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## **COMMUNITY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE SCOTTISH BORDERS STRATEGIC PLAN 2015 - 18**

**Report by Depute Chief Executive People**

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### **SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL**

**17 December 2015**

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#### **1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report seeks approval for the Community Learning and Development in the Scottish Borders Strategic Plan 2015-18.**
- 1.2 At its meeting on 20 October 2015, the Executive Committee recommended that Scottish Borders Council receive a report for approval on the Community Learning and Development (CLD) Strategic Plan for 2015-18, which would include financial information regarding the delivery of the services to be provided. A copy of that amended Plan is attached as the Appendix to this report.
- 1.3 The CLD local partnership which has been developed in the Scottish Borders involves CLD partners working together in each of the 9 learning communities to produce a detailed Plan for their own area. These 9 Plans have then been collated to provide an overarching action plan for CLD in the Scottish Borders.
- 1.4 The Core Objectives of the CLD Strategic Plan are to reduce inequalities and improve the wellbeing of Borders communities over the six Inequalities Themes through; early intervention and prevention, building the capacity and resilience of our nine Learning Communities and the Voluntary Sector and improving partnership working. Details are contained in the Plan for the achievement of each of the Objectives, with planned outcomes, examples of planned programmes to deliver outcomes, who will benefit, who will deliver the learning, how CLD will make a difference, and how the achievement of Objectives will be measured.

#### **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 **I recommend that the Council:-**
  - (a) approves the Community Learning and Development in the Scottish Borders Strategic Plan 2015 - 18; and**
  - (b) supports the CLD Strategic Partnership to engage effectively with key CLD partners, facilitating contribution to the annual planning process with members taking an active role within the local area partnerships.**

### **3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Community Learning and Development Strategic Plan 2015 - 18 was considered at a meeting of the Executive Committee on 20 October 2015. The Executive Committee recommended that Scottish Borders Council receive a report for approval on the Community Learning and Development (CLD) Strategic Plan for 2015-18, which would include financial information regarding the Scottish Borders Council services that support the delivery of the Plan. A copy of that amended Plan is attached as the Appendix to this report. The Strategic Plan was also considered at a meeting of the Community Planning Strategic Board meeting on 26 November 2015.
- 3.2 The Scottish Government's national strategic aims for Community Learning and Development are to develop:
- Improved life chances for people of all ages, through learning, personal development and active citizenship
  - Stronger, more resilient, supportive, influential and inclusive communities.
- 3.3 Community Learning and Development Guidance and Regulations place a duty on the Council to provide a 3-year Plan for CLD and recognises that successful delivery of CLD can only be achieved through partnership activity with 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector organisations and other providers of public services. The CLD local partnership which has been developed in the Scottish Borders involves CLD partners working together in each of the 9 learning communities to produce a detailed Plan for their own area. These 9 Plans have then been collated to provide an overarching action plan for CLD in the Scottish Borders (attached as the Appendix to this report).

### **4 THE STRATEGIC DELIVERY PLAN**

- 4.1 The CLD Strategy takes account of the Community Planning Partnership's vision, the Council's strategic priorities, and supports delivery of priorities within the Single Outcome Agreement. In addition, the Strategy also supports the priorities outlined in the Scottish Borders' Children & Young People Plan 2015 - 18. The Core Objectives of the CLD Strategic Plan are:

- Objective 1: Reduce inequalities and improve wellbeing of Borders communities over the six Inequalities Themes through early intervention and prevention.
- Objective 2: Build the capacity and resilience of our nine Learning Communities and the Voluntary Sector.
- Objective 3: Improve partnership working.

- 4.2 Details are contained in the Plan for the achievement of each of the Objectives, with planned outcomes, examples of planned programmes to deliver outcomes, who will benefit, who will deliver the learning, how CLD will make a difference, and how the achievement of Objectives will be measured.

### **5 IMPLICATIONS**

#### **5.1 Financial**

- (a) There will be no additional costs incurred through implementation of this Plan. In some cases there has been realignment of existing

resource. A key success measure of the Plan will be further development of resource pooling and realignment towards early intervention and prevention approaches that reduce inequalities.

- (b) As requested by the Executive Committee, further financial information has been included. The partnership plan will be delivered using existing resources across the partnership members. This will fluctuate as the level of partnership engagement varies across the local plans and throughout the life of the Strategic Plan. Scottish Borders Council's CLD service staff capacity to support the plan is contained within the agreed annual CLD budget for the service, which for 2015/16 is £1,119,000.

## 5.2 Risk and Mitigations

- (a) There is a legislative requirement to develop and deliver this Plan (CLD Regulations 2013). Staff time is required to coordinate the local Plans and build capacity to work in partnership more effectively. The CLD service has allocated time to support this activity, and has planned for this time to reduce over the lifetime of the Plans.
- (b) Success of the Plan will be measured by actions making a real difference in learners' lives. A robust monitoring and evaluation framework has been developed to make achievement visible in local communities and ensure accountability.

## 5.3 Equalities

An Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out on this proposal and it is anticipated that there are no adverse equality implications.

## 5.4 Acting Sustainably

The Plan aims to improve the Borders economy through developing skills and capacity of people of all ages to be economically active. The Plan further aims to improve the wellbeing of Borders communities through reducing inequalities. Actions are included to reduce social isolation, particularly amongst older people. Actions are included which will build capacity within communities, supporting them to use their skills, knowledge and experience to achieve their goals. No adverse environmental effects are anticipated.

## 5.5 Carbon Management

No adverse effects on carbon emissions are anticipated.

## 5.6 Rural Proofing

The Strategy has been developed to meet the needs of localities and will improve access to CLD services across Scottish Borders.

## 5.7 Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation

There are no changes to be made to either the Scheme of Administration or the Scheme of Delegation as a result of the proposals contained in this report.

# 6 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 The Chief Financial Officer, the Monitoring Officer, the Chief Legal Officer, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Chief Officer HR and the Clerk to the Council were consulted on the report which was considered at the Executive Committee in October 2015, and comments received then have been incorporated into this report.

**Approved by**

**Jeanette McDiarmid**  
**Depute Chief Executive People**

**Signature .....**

**Author(s)**

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**Background Papers:** Nil

**Previous Minute Reference:** Executive Committee, 20 October 2015

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

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