points is being drawn up by the services involved and their partners.

5. Employee Implications

- 5.1. None

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. The recommendations of HMI can be addressed within existing resources.

7. Other Implications

- 7.1. None

8. Consultation

- 8.1. The findings of HMI are being widely disseminated to share identified good practice. Partners will be engaged as appropriate in formulating and taking forward an action plan to address HMI's recommendations.

Ken Arthur

Executive Director (Education Resources)

30 November 2006

Link(s) to Council Objectives

- Learning in the Community

Previous References

None

List of Background Papers

- Aspect Inspection of Community Learning and Development in Larkhall, South Lanarkshire Council : HMI Report

Contact for Further Information

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

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