

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

Lifelong Learning Committee 3 November 2021

COMMUNITY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2021-2024

Report by Head of Culture and Community Services (Report No. 21/204)

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report asks Lifelong Learning Committee to approve our new Community Learning and Development (CLD) Plan 2021-2024 and note the final performance report of the 2019-2021 CLD Plan.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 CLD provides individual, family and group learning in community settings, in ways which enable and equip people to improve their lives.
- 1.2 Education Scotland holds the statutory inspection and regulatory role for CLD in Scotland. The regulatory framework includes The Requirements for Community Learning and Development (Scotland) Regulations 2013, the Strategic Guidance for Community Planning Partnerships: Community Learning and Development (2012) and Section 2 of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980.
- 1.3 Under the 2013 regulations, Councils must identify the CLD needs of target individuals and groups within their local authority area and prepare and publish a three-year CLD Plan setting out strategic aims for CLD services delivered by all Community Planning Partners. This Plan sets out the commitments of Perth & Kinross Council (PKC), its partners in the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) and wider CLD agencies to deliver CLD which enables better outcomes for all and tackles stubborn inequality. The approved Plan will be submitted to Education Scotland and published on the PKC website.
- 1.4 PKC has a statutory duty to co-ordinate and produce a CLD Plan which contributes to achieving the objectives of the CPP to address inequalities. The CLD approach is founded on working alongside people and communities to improve their lives. It uses early intervention and prevention to address the root causes, not just the symptoms, of inequality. It is about building strong, resilient, influential and inclusive communities, and improving life chances for everyone through learning, employability, personal development and active citizenship.
- 1.5 The Plan is a strategic framework for all Council services and the wider CLD delivery partners. Within PKC, CLD is delivered by a range of core teams embedded in key services and overseen by the Stronger Communities Leadership Group, which reports quarterly to the Corporate Management

Group, comprising all Chief Officers, and provides annual progress reports to the Executive Officer Team, Lifelong Learning Committee and the CPP Board.

- 1.6 The Plan covers the period September 2021 - September 2024. The Council and its CLD partners are determined that year one of this three-year CLD Plan will focus on the recovery and renewal of our communities following the COVID-19 pandemic, which has significantly increased the inequalities faced by some of our most vulnerable adults, families and young people. We will also be focused on ensuring our key third sector partners and community organisations can re-build capacity to deliver their work with communities. The first year of the Plan will be reviewed in September 2022 and updated with a continued focus on mitigating COVID-19 impact as appropriate.

2. CLD PLAN 2019-2021 PERFORMANCE REPORT

- 2.1 Our previous CLD Plan for Perth and Kinross covered the period February 2019 to March 2021. The final year of delivery was severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, with CLD services redirected to support the emergency response. Despite this, key achievements during the lifetime of the plan include:

- 82% of children meeting developmental milestones when entering primary school.
- 774 young people achieving a wider achievement award such as Duke of Edinburgh.
- 1429 adult learners achieving their individual learning outcomes.
- 490 community groups supported to build their capacity.
- Positive destinations for school leavers: 97% in 2019 and 94% in 2020, which is above national and comparator figures.
- 1152 parents involved in family learning and parenting programmes.
- 262 local residents were supported in 2020/21 by the Skills and Employment Initiatives Team to aid progression and employment goals.
- 201 community groups supported to make local environmental improvements.
- The Play Park Strategy was progressed through the improvement and development of the Council's public play parks to ensure they are inclusive, safe and stimulating places for children to play and develop.
- 85% of all Greenspace projects planned for the financial year of 2020/21 were completed and 100% of projects involved community engagement.

During 2020/21 And in Response to The COVID-19 Pandemic

- PKC worked with Connecting Scotland to secure more than 170 digital devices and identified 13 digital champions to support tenants to become digitally included.
- Recruited over 1000 residents as volunteers to help support local communities and developed an on-line portal for volunteer registration, mapping these against a GIS database so volunteers could be linked with activity in their local area.

- Produced a volunteer handbook for PKC registered volunteers with advice on handling cash, child and adult protection and adhering to lockdown rules.
- Worked with local community groups to distribute 20,000 leaflets advising people how to keep safe and where to get support.
- Active Schools Co-ordinators provided a flexible approach to supporting schools throughout the pandemic by offering:
 - online support through recorded engagement sessions to deliver 'household' activities.
 - weekly social media activity newsletter promoting daily activity.
 - remote support for school staff leading physical activity sessions and online motor skills sessions for targeted groups of learners.
- The Perth & Kinross Active Schools Primary Sports Leadership Programme to P6/7 children continued online along with sports and dance leadership programmes.
- Throughout the pandemic, there was a co-ordinated approach to ensuring that those children and young people, considered to be most vulnerable, were offered appropriate support either at home or in school-based services. A range of resources, both virtual and physical, were provided to alleviate inequalities and disadvantage. This was enhanced by the direct support being provided to young people in evenings and at weekends.
- Collaboration with the third sector secured Youth Work in Education Recovery funding to contract eight third sector organisations to work with secondary schools to support young people to re-engage with education.
- Parenting and family learning was adapted to continue to support parents in new ways. 77 virtual groups were offered, with 316 parents/carers attending at least one session and 241 completing a full programme. Bitesize sessions were introduced on themes such as fussy eaters and predictable routines. Through these supports, 54% of parents participating reported they found their stress/anxiety levels as a parent had reduced.
- Adult learning opportunities were provided online with 110 adults undertaking an accredited course.
- CLD staff worked with colleagues across PKC and a wide range of community groups to provide services and goods for those in need. These included:
 - Providing packs of resources for children.
 - 1310 foodbank referrals and delivery of 364 emergency food parcels.
 - 400 referrals to community fridges/larders.
 - 20,500 calls to a dedicated Community Support and Welfare Fund phoneline which provided support for people shielding, self-isolating, requiring support grants, low-income pandemic payments or increased crisis grants, as well as food referrals and information/guidance/signposting.

