

Statutory Plan for the Delivery of Learning and Development in our Communities 2018 to 2021

Report by Mary Smith, Director Education Communities and Economy

1 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek approval of a new three year Learning and Development in the Community Strategy and Action Plan (2018 to 2021). This is a statutory requirement as detailed in the amended Education (Scotland) Act 1980. The Act places a duty on Council's 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 by September 2018.

2 Background

2.1 Policy Drivers for Learning and Development in the Community

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 justices, science, technology, engineering and maths, social enterprise, regeneration, staff development and child poverty.

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 for further development including volunteering, community empowerment related to food growing, participatory budgeting, community assets, enterprising with communities, neighbourhood planning, financial resources, skills development with communities, child poverty, mental health and wellbeing, increasing the voice of local people, partnership working with educational partners, Developing Midlothian's Young Workforce and improving skills for people of all ages through the development of skills for learning, life and work.

New national outcomes learning and development outcomes have been developed for with communities, young people and adults. (Appendix one).

2.2 Learning and Development in the Community Regulations

The Midlothian Learning and Development in our Communities Strategy for the period 2018-21 sets out the priorities for the field of practice referred to in legislation as Community Learning and Development (CLD), including Adult Learning, Youth Work, and Community Development whether undertaken by Midlothian Council or by other partners including, Universities; Further Education Colleges; Community Groups and Third Sector bodies.

The Scottish Government published the CLD Strategic Guidance for Community Planning Partnerships in June 2012 and the CLD Regulations (Scotland) 2013. The CLD Regulations (Scotland) aim to:-

- Ensure communities across Scotland, particularly those who are disadvantaged, have access to the CLD support they need;
- Strengthen coordination between the full range of CLD providers, ensuring Community Planning Partnerships, local authorities, and other providers of public services respond appropriately to the expectations set out by the CLD Strategic Guidance;
- Reinforce the role of communities and learners in the assessment, planning, and evaluation processes to enable them to shape CLD provision; and
- Make the role and contribution of CLD more visible.

The CLD Strategic Guidance also states that CLD partners should aim to work together to deliver 'adequate and efficient' outcomes through:

- Community development (building the capacity of communities to meet their own needs and engaging with and influencing decision makers);
- Local community planning (Neighbourhood Planning in Midlothian);
- Youth work, family learning and other early intervention work with children, young people, and families;
- Community based adult learning, including libraries and English for speakers of other languages;
- Volunteer development, accreditation and progression;
- Learning for vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in the community;
- Learning support and guidance.

2.3 Achievements of the Learning and Development in the Community Plan 2015 to 2018

The Learning and Development in the Community Plan 2015 to 2018 has been successfully implemented improving the outcomes for local learners and communities. Some of the key successes in the last three years by working together in partnership have been:

- an increased number of volunteer opportunities.
- the development of bespoke Community Empowerment Act Courses.
- an increased number of learning opportunities for young people and adults over 5,000 local people are taking up these opportunities.
- a 62% increase in learners achieving qualifications.
- an increased number of young people participating in Duke of Edinburgh (D of E) programmes they have donated 5,580 hours of volunteer time and leaders have donated 36,873 hours in the last year.
- Securing funding for 60 Modern Apprenticeship in 2018 including 20 for early years.
- that all Community Councils have adopted the revised scheme.
- securing external grants estimated to be over 3 million collectively.
- a 75% increase in the number of adults with disabilities/barriers receiving one to one employability support 175 in total.

2.4 The Learning and Development in the Community Plan 2018 to 2021

The new 2018 to 2021 plan aims to:

- Increase the voice of learners and citizens to influence improvements in learning and development in our community.
- Support young people, adults and families to improve their life chances through the development of skills for learning, life and work.
- Increase through partnership working the number of young people securing and sustaining positive destinations.
- Assist communities to meet local needs and develop their capacity.
- Support services to be more responsive to the needs of people experiencing inequalities.

- Help to sustain resources for learning and development activities in the community, within a challenging financial climate.

The associated action plan has been developed based on the views of local people, partners and wider stakeholders. Three of the common priority areas were:

- Confidence Building and skill development to help people improve their skills for learning, life and work.
- Support to help community groups secure funding.
- Support for community groups to meet the local needs of their communities.

The full strategy, consultation findings and action plan are contained within the Elected Member's library and online via Midlothian Council's website following formal approval. The strategy and action plan require to be submitted to Education Scotland once formally approved.

3 Report Implications

3.1 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 provision currently available. The plan acknowledges the need to sustain current levels of provision although this is challenging within the current financial climate.

3.2 Risk

The plan for Midlothian remains ambitious and will take learning and development in our communities activity forward, taking into account the constraints of funding and staffing. 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 maybe included within the Local Area Network Risks for Midlothian.

