

# Report

Report to:	<b>Education Resources Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>8 February 2022</b>
Report by:	<b>Executive Director (Education Resources)</b>

Subject:	<b>Community Learning and Development Strategic 3 Year Plan 2021–2024 (Draft)</b>
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## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of this report is to:-

- ♦ provide an update of progress made in the review and drafting of the Community Learning and Development (CLD) 3-year plan for 2021–2024 and to seek continued support to achieve the vision of “Improve the quality of life for people in South Lanarkshire by offering vibrant learning and development opportunities that lead to personal development and community empowerment”

## 2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendations:-

- (1) to support and endorse the overarching ambitions of the CLD 3-year Strategic Plan 2021–2024;
- (2) note the actions and measures set out to secure improvement in the quality of life for the people of South Lanarkshire;
- (3) note the revised governance arrangements for annual planning and reporting; and
- (4) note the continued commitment to communities by South Lanarkshire and its partners through the work of the South Lanarkshire Community Learning and Development Partnership.

## 3. Background

3.1. All local authorities have a statutory obligation to produce a 3 year CLD plan as set out in The Requirements for Community Learning and Development (Scotland) Regulations 2013: Guidance for Local Authorities hereafter referred to as the ‘CLD Regulations’ (<https://education.gov.scot/Documents/cld-regulations-la-guidance.pdf>)

3.2. This plan must specify the following:-

- ♦ how the education authority will coordinate provision with statutory and other providers
- ♦ what action the education authority will take to provide CLD over the 3 years
- ♦ what action other persons will take to provide CLD over this period
- ♦ any unmet need

3.3. In taking forward the 3-year CLD plan, the CLD Regulations state that the plan must articulate:

- ♦ identified target groups and individuals
- ♦ have regard for their needs
- ♦ identify barriers

- ♦ consultation with people who are representative of the target individuals and groups
- 3.4. Key to the successful implementation of the 3-year CLD plan (2021 – 2024) will be aligning identified need with current good practice and building on areas for improvement through self-evaluation and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIe) inspection processes.
- 3.5. This plan fully puts in place the CLD Partnership's commitment to the shared vision to "Improve the quality of life for people in South Lanarkshire by offering vibrant learning and development opportunities that lead to personal development and community empowerment" and to deliver positive outcomes.
- 4. Stakeholder Consultation Findings and Literature Review of South Lanarkshire and other Local Authority Plans**
- 4.1. The CLD Partnership invited stakeholders (staff, partners, volunteers, and learners) to complete a short survey or participate in a focus group to gauge the key functions of CLD in South Lanarkshire as well as the priorities that were of importance to them and to communities. In total, 158 responses from staff, partners, and volunteers and 256 responses from learners were received.
- 4.2. National discussion and debate on the development of the CLD strategic 3-year plan assisted in helping focus on emerging themes experienced across authorities and those specific to South Lanarkshire.

Taking account of this, the themes that were identified for South Lanarkshire through local consultation were:-

- ♦ **Progression** – this has now been listed as a priority in the plan
  - ♦ **Mental Health** – the feedback was not that it was missing in the list of priorities, but that this should be a key priority, particularly in the context of Covid recovery. The plan outlines this, but also recognises that although a great deal of resource is put into health and well-being, there is a gap in terms of access to professional healthcare, and therefore may be an unmet need
  - ♦ **Environmentalism** – Some of the feedback has raised concerns about involving local people, particularly young people, in climate change awareness and action. There is currently ongoing work around the creation of steering groups of young people to support that work, which is led by the Climate Change Committee. The CLD Plan will be adapted to reflect this work
  - ♦ **Access to learning for learners with disabilities** – the list of outcomes was not specific to particular groups, but we have ensured that the plan is clear that inclusion is a key principle that all partners will continue to work towards
- 4.3. A workshop was held with CLD Partnership members to discuss the findings from the survey and focus groups as well as the format, reporting cycle and communication with stakeholders.

