

## **Draft Community Learning Strategy** □

The report in Appendix 1 was submitted to the Community Learning Partnership in March 2004. As part of the consultation process, the Management Committee is being asked to comment on and amend the following:

- Proposed key priorities for Argyll and Bute
- Geographical targeting
- Thematic targeting

The Community Learning Strategy is to be submitted to the Scottish Executive on 1 September 2004 for approval. A second round of consultation is scheduled for July with endorsement and final amendments in August. The Management Committee is also being asked to how it would like to be consulted on further drafts of the Community Learning Strategy.

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Community Planning Manager

## DEVELOPMENT OF A REVISED COMMUNITY LEARNING STRATEGY

### DISCUSSION PAPER PREPARED FOR COMMUNITY LEARNING PARTNERSHIP

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The revised national guidance for Community Learning and Development Strategies was issued in January 2004. The Strategy is to be prepared by 1 September 2004.
- 1.2 It was agreed by the Core Group of the Community Learning Partnership to hold a joint meeting with the Social Inclusion Partnership on Tuesday 30 March 2004 to discuss this along with other key issues relating to Social Inclusion and Community Planning.
- 1.3 The purpose of this paper is to identify the key issues in relation to a strategy as highlighted by the guidance. These are then set in the context of Argyll and Bute developments.
- 1.4 Against this background a number of suggestions are made about the content of the strategy, the process, who will be included and a timescale for completion.
- 1.5 The intention is that the paper will provide a basis for the partnership to debate the main issues and reach key decisions which will provide a mandate for the development of the Strategy.

#### 2. National Guidance

- 2.1 The guidance notes that Community Learning and Development Strategies shall aim to:
- Influence and reflect the community plan and related strategies;
  - highlight how and where they link with other strategic development plans;
  - be shaped by all the partners; and
  - demonstrate significant community involvement in the planning process.
- 2.1.1 In terms of content, the guidance says Community Learning and Development Strategies should:
- Set out a joint vision of the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) for Community Learning and Development (CLD);
  - Set out highlight the priorities for CLD in relation to the three national priorities, and set outcome targets for these;
  - provide evidence that these priorities have been based on engagement with local individuals, groups and communities;
  - detail the partners involved and the operating principles they will follow, including how the partnership will be sustained to avoid partnership overload;
  - set a framework for operational planning of CLD, including the geographical areas and/or themes to be covered by Community Learning and Development Action Plans;
  - aim to identify overall levels of investment and resources, including staff, to be provided by partner agencies;
  - detail measures for supporting the skills development of paid and unpaid staff involved in CLD; and
  - identify how the partnership will monitor progress, and evaluate quality.

The three national priorities identified are:

##### 1. 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).

Key Priorities for Argyll and Bute under this heading will be:

- Implementation of the agreed priorities in the Argyll and Bute Literacy and Numeracy Action Plan
- Establishing appropriate links to the Argyll and Bute Gaelic Development Plan.
- Implementation of adult learning priorities identified through the geographical Community Learning and Development Plans.

- Implementation of adult learning priorities identified through the Regeneration Outcome Agreement.  
Implementation of adult learning priorities identified through the Social Inclusion Business Plans.
- Implementation of the adult learning priorities identified through the Strategic Development Plan for the Community Learning and Regeneration Service.

## **2. 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.

Key priorities for Argyll and Bute under this heading will be:

- Development of a Youth Strategy for Argyll and Bute in parallel with the development of the National Youth Strategy.
- Implementation of literacy and numeracy priorities relating to young people.
- Identifying links to the Gaelic Development Plan that relate to learning for young people.
- Implementation of learning for young people priorities identified through the geographical Learning and Development Plans.
- Implementation of learning for young people priorities through the Regeneration Outcome Agreement.
- Implementation of learning for young people priorities identified through the Social Inclusion Business Plans.
- Implementation of the learning for young people priorities identified through the Strategic Development Plan for the Community Learning and Regeneration Service.

## **3. 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.

Key priorities for Argyll and Bute under this heading will be:

- Building Community Capacity to implement the Community Planning Pilot in Cowal and Bute.
- Building Community Capacity to support the extension of the Social Inclusion areas.
- Building community capacity to support the geographical Community Learning and Development Plans.
- Building Community Capacity to support the Regeneration Outcome Agreement.
- Building Community Capacity to support the Social Inclusion Business Plans.
- Building Community Capacity to implement the priorities identified through the Strategic Development Plan of the Community Learning and Regeneration Service.

## **3. Argyll and Bute**

**3.1** In developing the new strategy it will be necessary to consider the broad content, the process of development, who will be involved, the endorsement of the final strategy and the timescale.

**3.2** It is already clear the broad areas which will have to be covered. These are likely to be as follows:

- sustaining existing work developed in the four Community Learning Pilot areas;
- integrating this where appropriate with other related developments such as Social Inclusion and Community Planning;
- continuing to support the Literacy and Numeracy work being undertaken through the Action Plan;
- developing work in relation to young people within the Strategy;
- there is a requirement for a Gaelic Development Plan, it may be the case that there should be links from the Community Learning Strategy to that plan;
- Community Capacity Building will have to figure prominently within the Strategy in ways that are seen to underpin the further development of Community Planning and Social Inclusion.