3.3 Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation

Themes addressed in this report:

- Community safety
- Adult health, care and housing
- Getting it right for every Midlothian child
- Improving opportunities in Midlothian
- Sustainable growth
- Business transformation and Best Value
- None of the above

3.4 Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan

The outcomes are directly related to the priorities of the Improving Opportunities in Midlothian Sub Group of the Single Midlothian Plan.

3.5 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

Progress on implementing the plan will be monitored through reporting on the Single Midlothian Plan. Learning and Development in the Communities activities build skills for learning' life and work. The Plan also supports capacity building within communities encouraging cohesion and improving quality of life.

3.6 Adopting a Preventative Approach

Prevention is a key theme central to the core of the learning and development in our community strategy and plan with the key policy areas illustrated early in this report.

3.7 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

Consultation has taken place with over 1,000 local people, stakeholders and partners to inform the strategy and action plan for learning and development in the community.

3.8 Ensuring Equalities

The approach undertaken will continue to target those in need of our partnership services and from identified equalities groups and ensure individual needs are proactively taken into account when supports and opportunities are developed. Supporting our communities to be inclusive and welcoming is central to the over strategy and action plan. An Integrated Impact Assessment accompanies this document.

3.9 Supporting Sustainable Development

The plan has key elements which contribute to sustainable development for example the food growing strategy.

3.10 IT Issues

The strategy and plan identify the challenges related to partner's ability to modernise technological resources, equipment and learning to keep pace with the level of change. Access to good internet connectivity is also an issue within this field of work. However the Midlothian Partnership Technology Group has been relaunched to help to address these issues.

4 Summary

This report and the strategy document describe how Midlothian Council and its CPP partners are ambitious in meeting the statutory duty to ensure adequate and efficient delivery of CLD activities detailing improvement actions from 2018 to 2021.

5 Recommendations

Council is recommended to:

- Congratulate the partners on the successes achieved over the last three years.
- Approve the strategy and action plan.
- Note the priority areas for 2018 to 2021 and progress will be reported on as part of the Single Midlothian Plan Performance Reporting.
- Agree to formally submit the strategy and action plan to Education Scotland.

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Background Papers: CLD Strategy full document in Members' Library

Appendix One

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLES

- Empowerment
- Participation
- Inclusion
- Self Determination
- Partnership

VALUES

- Self determination
- Inclusion
- Empowerment
- Working collaboratively
- Promotion of learning as a lifelong activity

Community Development Strategic Drivers and Approach

Midlothian Council Communities Team and Partners

Community Capacity Building and Community Engagement

WHAT IS A COMMUNITY?

'Community' defined as a group of people united by at least one common characteristic including geography, identity or shared interest.

NATIONAL PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK OUTCOMES

- We have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others.
- We live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger.
- We realise our full economic potential with more and better employment opportunities for our people.
- We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations.
- We live longer, healthier lives.
- We reduce the local and global environmental impact of our consumption and production.
- We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish society.
- Our public services are high quality, continually improving efficient and responsive to local people's needs.

Place Standard: How Good is Our Place?

NATIONAL PRIORITY AREAS

- Community Empowerment
- Social Justice
- Community Led Regeneration
- Health and Wellbeing
- Strengthening local democracy

NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Clear principles that describe the main elements of effective community engagement.

- Inclusion
- Planning
- Working Together
- Methods
- Communication
- Impact

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 2015

The Act helps to empower community bodies through the ownership of land and building and by strengthening their voices in the decisions that matter to them.

- Assets and land
- Participation requests
- Community Planning
- Community engagement

SELF EVALUATION

How Good is the Learning & Development in our Community?

