

Statutory Plan for the Delivery of Learning and Development in our Communities 2021 to 2024 by Midlothian Council and Partners.

Report by Joan Tranent, Chief Officer Children's Services, Partnerships and Communities

Report for Decision

1 Recommendations

Council is recommended to:

- Approve the Community Learning and Development Partners' Strategy and Action Plan for 2021 to 2024.
- Note the priority areas for 2021 to 2024 and that progress will be reported as part of the Single Midlothian Plan Performance Reporting.
- Agree to formally submit the strategy and action plan to Education Scotland.

2 Purpose of Report/Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to seek approval of a new three year Learning and Development in the Community Strategy and Action Plan (2021 to 2024). This is a statutory requirement as detailed in the amended Education (Scotland) Act 1980. The Act places a duty on Councils to ensure adequate and efficient delivery of Community Learning and Development activities in partnership with Community Planning Partners. This report outlines the statutory duties to report on behalf of the Community Planning Partnership. National Guidance requires strategies to seek formal Council approval.

Date 25th August 2021

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3 Background

- 3.1 The key policy areas related to learning and development in our community are: community engagement, learning, literacy, numeracy, English for speakers of other languages, community empowerment, work with young people, adults, families and communities, employability, fair work, inequality, community justice, social enterprise, regeneration, addressing health inequalities and staff/volunteer development.

There is an expectation on local authorities to:

- Coordinate the provision of community learning and development with stakeholders.
- Describe the actions that will be taken to provide and coordinate community learning and development between 1st September 2021 and 21st August 2024.
- Describe the actions of partners for the provision of community learning and development from 1st September 2021 to 31st August 2024.
- Describe any needs for providing community learning and development that will not be met between these dates above.

An assessment has been undertaken against these policy areas. This highlights that we are working strongly together to ensure that the needs of the local community and national policies are prioritised and are central to the learning and development work taking place in our Midlothian Communities.

However, the assessment highlighted areas that require specific attention where Community Learning and Development and Partners can contribute to:

- Covid 19 Recovery and Engagement
- Social Interaction, Health and Wellbeing
- Pathways to Learning, Personal Development and Employment
- Digital and Resilient Communities of the Future
- Carbon Neutral by 2030
- Enhance Our Workforce and Volunteers Skills.

Below is a summary diagram of the priority themes:



The full plan is contained within **Appendix B**.

4 Report Implications (Resource, Digital and Risk)

4.1 Resource

Midlothian Council currently funds community learning and development activities through a number of methods including direct delivery by Council staff, partner organisations and through grants to the voluntary sector. External funding has been secured by a number of partners to enable the breadth and depth of provisions currently available. The plan acknowledges the need to work towards engagement and provision levels prior to the start of the pandemic. This will also include increased online and blended methods of delivery as well as face to face.

4.2 Digital

There is a significant section of the plan that focuses on digital to increase opportunities for local people to access learning as well as actions to ensure digital inclusion and participation.

4.3 Risk

The plan for Midlothian remains ambitious and will take learning and development in our communities activity forward, taking into account the uncertainties of the pandemic and funding levels. The plan sets out a number of challenges and risk reducing measures. Risk levels will be monitored and reviewed on a regular systematic basis through community planning performance reporting.

Our statutory duty is to provide 'adequate and efficient' provision. This is not defined in full by law and is subject to the judgement of Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education (HMIE). Judgements will be based on the existing national standards for delivery of community learning and development activities set out in the Education Scotland inspection Guidance "How Good is the Learning and Development in our Community". Risk may be included within the Local Area Network Risks for Midlothian.

4.4 Ensuring Equalities (if required a separate IIA must be completed)

This plan actively supports those from equality groups to engage with learning and development activities in their community therefore an IIA has been completed and is attached as Appendix C.

4.5 Additional Report Implications (See Appendix A)

See Appendix A below.

Appendices

Appendix A -	Additional Report Implications
Appendix B -	Community Learning and Development Partners' Plan 2021 to 2024 – link provided below
Appendix C –	Integrated Impact Assessment – Members' Library

APPENDIX A – Report Implications

A.1 Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan

Reducing the gap in learning outcomes
Reducing the gap in health outcomes
Reducing the gap in economic circumstances
Carbon Neutral by 2020

A.2 Key Drivers for Change

Key drivers addressed in this report:

- ☒ Holistic Working
- ☒ Hub and Spoke
- ☒ Modern
- ☒ Sustainable
- ☒ Transformational
- ☒ Preventative
- ☒ Asset-based
- ☒ Continuous Improvement
- ☒ One size fits one
- ☐ None of the above

A.3 Key Delivery Streams

Key delivery streams addressed in this report:

- ☒ One Council Working with you, for you
- ☒ Preventative and Sustainable
- ☒ Efficient and Modern
- ☒ Innovative and Ambitious
- ☐ None of the above

A.4 Delivering Best Value

Best value delivery is a core principle of the Community Learning and Development Plan 2021 to 2024.

A.5 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

The 2021 to 2024 Community Learning and Development Strategy has been the product of engagement with learners, volunteers, community and third sector organisations. The consultation results gathered over 500 individual and group views which directly informed the content and priority actions.

A.6 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

The Community Learning and Development Plan 2021 to 2024 submits performance reports to the Improving Opportunities Midlothian (IOM) strand of the Single Midlothian Plan which are scrutinised through these governance arrangements.

A.7 Adopting a Preventative Approach

A preventative approach is a key principle in addressing the learning and development needs of the communities of Midlothian.

A.8 Supporting Sustainable Development

The Community Learning and Development Plan 2021 to 2024 has as a priority theme outlining the sectors contribution to sustainable development.

Appendix B

<https://midlothian.cmis.uk.com/live/Documents/PublicDocuments.aspx>