
SCOTTISH BORDERS COMMUNITY PLANNING STRATEGIC BOARD

Community Learning and Development Plan 2021-24

Report by Service Director Children and Young People's Services

9 September 2021

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report proposes that the Community Planning Partnership approves the Community Learning and Development Partnership Plan for 2021-24 for publication in September 2021.**
- 1.2 The Plan is a statutory duty on local authorities [*The Requirements for Community Learning and Development (Scotland) Regulations 2013*] the purpose is to "identify the CLD needs of target individuals and groups within the local authority area" and they must "publish plans every 3 years containing information about the provision of community learning and development".
- 1.3 This Plan aims to benefit:
1. Young people, most impacted by Covid-19, with a particular focus on supporting positive transitions in a broad range of contexts.
 2. Adults of all ages, most impacted by Covid-19, with a particular focus on those most at risk of isolation or experiencing multiple disadvantage.
 3. Geographic communities – most impacted by Covid-19 as identified in the Scottish Borders Covid-19 Index.
- 1.4 The Scottish Borders CLD Strategic Partnership aims to improve outcomes for learners and communities through the provision of co-ordinated, collaborative and targeted CLD interventions. It will do this by partners working together to deliver actions that address the agreed improvement priorities in this Plan.
- 1.5 The Objectives of the Plan are:
1. Reducing Inequalities
 2. Covid-19 Recovery
 3. Development of the CLD Partnership)
- 1.6 The Improvement Priorities of the Plan are:

1. Learning and Employability
 2. Health Inequalities
 3. Digital Inclusion
 4. Covid-19 impact and recovery
 5. Participation and engagement
 6. Workforce Development
- 1.7 The Partnership will monitor progress using the CLD outcomes framework. Measures and lead organisations have been agreed for most actions. Partners will work together over the coming months to finalise monitoring and evaluation processes, which will include the setting of targets.
- 1.8 Covid-19 has impacted on the Partnership's ability to involve learners and communities directly in developing this Plan. Evidence of need has been drawn from a range of surveys of Borders residents and extrapolated from national data. Additional community/learner engagement will take place in year one of the Plan which will inform priorities and action in years two and three.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 I recommend that the Strategic Board:-

- (a) approves the CLD Strategic Partnership Plan 2021-24 and recognises that it supports delivery of key CPP priorities for learners and communities in the Scottish Borders;**
- (b) agrees that Partner members reflect this Plan within their own organisational plans and continue to make available the existing resources which are required for delivery of the Plan;**
- (c) reflects on the statement of unmet need and supports CLD partners to explore how these areas of need could be addressed throughout the lifetime of the Plan;**
- (d) receives an annual report on progress of the Plan;**
- (e) considers the contribution of the CLD sector and how our shared objectives may be reflected in the next refresh of the CPP Community Plan; and**
- (f) recognises how a locality partnership approach to planning has supported successful community based delivery of CLD and consider how this approach may be best embedded in future locality partnership planning models.**

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 CLD is a field of professional practice that enables people to identify their own individual and collective goals, to engage in learning and take action to bring about change for themselves and their communities. It includes Youth Work, Adult and Family Learning, Community Development and Capacity Building, and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL). It is delivered by both the Public and Third Sector.
- 3.2 In the Scottish Borders, CLD activity is supported, planned and improved through a multi-agency partnership. The CLD Strategic Partnership meets 4 times each year, currently chaired by Susan Hunter of YouthBorders.
- 3.3 The Plan is a statutory duty on local authorities [*The Requirements for Community Learning and Development (Scotland) Regulations 2013*]. The purpose is to “identify the CLD needs of target individuals and groups within the local authority area” and they must publish partnership “plans every 3 years containing information about the provision of community learning and development”.
- 3.4 The CLD Strategic Plan 2021-24 has been developed by the CLD Partnership over the past 6 months through small working groups and inter-agency engagement and data sharing. It has been informed by national guidance from HMIE/Education Scotland on the development of the 2021-24 plans. There is an expectation that Local Authority Plans will adapt over the first year as the sector and communities recover from Covid-19. Community/Learner engagement can also take place in Year 1 due to the restricted opportunities for face-to-face CLD which support quality participation and engagement.
- 3.5 The Scottish Borders CLD Strategic Partnership has agreed that the focus of this Plan will be on partnership working, and by this we mean three or more partners involved in delivery of improvement priorities.
- 3.6 This CLD Plan and Partnership approach will be subject to scrutiny through the HMIE Inspection cycle for Community Learning and Development; including through annual HMIE engagement with the local authority.

