



Midlothian Council  
Tuesday 17 December 2024  
Item No 8.4

## **Community Learning and Development Partnership Plan 2024 to 2027**

**Report by Michelle Strong, Education Chief Operating Officer**

### **Report for Decision**

#### **1 Recommendations**

- Note the statutory duties of the education authority for planning and reporting.
- Approve the progress report for 2021/24 and the plan for Midlothian for 2024/27.
- Thank all those who have contributed to the successes 2021 to 2024.

#### **2 Purpose of Report/Executive Summary**

This report presents the new CLD Partnership Plan for 2024 to 2027.

**30 October 2024**

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### **3 Background**

Under the amended provisions of the Education Scotland Act 1980 Local Authorities are required to provide, facilitate and coordinate adequate and efficient Community Learning and Development Services.

In addition we must comply with [the Requirements for Community Learning and Development \(Scotland\) Regulations 2013](#) during the period of 2024 - 2027.

The guidance builds on and does not replace previous guidance notes published in 2014, revised guidance published in 2017 and the CLD Plan Guidance note published in 2020, to support the creation and ongoing development of CLD plans.

In addition, a national review of CLD has been published in July 2024. The new CLD plans should reflect the findings of this report.

The recommendations of the national review are focused on 6 areas:

- Leadership and Structures
- Overarching Policy Narrative
- Focus on Delivery
- Budgets and Funding
- Developing the Workforce and Standards
- Demonstrating Impact

The full report can be found at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/learning-life-report-independent-review-community-learning-development-cld/>

#### **The Midlothian CLD Plan**

It is recognised through external scrutiny that Midlothian's CLD sector has strong leadership, shared endeavour and has life changing, and sometimes lifesaving, impacts across all sectors of youth work, adult learning and community development.

The Midlothian CLD Plan for 2024 to 2027 sets out progress and achievements made during 2021 to 2024. The plan is based on self-evaluation and consultation with stakeholders. Timelines and impact measures are detailed throughout the plan.

The full CLD Plan is attached in Appendix B, the integrated impact assessment is contained in Appendix C

### **4 Next Steps**

The CLD Plan requires to be approved by Midlothian Council and the Community Planning Partnership Board. Once endorsed, progress is then monitored and scrutinised through the Community Planning Partnership. CLD Plans must be published, submitted to Education Scotland and are used during external scrutiny reviews.

## **5 Report Implications (Resource, Digital and Risk)**

### **5.1 Resource**

Resource implications have been considered and identified during the development of the CLD Plan.

### **5.2 Digital**

CLD activity actively supports digital inclusion and supports those most vulnerable to exclusion from accessing services and being digitally connected.

### **5.3 Risk**

This report seeks to ensure that the Council and partners have strategic plans in place for future service delivery. Chief officers and strategic partners will on an ongoing basis, assess risk exposures to the successful achievement of priorities.

### **5.4 Ensuring Equalities (if required a separate IIA must be completed)**

A separate IIA details the positive impacts of the plan on those from protected characteristic groups and is available [online](#).

### **5.5 Additional Report Implications (See Appendix A)**

Not applicable.

## **Appendices**

**Appendix A – Additional Report Implications**

**Appendix B - The Midlothian CLD Plan**

## **APPENDIX A – Report Implications**

### **A.1 Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan**

Not applicable.

### **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**

There is a clear focus in the CLD Plan about delivering best value, maximising resources and attracting external funding to deliver CLD activity.

### **A.5 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders**

There has been widespread consultation with over a thousand responses initially, then a further consultation on the draft plan.

### **A.6 Impact on Performance and Outcomes**

Excellent progress has been secured over the last 3 years as set out in the report and robust performance management arrangements are in place for the new CLD Plan for 2024 to 2027.

### **A.7 Adopting a Preventative Approach**

There is a clear focus on prevention in relation to the CLD plan which reflects both the national guidance and CLD national review and highlights the unique contribution CLD activity makes to preventative approaches. The external inspection validated the significant impact CLD has in delivering using a preventative approach.

## **A.8 Supporting Sustainable Development**

There is a clear focus on climate change and sustainable development as a core theme in the Midlothian CLD Plan and it also clear reflects the priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan.