

Report

11

Report to:	Education Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	9 November 2010
Report by:	Executive Director (Education Resources)

Subject:	Community Learning and Development Strategy 2010-2014
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ♦ advise on the outcome of the consultation on the draft Community Learning and Development (CLD) Strategy 2010 – 2014; and
- ♦ request agreement for the publication and dissemination of the CLD Strategy 2010-14.

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the outcome of the consultation on the draft Community Learning and Development Strategy 2010 – 2014 consultation is noted; and
- (2) that the CLD Strategy for 2010 - 2014 is agreed and disseminated widely.

3. Background

- 3.1. South Lanarkshire Community Learning and Development Partnership produced its draft Community Learning and Development Strategy for 2010 – 2014 in line with the guidance for Community Planning Partnerships “Working and Learning Together to Build Stronger Communities” (Scottish Executive, January 2004).
- 3.2. The Strategy sets out priorities for service delivery and outlines what South Lanarkshire Council and its partners want to achieve in the four year period from 2010-2014. The Strategy addresses the priorities in South Lanarkshire Council’s Plan ‘Connect’, the Single Outcome Agreement and the current Community Plan “Stronger Together: Edition 2”. The Community Learning and Development Partnership has also taken cognisance of the current review of the Community Plan.
- 3.3. Through the establishment of the Strategy the Partnership continues to build an inclusive learning community in South Lanarkshire where learners feel confident and able to become involved in planning their own learning and developing their community.
- 3.4. The Community Learning and Development Partnership has consulted widely with learners, communities and learning providers to find out the best ways to address South Lanarkshire’s needs for learning opportunities in the community.

4. Consultation

4.1. Learners were engaged in consultation to help shape and influence the draft Strategy. Ongoing consultation was undertaken to help finalise the content of the draft Strategy. Consultation included distribution of the draft Strategy through the Education Newsletter to all elected members and educational establishments. Partner agencies in Community Learning and Development consulted within their own organisations and networks. The draft Strategy was also accessible through the Council's intranet. Community Planning theme partnerships have also been given the opportunity to comment.

4.2. The Community Learning and Development Partnership has consulted widely with over 200 learners, parents, young people, communities and providers to find out the best ways to address South Lanarkshire's needs for learning opportunities in the community. Learners, community organisations and providers of services have contributed to the content of the draft Community Learning and Development Strategy 2010-2014. This has included

- Learners, parents and young people
- Parent Councils
- Schools
- Education Psychological Services
- Community Learning Service staff
- Youth Learning Service Staff
- Home School Partnership staff
- Enterprise Resources
- NHS Lanarkshire
- Voluntary organisations
- Community Organisations
- Trade Union
- Skills Development Scotland
- FE Colleges

4.3. A SNAP survey was undertaken by Corporate Resources and the results indicated that 93% of respondents were happy that

- the draft Strategy explains clearly the purpose of Community Learning and Development
- the draft Strategy clearly communicates what the CLD Partnership is trying to achieve

A number of helpful comments were made in terms of the draft strategy and these have been included where appropriate.

4.4. Some comments made by respondents were:

- "looking forward to the CLD Strategy and hope that we will see a change for the better in our communities"
- "guidance is very important as often learners are not aware of the many different choices available in the community"
- "informal learning opportunities need to be valued as being a first step to other options"
- "CLD opportunities need to have equal value. They are vital in terms of reducing isolation and helping to build local communities"

- “the document is quite general. I will need to contact local area for more details”
- “the “we will “statements are clear and provide a sense of the range and diversity of the aims of the CLD Strategy”
- “we understand the strategy will be delivered at a local level through the 4 CLD Locality Planning groups”
- “in the current economic climate it might be a little adventurous”
- “really like the layout”
- “very youth friendly and easily read and understood”

5. Proposal

5.1. The Strategy 2010 - 2014 addresses three National Priorities:

- **Achievement through learning for adults**
Raising standards of achievement in learning for adults through community based lifelong learning opportunities incorporating the core skills of literacy, numeracy, communications, working with others, problem solving and information communications technology (ICT).
- **Achievement through learning for young people**
Engaging with young people to facilitate their personal, social and educational development and enable them to gain a voice, influence and a place in society.
- **Achievement through building community capacity**
Building community capacity and influence by enabling people to develop the confidence, understanding and skills required to influence decision making and service delivery.

5.2. The draft Strategy sets out:

- the South Lanarkshire context and the role of community learning and development in community regeneration,
- the links to national and local priorities,
- a summary of what has been achieved in the 3 years, 2007-2010,
- partnership proposals for community learning and development in South Lanarkshire 2010-2013.

5.3. Some highlights of key achievements during 2007-2010 are noted below:

- Increased adult literacy and numeracy provision: learner numbers increased from 2,306 in 2007 to in excess of 3,250 in 2010
- Publication of a new Youth Strategy 2008 – 2011
- Between April 2007 and March 2010
 - 8,699 agreed programmes of learning were successfully completed by adults
 - 85,285 planned outcomes were achieved by young people during learning programmes,
 - 6,039 people were involved in decision-making processes affecting their community,
 - more than 250 community groups received effective support from partners
- Adoption of the South Lanarkshire Community Engagement Framework
- Establishment of a Common Referral process to improve progression routes for learners through improved access to partners' learning opportunities
- 128 accredited courses delivered to residents of communities supported by the Fairer Scotland Fund
- Comprehensive review of monitoring and evaluation forms to better reflect impacts and outcomes for learners

- 5 positive HMLe inspections reports under the revised Community Learning and Development Inspection of the Learning Communities model.

5.4. Key partnership proposals in the new draft Strategy include:

- Sustain current levels of participation in adult learning and explore new opportunities to provide accreditation for learners' achievement
- Ensure all partners recognise their contribution to the 4 aspects of Curriculum For Excellence as part of the CLD delivery
- Support all partners to complete 6 month post engagement tracking of 10% of learners
- Align CLD activities with the 5 new aims and 6 new outcomes as indicated within the refresh of the South Lanarkshire Community Plan to target promotional activities, service delivery and resources in areas of targeted need
- Establish 4 area action plan groups with a broad remit including adult literacy and numeracy, ICT, capacity building, rural issues, inclusion/equalities, guidance, employment and learning for adults and young people. The groups will be:
 - Hamilton and Blantyre
 - East Kilbride and Strathaven
 - Clydesdale and Larkhall
 - Rutherglen and Cambuslang
- Review the Youth Strategy and publish a new Youth Strategy for 2011-14
- Continue to develop a shared approach by partners to recording, monitoring and evaluating impact and outcomes.

5.5. It is proposed that the CLD Strategy 2010-14 is agreed by the Education Resources Committee and published. The new strategy will be widely disseminated including publication on the Council's website. A copy of the strategy is attached as Appendix 1.

6. Employee Implications

6.1. None

7. Financial Implications

7.1. The actions in the Community Learning and Development Strategy will be delivered within the existing resources of partners or through applications for external funding to enhance provision where this is appropriate.

8. Other Implications

8.1. There are no direct risks associated with this report.

8.2. There are no significant sustainability issues in connection with the recommendation contained within this report.

9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

9.1. An equality impact assessment has been carried out on the recommendations in this report. The proposals will have a differential impact as the recommendations are intended to target specific sectors of the community. However it is intended that this impact is justifiable and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council website.

9.2. Consultation has taken place with a range of stakeholders and further details are provided in paragraph 4 of this report.

Larry Forde
Executive Director (Education Resources)

19 October 2010

Link(s) to Council Objectives/Improvement Themes/Values

- ◆ Increase involvement in lifelong learning
- ◆ Raise educational attainment or all
- ◆ Improve lives of vulnerable children, young people and adults
- ◆ Support the local economy by providing the right conditions for growth, improving skills and employability
- ◆ Improve health

Previous References

None

List of Background Papers

- ◆ SNAP Survey – Outcome of Consultation

Contact for Further Information

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

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