4 BENEFICIARIES

- 4.1 The Partnership recognises that CLD activity can support, enable and empower learners and communities to fully realise their potential. They also recognise the important preventative role that universal provision, such as community-based youth work, can have on achieving positive outcomes and impact. However, the Partnership wishes to direct collective resources and energies in a targeted manner, informed by data, local insight and learner voice and experience.

4.2 The intentions of this Plan will benefit:

- a) **Young people**, most impacted by Covid-19, with a particular focus on **supporting positive transitions** in a broad range of contexts.
- b) **Adults of all ages**, most impacted by Covid-19, with a particular focus on those **most at risk of isolation or experiencing multiple disadvantage**.
- c) **Geographic communities** – most impacted by Covid-19 as identified in the Scottish Borders Covid-19 Index.

5 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Aim	The Scottish Borders CLD Strategic Partnership aims to improve outcomes for learners and communities through the provision of coordinated, collaborative and targeted CLD interventions.		
Objectives	A. To reduce inequalities in our communities through the provision of early intervention and prevention activities which are life-wide, life-long and centred on the needs and aspirations of our learners and communities.	B. To support a CLD sector which is resilient and sustainable as it recovers from the impacts of Covid-19	C. To develop our CLD workforce and partnership activity to increase collaboration and recognition within and between agencies and services.
Improvement Priorities for 2021-24	1. Creating additional opportunities and support for learning, employability and creating local wealth .	4. Understanding the impact of Covid-19 and Covid-19 recovery planning on the CLD sector and on the individuals and communities that are our partners in learning and development.	6. Our workforce will be skilled, supported, empowered to plan, delivery and evaluate quality CLD activities and interventions.
	2. Protecting and improving health and wellbeing outcomes for young people, adults and families	5. Involving learners and communities in the design, delivery, evaluation and improvement of our CLD activity; ensuring that this is meaningful and supports learning and development of individuals and communities; striving towards co-production.	
	3. Addressing digital poverty , ensuring learners have the necessary tools, skills and support to access digital learning and services.		

6 EXAMPLES OF PLANNED ACTIONS

- 6.1 Develop a partnership community-based employability offer for adults, initially targeting those communities identified through the Covid-19 vulnerability index.
- 6.2 Develop a local, community-based health and wellbeing offer, to run alongside the employability offer, initially targeting those communities identified through the Covid-19 vulnerability index.
- 6.3 Develop a co-ordinated approach to provide earlier intervention and a continuum of employability support for young people 14-24 years, involving key partners and including provision which supports the increased use of the Youth Work Skills Framework.
- 6.4 Support community-based learners to access and use digital devices through the Connecting Scotland and Connecting Borders programmes.
- 6.5 Share learning and knowledge and develop a coordinated approach across the Partnership to support Third Sector committees/trustees through Covid-19 Recovery.
- 6.6 Further develop Adult Learner and Parent Voice models, to increase their influence in shaping services and decision making.
- 6.7 Further develop young people's voice model, sharing practice and intelligence across partners to improve reach, quality and reduce consultation fatigue.
- 6.8 Pathways to CLD – including qualification, progression, succession planning, grow our own workers, supported employment, industry profile.
- 6.9 Establish a Regional Youth Workers Forum to support professional recognition, peer support, practice sharing, and CPD needs.
- 6.10 Create capacity and infrastructure which supports CLD student placements in the Scottish Borders.

7 STATEMENT OF UNMET NEED (this is a specific requirement of the CLD regulation)

- 7.1 The CLD Strategic Partnership does not have any shared resources. Outcomes of this Plan will be achieved through existing partners' resources. This Plan focuses on the added value that can be achieved through effective collaboration, joint planning, shared outcomes, and the contribution of each partners own resource (usually staff/volunteer time).
- 7.2 All members of the CLD Partnership are working in contexts of reducing resource either through budget saving or loss of income. The CLD

Partnership recognises that there is a widening gap between need and ability to provide services which meet these needs.

- 7.3 Many CLD partners have had to focus activity on targeted and time limited interventions – there is a risk that community-based universal provision is weakened as a result of reduced budgets.
- 7.4 Annualised reducing budgets and the absence of multi-year funding arrangements for the Third Sector restrict the possibilities of both the CLD Partnership and individual CLD partners to make long-term commitments to sustainable CLD service provision and workforce development and succession planning.
- 7.5 As a Partnership we have discussed areas of potential innovation and development which could address some of the need we have identified which will not be met by current actions in this Plan. Areas for development which would require additional financial resource include:
 - 7.5.1 Provision of high-quality street/**detached youth work** in targeted communities
 - 7.5.2 Increase the availability and sustainability of **universal CLD activities for young people, adults and families**
 - 7.5.3 Capacity to support the **development and coordination of local data** across the Partnership’s activity
 - 7.5.4 Resource to develop, embed, and **build capacity for youth social action** across all Partners
 - 7.5.5 Development of **Employer Supported Volunteering** across all Partners
 - 7.5.6 **Digital literacy education and data privacy rights** for vulnerable children, young people, and adults of all ages
 - 7.5.7 **Participatory budgeting** as a means of tackling inequalities and building community capacity

