

**ARGYLL AND BUTE COMMUNITY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN (2021
– 2024) - UPDATE**

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Requirements for Community Learning and Development (Scotland) Regulations were introduced in 2013. They place a duty on local authorities, in partnership with Community Planning Partnerships, other Community Learning and Development (CLD) providers and communities to secure the delivery of CLD through the production and implementation of a three year CLD plan.
- 1.2 The main purpose of this report is to update members on developments regarding the production of a new Argyll and Bute Community Learning and Development Plan for 2021-2024.
- 1.3 It is recommended that the Community Services Committee:
- Endorse changes to structure and governance of the CLD Partnership and the CLD Team, and development of the CLD Plan.
 - Review initial feedback from CLD partners on the current 2018-2021 plan, which ends August 21.
 - Note the production of updated Scottish Government Guidance to assist with the creation and ongoing development of CLD plans. There is an expectation that CLD plans will be informed by this guidance.

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2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Local Authorities have a statutory requirement placed on them by the Community Learning & Development (Scotland) Regulations 2013 to publish a Community Learning & Development (CLD) plan every three years describing how they will co-ordinate and secure “adequate and efficient” CLD provision with other sector partners.
- 2.2 The current plan ends in August 2021 and work on the production of the new 2021-24 CLD Plan is underway. The publication deadline for the new plan is September 2021.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Community Services Committee:
- Endorse changes to structure and governance of the CLD Partnership and the CLD Team, and development of the CLD Plan.
 - Review initial feedback from CLD partners on the current 2018-2021 plan, which ends August 21.
 - Note the production of updated Scottish Government Guidance to assist with the creation and ongoing development of CLD plans. There is an expectation that CLD plans will be informed by this guidance.

4.0 DETAIL

- 4.1 The development and progress of the 2021-2024 Argyll and Bute CLD Plan was an integral part of the remit of the Outcome 3 Group of the Community Planning Partnership. However, recent changes to the Community Planning

outcome group operating and reporting procedures have required a change in structure.

In order to provide the governance and reporting structures necessary to support the development of CLD provision in Argyll and Bute, the following will be implemented:

- A dedicated Argyll and Bute Community Learning Partnership will be established to co-ordinate the provision of CLD with stakeholders. A working group is currently carrying out preparatory work on the plan, which will be presented to the new partnership at the appropriate time;
- Along with the Employability Partnership the CLD Partnership will report to the Outcome 3 lead (Anthony Standing) who will in turn report on the work of the partnerships to the CPP Management Committee.
- The CLD Partnership will also report to Community Services Committee and Local Area Planning Groups.
- Plans to transfer the Community Learning Service to Live Argyll are at an advanced stage. The projected date of the transfer is June 2021. The task of producing and implementing the CLD Plan on behalf of Argyll and Bute Council will be included in the transfer and consequently it has been agreed that Live Argyll will assume the lead in the CLD Plan working group and CLD Partnership from January 2021.

A report will be produced for members relating to any further matters concerning the governance of the CLD Team's transfer to Live Argyll.

- 4.2 Production of the new plan includes reviewing the success of the previous plan. Covid19 restrictions have made evaluation of the current CLD 2018-2021 plan challenging, however a questionnaire was issued to strategic partners prompting the following feedback:

General

- All respondees considered themselves to be part of the CLD sector in Argyll and Bute;
- Almost all responses agreed that the key themes prioritised in the plan were appropriate;
- Almost all responses thought the 14 Priority Actions were appropriate;
- The majority of responses indicated that the plan had influenced their service work plan or service delivery.

Things that went well with the 2018-21 Plan

- Partnership working for digital inclusion, youth engagement in social enterprise and response to Covid19 challenges;
- Good joint working and discussions about needs in communities;

- Support to employability programmes has been beneficial;
- Original planning consultation with young people;
- The final document was well presented and easy to read.

Things we could do better next time?

