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<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Education &amp; Communities Committee</b>	<b>Date:</b> 22 January 2012
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Corporate Director: Education, Communities and Organisational Development</b>	<b>Report No:</b> EDUCOM/12/13/MP
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<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Community Learning and Development: Strategic Guidance for Community Planning Partnerships</b>	

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## 1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Committee of the Council's proposals for taking forward the implementation of the Scottish Government's 'Community Learning and Development: Strategic Guidance for Community Planning Partnerships'.

## 2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 In June 2012, the Scottish Government published 'Community Learning and Development: Strategic Guidance for Community Planning Partnerships.' The Executive Summary of this Guidance is attached as Annexe 1 to this report. This guidance clarifies Scottish Government expectations of Community Planning Partnerships, with specific reference to their role in leading the implementation of the Guidance. The guidance also looks to local authorities *'to provide clear leadership and direction, and to drive the action needed to ensure we maximise the contribution of CLD Partners in the reform of public services.'*
- 2.2 Evidence is cited of the powerful impact of CLD on the lives of learners and communities and the need for further improvements to be secured through *strengthening 'co-ordination between the full range of providers, and communities themselves'*.

## 3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Committee:

- 3.1 Note the content of 'Community Learning and Development: Strategic Guidance for Community Planning Partnerships';
- 3.2 Delegate authority to the Corporate Director: Education, Communities and Organisational Development to develop, in collaboration with community planning partners, proposals for the implementation of the Strategic Guidance in Inverclyde.

**Albert Henderson**  
**Corporate Director**  
**Education, Communities and Organisational Development**

## 4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The new Strategic Guidance replaces 'Working and Learning Together: to build stronger communities' which was published in 2004 and subsequently re-affirmed in a joint statement between COSLA and the Scottish Government in 2008.
- 4.2 'Working and Learning Together' outlined 3 priorities for CLD, specifically:
- Achievement through learning for adults
  - Achievement through learning for young people
  - Achievement (for communities) through capacity building.

In the consultation phase for development of the Strategic Guidance, it was identified that the above priorities '*sometimes led to artificial boundaries in practice between age groups and between work with individuals and groups*'.

- 4.3 The new Strategic Guidance identifies that the specific focus for CLD should be:
- Improved life chances for people of all ages, including young people in particular, through learning, personal development and active citizenship
  - Stronger, more resilient, supportive, influential and inclusive communities.
- 4.4 Currently strategic direction and leadership for CLD is provided by the CLD Strategy Group on behalf of Inverclyde Alliance. This group is chaired by Councillor Loughran and comprises representatives of key CLD partner agencies including the voluntary sector. Conscious of the need to integrate the work of the CLD partners more closely with the infrastructure of community planning, the CLD Strategy Group brought forward a report to the Alliance Board on 4 October 2010 proposing a strengthening of the relationship between the CLD Strategy Group and the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) Delivery groups. In this regard, some of the recommendations of the Strategic Guidance have been anticipated.

## 5.0 PROPOSALS

- 5.1 The Strategic Guidance states that:
- '*CPPs should co-ordinate planning of CLD provision, setting out specific priorities.*'
  - '*The implementation of this guidance must be led by CPPs....*'
  - '*We expect local authorities to provide clear leadership and direction ...*
- 5.2 It is proposed that an implementation plan to achieve the above is developed under the direction of the Corporate Director: Education & Communities & Organisational Development.
- 5.3 The process used to develop the implementation plan will include the following stages:
- A presentation on the new strategic guidance to the Alliance Programme Board. Their initial thoughts on the formulation of an implementation plan will be discussed and fed into the next stage of the process.
  - A presentation will be made to the Alliance Board giving an overview of the Strategic Guidance. This will be followed by a facilitated discussion to establish priorities and the way forward in terms of implementing the guidance.
  - A presentation to each of the SOA Delivery Groups. Each group will be given the opportunity to contribute to planning the implementation of the Strategic Guidance and to consider '*if they are delivering the core activities of CLD through a sufficiently joined-up approach...*' as required by the Guidance.
  - Each Delivery Group will be supported to identify a limited number of priorities for their area which will take forward the themes of joint planning and the prevention of negative outcomes. As stipulated in the guidance these activities *will 'be designed with individuals and communities as active partners, in ways that focus on reducing the longer term need for input by public services – including CLD'*.
  - Emerging plans and how they are to be evaluated will be integrated within the Strategic Planning and Performance Framework.

- Cognisance will be taken of the *'implementation framework'* being developed by Education Scotland
- At the conclusion of the process a draft implementation plan will be presented for discussion and approval to the Alliance Board by Maureen Mallon, Area Lead Officer, Education Scotland.

## **6.0 IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 Finance: None

6.2 Legal: None

6.3 Personnel: None

6.4 Equalities: None

6.5 Repopulation: None

## **7.0 CONSULTATION**

7.1 Community consultation and participation in the development and ongoing implementation of the Strategic Guidance will be overseen by the Inverclyde Community Engagement and Capacity Building Network.

## **8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

8.1 Strategic Guidance for Community Planning Partnerships: Community Learning and development. Scottish Government June 2012 ISBN: 978-1-78045-775-8 (web only)

## Annexe 1

# COMMUNITY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT: STRATEGIC GUIDANCE FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIPS

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This guidance comes against the backdrop of the most ambitious set of reforms to post-16 learning ever undertaken in Scotland. The Government is pursuing those changes with three clear objectives in mind: to align the system more purposefully with our ambitions for jobs and growth; to improve people's life chances; and to ensure the sustainability of our system in a time of inescapable pressures on public spending.

Community learning and development (CLD) is an integral part of this story. It already plays a central part in ensuring individuals, families and communities across Scotland reach their potential through lifelong learning, mutual self-help and community organisation - and that the available support and opportunities are community-led, built around people's aspirations.

This strategic guidance clarifies our expectations of Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs), within the broad framework of public service reform, and in line with the Review of Community Planning and Single Outcome Agreements (SOAs). We expect local authorities to provide clear leadership and direction, and to drive the action needed to ensure we maximise the contribution of CLD partners in the reform of public services.

It is important to be clear about the purpose of CLD. We see it as empowering people, individually and collectively, **to make positive changes in their lives and in their communities, through learning**. This guidance outlines the action necessary to maximise CLD's impact, resulting in better alignment of services and optimal use of resources.

The Government's National Performance Framework sets out the strategic objectives for all public services, including those delivering CLD. CLD's specific focus should be:

- 1. improved life chances for people of all ages, through learning, personal development and active citizenship;**
- 2. stronger, more resilient, supportive, influential and inclusive communities.**

The implementation of this guidance must be led by CPPs, with support from Government bodies such as Education Scotland and with national and local Third Sector partners. It should form an integral part of public service reform, ensuring that Community Planning provides the vehicle to deliver better outcomes in partnership with communities.

Using an evidence based approach; reducing outcome gaps between areas; jointly prioritising outcomes; and strengthening community engagement and participation are the principles which will shape work on community planning and SOAs. This will, in turn, improve partnership working, including CLD partners, in delivering SOAs.

Evidence from a range of sources, and in particular from the inspection of learning communities, demonstrates the powerful impact of CLD on the lives of learners and communities. To secure yet further improvement, we need now to strengthen the coordination between the full range of providers, and communities themselves.

Our communities face major challenges from the wider economic outlook, falling public expenditure and our changing demographics but Scotland cannot afford the potential consequences of high levels of youth unemployment, the decline of vulnerable communities and the challenges faced by an increasingly elderly population. This is why it is essential we build resilient communities and release the talents of people (particularly those of our young people) across Scotland. That is what this guidance aims to do.