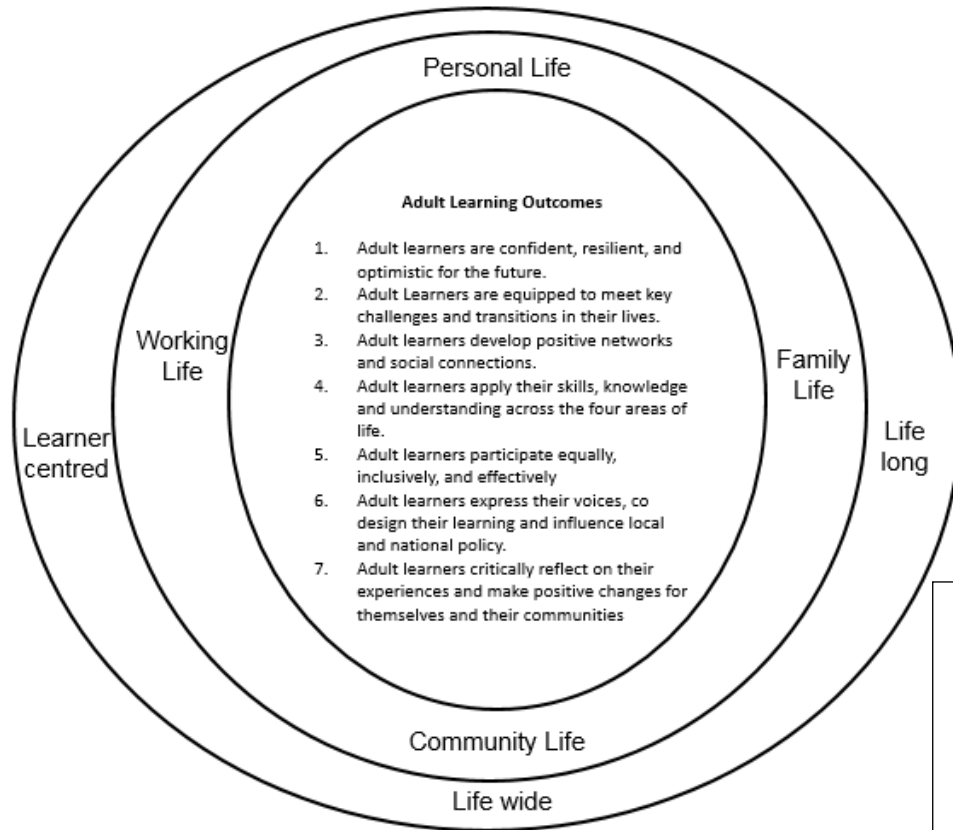
Indicators of Change:

- 1.1 Improvements in performance
- 4.1 Impact on the local community
- 3.1 Impact on staff and volunteers
- 5.2 Fairness equality and diversity
- 6.1 Planning, review, development & participation by stakeholders in key processes
- 8.1 Partnership Working

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OUTCOMES

1. Communities are confident, resilient and optimistic for the future.
2. Communities manage links within communities and to other communities and networks.
3. Community members identify their capacities, learning and skills, enhance them and apply them to their own issues and needs.
4. Community members form, and participate equally, inclusively and effectively in accountable groups
5. Communities consider risk, make reasoned decisions and take control of agendas.
6. Communities express their voice and demonstrate commitment to social justice and action to achieve it.
7. Community members' perspectives are broadened through new and diverse experiences and connections.

Community Based Adult Learning in Scotland: Adult Learning Outcomes



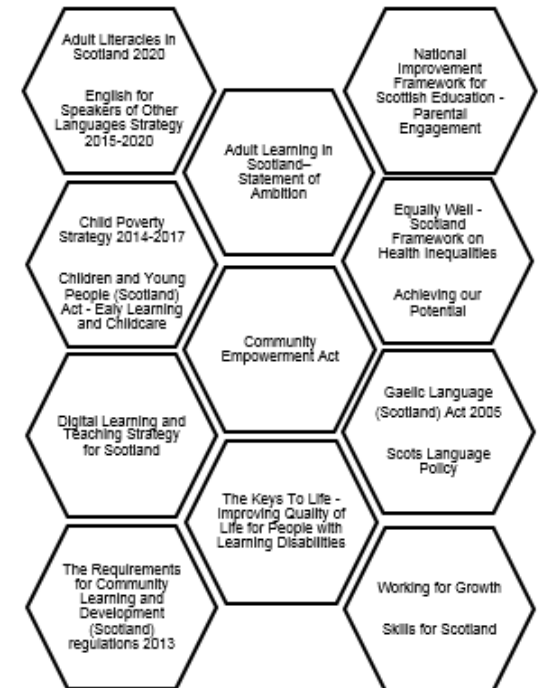
Adult Learning in Scotland – Statement of Ambition

**Core principles:
Learning should be lifelong, life wide, learner centred**

Ambitions: Every adult in Scotland will have the right to access learning to meet their educational needs and their aspirations



Underpinning Strategy and Policy (examples)



#youthworkchangeslives

National Performance Framework

National Youth Work Strategy

Curriculum for Excellence

Getting it Right for Every Child – Wellbeing Indicators



Youth Work Outcomes

- 1. Young people are confident, resilient and optimistic for the future
- 2. Young people manage personal, social and formal relationships
- 3. Young people create, describe and apply their learning and skills
- 4. Young people participate safely and effectively in groups
- 5. Young people consider risk, make reasoned decisions and take control
- 6. Young people express their voice and demonstrate social commitment
- 7. Young people broaden their perspectives through new experiences and thinking

Nature and Purpose of Youth Work

Young people choose to participate

The work must build from where young people are

Youth work recognises the young person and youth worker as partners in a learning process



Youth Work National Occupational Standards

The Competence Framework for Community Learning and Development

Values of Community Learning and Development

Code of Ethics for Community Learning and Development

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)