These are the main headings, there may be others. The time available is not long, therefore, it is important that decisions are taken at an early stage on the scope of the Strategy.

3.3 The Strategy makes reference to geographical targeting and the rationale for geographical targeting.

The geographical targeting has been influenced by three main factors:

- An evaluation of the four geographical Community Learning Plans
- The Deprivation Study commissioned by the Community Planning Partnership and the use of this study in refining the borders of existing Social Inclusion areas as part of the Transitional Process.
- The proposed Community Planning Pilot in the Bute and Cowal Area.

There is considerable overlap in these factors as will be seen by the areas identified below.

Initially the following areas have been identified:

- Dalintober/Millknowe and the other most deprived output areas in Campbeltown Central.
- East Kintyre – Output areas identified in the deprivation study. Should also link with the Community Learning Plan Area.
- Islay South – Output areas identified in the deprivation study. Discussions still underway about how work in this area could be best supported.
- Kirkmichael/Craigendoran and the other most deprived output areas in Helensburgh East. This will link with the Community Learning Plan Area.
- Rosneath, Clynder, Kilcreggan and Garelochhead. These areas were highlighted in the deprivation study. Considerable work has also been undertaken here by Community Futures. It is anticipated that links will be made between these communities and existing structures such as the Area Development Group in Helensburgh.
- Soroba in Oban will be expanded to take in the most deprived output areas identified by the deprivation study.
- Tiree and Coll will continue to be targeted as a Community Learning Plan area. Tiree has also been identified through the deprivation study.
- Ardenslate, West Milton and the Glebe will be expanded to take in the most deprived output areas identified in Dunoon Central.
- Ballochgoy will be expanded to take in the most deprived output areas in Bute, mainly Bute Central and Bute North. This area is also covered by a Community Learning Plan and will also form part of the Community Planning Pilot.
- The Cowal area in addition to Bute will form the Community Planning Pilot area. This will build on Social Inclusion work undertaken in Ballochgoy, Ardenslate, West Milton and the Glebe. It will also build on work undertaken in West Cowal by ACVS and East Cowal by Community Futures.

This proposed geographical targeting is still the subject of ongoing discussion. That discussion has focused on both the precise areas to be targeted and the ways in which work in those areas might be supported.

3.4 Reference is also made to thematic targeting. There are likely to be three main focuses for thematic targeting. These are:

- Continuing development and implementation of the Argyll and Bute Literacy/Numeracy Action Plan. Development of a Youth Strategy for Argyll and Bute in parallel with the development of a National Youth Strategy.
- Ensuring that there are links to the Gaelic Development Plan. Clearly, more detailed work will have to be undertaken in relation to these, in particular the second and third priorities.

3.5 The existing Core Group should take the lead in developing the Strategy, however, links will have to be made with local Community Learning Plan groups, local Social Inclusion structures and Community Planning partners. The Core Group has already agreed that an evaluation of the existing Community Learning Plans should form part of the process.

3.6 Considerable consultation will have to be undertaken. There will also be a significant amount of data gathering required. It will be necessary, at an early stage to identify precisely what is required in these two areas and also who will be responsible for undertaking the tasks.

3.7 Local communities will have to have significant involvement in the process. Key partners in Community Planning, Community Learning and Social Inclusion Partnerships will have to be involved. There may be other Partnerships who will also have to be consulted.

3.8 Partners will have to consider who within their organisation will have to endorse the Strategy. It is likely that as lead partner the Council would wish to formally endorse the partnership, probably at a meeting of the Strategic Policy Committee in August 2004. The Community Learning, Social Inclusion Partnerships are all likely to wish to comment on the proposed final Strategy and endorse it.

3.9 The issue of endorsement sets an end point to process if suggesting a timescale along the following lines:

Revised Outline Timetable

- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| 7 May 2004            | - Draft 1 of Strategy   |
| 12 May 2004           | - Community Learning and Development Partnership Meeting  |
| 18 May 2004           | - Draft2 of Strategy incorporating feedback from Partnership Meeting  |
| 21 May 2004           | - Core Group and meeting with Alan Barr to consider Draft 2 and also what support and guidance is required from Alan Barr |
| 27 May 2004           | - Draft 2 of the Strategy considered by the Social Inclusion Board  |
| 18 May – 25 June 2004 | - Complete research and first round of consultation, including circulation of draft Strategy to interested parties        |
| 9 July 2004           | - Completion of draft 3 of the Strategy   |
| 14 July 2004          | - Community Learning and Development Partnership Meeting to consider Draft 3 of the Strategy                              |
| July 2004             | - Conduct a second round of consultation on Draft 3 of the Strategy   |
| August 2004           | - Endorsement and final amendments  |
| 1 September 2004      | - Submit to Scottish Executive and publish  |

3.10 This is a tentative outline, however, it begins to fill in the gaps about what has to be done. It also underlines the point that there is a lot to be done in a fairly short period of time. It will be important to firm up this timescale fairly quickly with more detail and also identify who will be responsible for various parts of the process. Any further suggestions and comments will be welcome. There will be an opportunity to discuss the matter in detail in the group session at the Community Learning Partnership Meeting.

J McCrossan  
5 March 2004