- Supported the re-purposing of key leisure venues as emergency coronavirus response hubs for delivering over 5,000 food parcels in partnership with local volunteers.
- Responded to a COVID-19 outbreak in Coupar Angus where a total of 201 cases were recorded in the 2 Sisters factory. By working with the factory, our community planning partners and volunteers, we ensured workers and families were supported. Community volunteers and staff delivered over 700 food parcels and carried out doorstep welfare checks to every affected household, including a large number of migrant workers and their families, who needed additional support.

2.2 A summary of the performance of CLD services from April 2019 – March 2021 can be found in Appendix 1.

3. CLD PLAN 2021-2024

3.1 Our current CLD Plan expired in March 2021 and the Plan attached at Appendix 2 covers September 2021 to September 2024, with a focus on the key actions CLD functions will undertake over the next 12 months to support recovery and renewal. It has been developed with CLD partners across Perth and Kinross, taking into account priorities brought about by COVID-19, lockdown and the extensive community consultations that have followed this. Key delivery partners include:

- **The Adult Learning Partnership**, which includes Perth College, the Learning Centre in HMP Perth and a range of third sector providers, adds value for learners and communities through collaborative working and developing a shared vision and aims in order to negotiate, plan and deliver adult learning opportunities for learners who require additional support or have not engaged in learning for a significant period of time.
- **The Youth Work Partnership**. The Gannochy Trust and PKC have worked together to fund Youth Work Providers in the five localities across Perth and Kinross from 2018 - 2021. The partnership was formed to provide secure long-term funding and practical support for the delivery of youth work across Perth and Kinross.
- **Live Active Leisure**, which delivers Active Schools and a range of volunteer opportunities for children, young people and adults to get involved in community sport.

3.2 An important requirement of the Plan is that it identifies priority groups for CLD provision, including unmet needs, both within communities of interest and geographic communities. Development of the new Plan identified the following priorities for the next three years:

- **Poverty** (including child, food and fuel poverty) are significant issues of inequality and ones which have been increasingly highlighted in Perth and Kinross during lockdown, with demand for emergency food parcels and

crisis grants increasing. CLD can work alongside communities to help mitigate the impact of poverty and build sustainable communities. Important new relationships have been forged with local third sector community food providers during COVID-19 and work will continue to develop a sustainable and resilient third sector food network.

- **Mental and physical wellbeing** have been hugely impacted as a result of COVID-19. Evidence from services across the CPP shows a significant increase in demand for support, both during lockdown and as we emerge into recovery, particularly from young people and vulnerable adults. CLD will play a vital role in improving everyone's health and wellbeing, alongside physical activity delivered by our leisure trust partner, Live Active Leisure.
- **Family Learning.** Our Parenting and Family Learning Team play a vital role in providing engaging and impactful family learning opportunities to those most in need through offering a number of research-based programmes and individual support. Our Family and Parenting Team plays a vital role in providing engaging and impactful family learning opportunities to those most in need. Services for Children Young People and Families are leading new work in Letham to co-produce new models of holistic family support in line with The Promise. This is supported by Council budget motion funding and is taking a community development approach. This is linked to work which will test the Wellbeing Economy Alliance Design Guide to support large-scale engagement and participation of children and young people using the framework of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).
- **Employability and Adult learning.** CLD plays a critical role in skills development, very often working with people who have been excluded from work and everyday life because of their low self-esteem, skills or confidence. For many people, CLD can create their first route back into learning, embedding literacy and numeracy into all of its provision, so that learning and skills development become accessible for many people disengaged from learning. Our adult learning offer, delivered in partnership with Perth College and the third sector providers, has a focus on employability and digital skills with a range of accredited courses available.
- **Digital participation** is increasingly important as services and the wider society moves online. COVID-19 lockdown highlighted issues with connectivity, technology and capacity, and CLD has a role in building people's skills and confidence. Our Digital Working Group are developing actions to address both digital skills and confidence.
- **Raising attainment.** Closing the gaps in the attainment of literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing is a priority for all involved in the education of children and young people. For some children and young people, their attainment has been further impacted by the requirement to learn at home as a result of COVID-19 restrictions. Teams delivering CLD will work with schools to support children and young people's well-being;

help children recover any lost ground in learning and close the attainment gap.