- Engagement with youth sector delivery partners;
- Gather data from all organisations and regularly review;
- Partners involved in the development of the plan need to feed information down to their teams/organisations and raise awareness of the CLD Plan;
- Wider involvement of CLD sector;
- More frequent partner meetings;
- Clearer monitoring arrangements - need a functioning CLD Partnership with buy-in from stakeholders and partners;
- More robust learner involvement;
- Increased awareness amongst local communities;
- Requirement to look at partners' working contributions at lower level and create a virtual directory/pipeline so that, as workers, we can see at a glance who is carrying out the provision to avoid duplication and look to work together and share responsibility and projects needs to be more collective action.

What would your service like to see included in the next CLD Plan?"

- Digital provision;
- Adult Learning pathways;
- Youth Voice;
- Employability provision;
- Skills for community cohesion/ collective leadership and involvement in community;
- Skills for environmental sustainability;
- Joint development / training on CLD competencies for officers within partner organisations;
- More partnership working with statutory and voluntary sector;
- More regarding UNCRC adoption and implementation in Argyll and Bute;
- Covid recovery responses.
- Additional topics suggested for inclusion in the new plan -
 - Learning that supports and promotes community cohesion / collective leadership
 - Involvement in community activity
 - Learning that contributes to environmental sustainability.

Feedback suggests the key priorities and action points were appropriate, however there were too many of them. Reporting and governance were unclear and this impacted negatively on the development of the plan. The need for wider consultation and increased involvement of learners is apparent.

- 4.3 The Scottish Government CLD Plan Guidance Note was published December 2020 and sets out the current national policy context that the Scottish Government expects local authorities and their partners to take into account when meeting their statutory requirements during the period, 2021-24. There is an expectation that Community Learning and Development (CLD) plans will be informed by this guidance.

The guidance indicates that the priorities for the delivery of CLD throughout the life span of the CLD plan (2021-24) should include, but not be limited to:

- Priorities set out in LOIPs and other national policies;
- Working with partners in schools, colleges, third sector organisations and community planning partnerships to ensure services are adequate and efficient;
- Identifying priority groups and target the most vulnerable and marginalised learners in schools, colleges and communities to engage with CLD services;
- Protecting and improving health and wellbeing outcomes for young people, adults and families;
- Creating additional opportunities and support for learning, employability and creating local wealth;
- Recognising and taking appropriate action to support those most disproportionately affected by digital poverty ensuring they have the necessary tools, skills and support to access digital learning and services;
- A commitment to incorporate the UNCRC into policy across CLD services;
- Taking account of the need for community based adult learning, youth work and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) learning and embedding in provision across the local authority area.

The guidance note acknowledges that Covid19 will present significant challenges and that CLD workers have been widely recognised as key workers during the pandemic, continuing to engage with young people, families, adult learners and community organisations, particularly in our most disadvantaged communities.

5.0 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The structural changes, input from strategic partners and Scottish Government guidance are all significant developments that should all contribute positively to the production of the 2021-24 Argyll and Bute CLD Plan.
- 5.2 An update on progress of the 2021-24 Argyll and Bute CLD Plan will be given at the June 2021 meeting of the Community Services Committee with the final draft being presented at the September 2021 meeting.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Policy - The Community Learning Service and CLD provision make a significant contribution to Outcomes 3, 4, 5 and 6 of the Argyll and Bute SOA:-
3. Education, skills and training maximises opportunities for all.
 4. Children and young people have the best possible start.
 5. People live active, healthier and independent lives.
 6. People live in safer and stronger communities.
- 6.2 Financial – There may be resource implications resulting from the plan.
- 6.3 Legal – 2013 Community Learning and Development (Scotland) Regulations
- 6.4 HR – None
- 6.5 Fairer Scotland Duty:
- 6.5.1 Equalities - The 2021-24 Argyll and Bute CLD Plan will identify ways in which CLD provision can contribute to reducing inequalities.
- 6.5.2 Socio-economic Duty - The 2021-2024 CLD Plan will focus on supporting vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in the community
- 6.5.3 Islands – Delivery of services in remote and rural communities will be explored as part of the development of the plan/
- 6.6. Risk – There are potential reputational risks for the Council should they fail to deliver the legislative requirements set out within the 2013 Community Learning and Development (Scotland) Regulations.
- 6.7 Customer Service – This report provides Elected Members with an overview of CLD service planning.

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