8 IMPLICATIONS

8.1 Financial

- a) Actions detailed within the CLD Plan 2021 -24 will be carried out with existing resources.
- b) Areas for development which would address unmet need have been identified which would require additional resource. The Partnership is seeking support for CLD partners to explore how these areas of need could be addressed throughout the lifetime of the Plan.

8.2 Risk and Mitigations

Risks associated with this Plan include:

- a) Potential for widening of inequalities during Covid-19 recovery, as those individuals who were disadvantaged prior to the pandemic are likely to be even more disadvantaged during recovery. In mitigation, CLD partners aim to further develop their understanding of the impact of the pandemic on disadvantage in Scottish Borders in year one and amend actions in year two and three as a result
- b) Change to resources available to CLD partners would impact on the capacity to work in partnership and deliver actions. Partners in the Third Sector are reliant on external funding. Mitigation: multi-year allocation of grants (at least 3 years) increases capacity of the sector for more effective partnership planning.

8.3 Integrated Impact Assessment

An integrated impact assessment has been carried out for the CLD Plan 2021-24. Implementation of the Plan should have a positive impact on most of the equalities groups (with the exception of marriage/civil partnership) and will reduce socio-economic disadvantage.

8.4 Sustainable Development Goals

Actions around Improvement Priorities 1-5 will contribute towards achievement of Sustainable Development Goals as detailed below:

Sustainable Development Goals	CLD Plan Improvement Priorities
1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all potential 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	1: Creating additional opportunities and support for learning, employability and creating local wealth.
3. Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages	2: Protecting and improving health and wellbeing outcomes for young people, adults and families
9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation	3. Addressing digital poverty, ensuring learners have the necessary tools, skills and support to access digital learning and services
10. Reduce inequalities within and among countries	4. Understanding the impact of Covid-19 and Covid-19 recovery planning on the CLD sector and on the individuals and communities that are our partners in learning and development. 5. Involving learners and

	communities in the design, delivery, evaluation and improvement of our CLD activity; ensuring that this is meaningful and supports learning and development of individuals and communities; striving towards co-production.
16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	4. Understanding the impact of Covid-19 and Covid-19 recovery planning on the CLD sector and on the individuals and communities that are our partners in learning and development. 5. Involving learners and communities in the design, delivery, evaluation and improvement of our CLD activity; ensuring that this is meaningful and supports learning and development of individuals and communities; striving towards co-production.
17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development	5. Involving learners and communities in the design, delivery, evaluation and improvement of our CLD activity; ensuring that this is meaningful and supports learning and development of individuals and communities; striving towards co-production.

8.5 Climate Change

CLD partners will work together to improve health and wellbeing of disadvantaged individuals and communities, including promotion of the concessionary travel scheme for young people (Jan 2022) and the health benefits of sustainable travel. The CLD Plan aims to support local employment, create opportunities for learning in local communities, build the capacity of local volunteer involving organisations and create career routes which support young people to live and work in the Borders. The Plan aims to make best use of local resources by improving joint planning and reducing duplication of effort and resource. The Plan aims to support the CLD sector to continue to adapt and change to future demands.

8.6 Rural Proofing

The Plan will focus some Partnership activity in year one on those communities identified by the Covid-19 vulnerability index as most in need of support during Covid-19 recovery, which includes Coldstream and area (accessible rural classification). At the same time there is also a recognition that disadvantage can exist right across Scottish Borders and partnership effort will be focused on building capacity across the CLD sector to sustain universal provision.

8.7 Data Protection Impact Statement

There are no personal data implications arising from the proposals contained in this report.

8.8 Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation

There are no changes to the Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation as a result of this report.

9 CONSULTATION

9.1 The Executive Director (Finance & Regulatory), the Monitoring Officer/Chief Legal Officer, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Service Director HR & Communications, the Clerk to the Council and Corporate Communications and any comments received will need to be incorporated into the final report.

Approved by

Lesley Munro

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Author(s)

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Background Papers: CLD Strategic Plan 2021-24

Previous Minute Reference: n/a

Note – You can get this document on tape, in Braille, large print and various computer formats by contacting the address below. Oonagh McGarry can also give information on other language translations as well as providing additional copies.

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