- **Best start.** Children have a right and need to play and this has been adversely affected as a result of COVID-19 lockdowns. Services and organisations will work with communities to plan and provide play experiences outdoors for children and families.
- **Community empowerment** is relevant to all parts of the public sector and is an area of increasing importance. The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 requires community planning partners to secure the participation of community bodies in community planning. We will continue to work with the 7 Local Action Partnerships and key third sector organisations to empower communities, develop localised decision making and ensure we are responsive to the needs and priorities of communities across Perth and Kinross.
- A commitment to incorporate the **UNCRC** into policy across CLD functions.

3.3 We anticipate that over the next 12 months, new needs will emerge as a result of COVID-19 and further research will be needed to help understand these further. Emerging data and feedback from partners suggest that the following areas could be of particular focus:

- Adults who are digitally excluded and unable to access services and support.
- Families and adults who have experienced bereavement and loss.
- Those who have experienced lost learning, particularly young people and adults on entry level Further Education and Higher Education courses.
- Adults with substance misuse or mental health issues unable to access services due to lack of digital or physical access.
- Minority ethnic groups who may have disproportionately impacted upon by COVID-19 in relation to job security, income and health and wellbeing.
- Looked After children and young people.
- Young carers.
- Victims of domestic abuse.
- Supporting pupil wellbeing and potential gaps in learning.
- The impact of trauma in communities.
- Identifying any widening of inequalities.

3.4 A refreshed Performance Framework to measure the impact of the CLD Plan is included in Appendix C of the CLD Plan. Monitoring and reporting on delivery of the CLD Plan will be carried out via:

- The Council's Corporate Management Group which has strategic oversight of CLD delivery.
- Quarterly delivery progress reports to the Executive Officer Team
- The Community Plan Annual Report.
- An annual update on the CLD Plan to Lifelong Learning Committee and CPP Board.

4. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 The new CLD Plan 2021-24 sets out clear strategic direction and priorities for the next three years, including our key actions over the next twelve months to help our communities recover from COVID-19.

4.2 It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) Notes the performance report for the CLD Plan 2019-21 at Appendix 1;
- (ii) Approves the draft CLD Plan 2021-24 at Appendix 2; and
- (iii) Agrees to an annual update on the CLD Plan returning to Lifelong Learning Committee.

Author

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Approved

Name	Designation	Date
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1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Strategic Implications	Yes / None
Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement	Yes
Corporate Plan	Yes
Resource Implications	
Financial	None
Workforce	None
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	None
Assessments	
Equality Impact Assessment	Yes
Strategic Environmental Assessment	None
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	None
Legal and Governance	None
Risk	None
Consultation	
Internal	Yes
External	Yes
Communication	
Communications Plan	Yes

1. Strategic Implications

Community Plan/Single Outcome Agreement

- 1.1 This section sets out how the proposals relate to the delivery of the Perth and Kinross Community Plan/Single Outcome Agreement in terms of the following priorities:

- (i) Giving every child the best start in life;
- (ii) Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens;
- (iii) Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy;
- (iv) Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives; and
- (v) Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations.

This report relates to all of these objectives.

Corporate Plan

- 1.2 This section sets out how the proposals relate to the achievement of the Council's Corporate Plan Objectives.

- (i) Giving every child the best start in life;
- (ii) Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens;
- (iii) Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy;
- (iv) Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives; and
- (v) Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations.

This report relates to all of these objectives.

2. Resource Implications

Financial

2.1 N/A

Workforce

2.2 N/A

Asset Management (land, property, IT)

2.3 N/A

3. Assessments

Equality Impact Assessment

3.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, the Council is required to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between equality groups. Carrying out Equality Impact Assessments for plans and policies allows the Council to demonstrate that it is meeting these duties.

3.1.1 The function, policy, procedure or strategy presented in this report was considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment process (EqIA) with the following outcome: assessed as **not relevant** for the purposes of EqIA.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

3.2 The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 places a duty on the Council to identify and assess the environmental consequences of its proposals. The act has been considered and no further action is required as it does not qualify as a PPS as defined by the Act and is therefore exempt.

Sustainability

3.3 N/A

Legal and Governance

3.4 N/A

3.5 N/A

Risk

3.6 N/A

4. Consultation

Internal

- 4.1 Heads of Service and Service Managers within Education and Children's Services, Corporate and Democratic Services and Communities Directorate have been consulted in the preparation of this plan and report. Corporate Management Group and the Executive Officer Team have also been consulted.

External

- 4.2 The Plan drew on findings from existing consultations conducted from summer 2020 - summer 2021.

5. Communication

- 5.1 The Plan will be published on the PKC website.

2. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

3. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - CLD Plan April 2019 - March 2021 Performance Reporting

Appendix 2 - Perth And Kinross Community Learning And Development Plan
2021-2024