From the workshop, the following was agreed:-

- ♦ Needs analysis – the Partnership continues to be data rich (Improve, Youth Survey, data hub, local level consultations, SIMD etc.). To assist practitioners, it was agreed to provide a link within the plan to online information sources on South Lanarkshire such as SIMD data etc. This would ensure that information was always up to date and available when needed

- ◆ The current overarching outcomes (1-6) of the 3-year CLD plan 2018–2021 are still relevant but actions require to be regularly revised at a local level to remain fit for purpose. Partners stressed the importance of linking with emerging priorities and other key overarching ambitions from the South Lanarkshire Partnership
- ◆ Work to improve data gathering and revised governance arrangements was welcomed as a clear route to strengthen coordination between strategic, locality and local planning
- ◆ A single page representation of the plan will be created to assist with promoting the plan and informing learners and communities of the CLD Partnerships commitments to them

## 5. The Plan – What we are going to do

5.1. The principles that underpin Community Learning and Development practice in South Lanarkshire are:

- ◆ **Self-determination** – the rights of communities and individuals to make their own choices
- ◆ **Empowerment** – recognise and strengthen community voice real, facilitating engagement and change in communities
- ◆ **Inclusion** – all members of the community are equal
- ◆ **Working collaboratively** – effective partnerships at a strategic and local level
- ◆ **Promotion of lifelong learning** – meeting needs of learners

5.2. The table below sets out how collectively as a partnership, the needs of learners in communities will be met through strong and effective CLD practice across South Lanarkshire, and how impact will be measured.

Priorities	What we will do
Priority 1 Access to learning	Through CLD activity learners will be offered opportunities to learn skills that meet their needs across a range of settings.  We will work with learners to: Improve their life skills Reduce risk related behaviour Enhance their parenting skills Help them to support their child's learning Improve their literacy skills Improve their numeracy skills Improve their English language skills (ESOL) Achieve a relevant nationally recognised award or qualification Receive an award to recognise achievements Improve their digital skills
Priority 2 Health and well-being	We will continue to deliver health and well-being programmes, ensuring that vulnerable groups and areas of deprivation are prioritised, particularly in the context of recovery.  We will work with learners to: Improve their confidence and self-esteem Improve their mental health and well-being Improve their physical health and well-being
Priority 3 Progression	We will continue to support learners to progress to other appropriate learning opportunities, ensuring that we meet ongoing needs.  We will work with learners to: Help them re-engage with education / learning

Priorities	What we will do
	Improve their employability skills Help them access volunteering opportunities Help them access any other appropriate learning programmes or opportunities
Priority 4 Employability	We will continue to deliver programmes to enhance the employability skills of learners.  We will work with learners to: Improve their employability skills Help them access volunteering opportunities Support positive destinations when they leave school
Priority 5 Community Influence	We will continue to support groups to be more influential in their community and engaged in participation and democratic processes.  We will work with learners and groups to: Participate in consultation activity Confidently contribute to local or national decision making Develop skills to identify local needs and priorities Stimulate ideas to improve services through sharing of learning and experiences (co-production)

- 5.3. A range of outcomes have been agreed by the CLD partnership that helps CLD staff, volunteers and partners know the difference made to learners' lives, families and communities. The 'what we will do' column above lists the Impact Measures that are appropriate for that priority, and this forms the basis of the data collection system. The number of learners achieving these impacts will be collated on a six-monthly basis across the CLD Partnership, as well as age ranges and demographics etc. The first six months will provide baseline data, in the context of recovery, from which projections and measures that are SMART for the following year of the plan can be developed and agreed.
- 5.4. As well as the CLD Partnership outcomes, the revised HMIE document (4<sup>th</sup> edition) ['How good is our community learning and development?'](#) will be used as a primary method of self-evaluation to drive improvement across the partnership.
- 5.5. A copy of the draft South Lanarkshire's Community Learning and Development 3-year Strategic Plan 2021-2024 is attached at Appendix 1.

## **6. Governance Arrangements.**

- 6.1. Governance arrangements for 2021–2024 have been reviewed and agreed by the South Lanarkshire Community Learning and Development Partnership.

The governance of the CLD Partnership will include:-

- ◆ At least 4 meetings per year of the strategic CLD Partnership
- ◆ Local Action Planning Groups (LAPGs) to continue across East Kilbride, Clydesdale, Hamilton, and Cambuslang / Rutherglen. The membership will include a range of partners from across the CLD sector and local level decision makers, meeting at least 4 times per year
- ◆ At least 2 practitioners' groups per year to enable front line staff to network with partners

- ◆ A local plan that takes account of local needs and priorities, identifies gaps in provision, and is reviewed and reported on regularly, including interim and end of year reporting, within the South Lanarkshire Partnership reporting process, taking account of the outcome of the current structural review being undertaken of Community Planning within South Lanarkshire
- ◆ A consistent method of measuring the difference that CLD activity makes through reporting on the 'Impact Measures' across the partnership at both strategic and local level
- ◆ A publication of annual achievements will be produced to celebrate work across the CLD Partnership

## **7. Mapping Unmet Need**

- 7.1. Despite the scale of CLD activity throughout South Lanarkshire, and the resource invested into it, there are some needs within communities that are challenging to meet. A common thread throughout the plan is addressing mental health and well-being issues within communities, which has certainly been exacerbated by the COVID pandemic, and a great deal of work gets put into this across South Lanarkshire. However, remaining realistic about professional boundaries, there is an acknowledgment that signposting learners to mental health and well-being professionals is an ongoing issue due to the level of demand.

**ESOL** – we continue to be alert to emerging needs of the refugee and asylum seeking population and work to ensure that these learners can access ESOL programmes and get the support they need to adapt to life in Scotland.

**Digital access** – being connected has been a challenge for some time and only made more challenging recently during the Covid pandemic which added a new dimension to the delivery model of Community Learning and Development in South Lanarkshire. The Connecting Scotland programme sought to address this by providing devices and data to identified households across Scotland, however, there continues to be an unmet need in tackling this digital exclusion and equitable access. The CLD Partnership will continue to explore all ways to reduce the impact and sustain connectivity between communities and learners and explore the development of online shared platforms to ensure access to resources for remote and blended learning, taking account of good practice from across Scotland.

- 7.2. As part of the CLD planning process in South Lanarkshire, CLD partners will regularly monitor and review progress towards meeting unmet CLD need.

## **8. Workforce Development**

- 8.1. The CLD Partnership is committed to promoting a learning culture for CLD staff and volunteers in accordance with the CLD Standards Council's Professional Learning Strategy - '[Growing the Learning Culture](#)'.

The Partnership will:-

- ◆ Maintain high quality, relevant access to professional learning and development in response to staff and volunteer needs through membership on CLD West Alliance, West partnership and CLD Standards Council
- ◆ Promote the sharing of skills and practice through membership of regional and national networks and locality networking groups (LAPG), practitioner events, collaborative training
- ◆ Address identified CLD priority workforce development need in areas including:
- ◆ UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)
- ◆ Digital skills to enable delivery of learning to communities
- ◆ Mental health and well-being

- ◆ Attachment Theory
- ◆ Upskill CLD staff and volunteers and provide career pathways through delivery of SVQ and Modern Apprenticeship qualifications, supporting further study and maintaining quality control through the CLD Standards Council standards mark.
- ◆ Commit to offering practice placements to CLD university students
- ◆ Promote and encourage Standards Council membership to all CLD workforce and volunteers within South Lanarkshire

## **9. Employee Implications**

9.1 There are no employee implications associated with this report.

## **10 Financial Implications**

10.1. There are no financial implications associated with this report.

## **11. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications**

11.1. There are no implications for climate change, sustainability, or the environment in terms of the information contained within this report.

## **12. Other Implications**

12.1. There are no issues in terms of risk associated with this report.

## **13. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**

13.1. This report recommends a change to an existing strategy and, therefore, an impact assessment has been carried out with no negative impacts recorded.

13.2. Consultation continues to be carried out with appropriate stakeholders including learners, communities and partners.

**Tony McDaid**

**Executive Director (Education Resources)**

12 January 2022

## **Link(s) to Council Values/Objectives/Ambitions**

- ◆ Protect vulnerable children, young people and adults
- ◆ Improve achievement, raise educational attainment and support lifelong learning
- ◆ Ensure schools and other places of learning are inspirational

## **Previous References**

- ◆ None

## **List of Background Papers**

- ◆ None

## **Contact for Further Information**

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

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