

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

**COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE - 18 AUGUST 2015**

**A COMMUNITY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR ANGUS**

**REPORT BY HEAD OF PLANNING AND PLACE**

**ABSTRACT**

This report asks the Committee to approve the Community Learning and Development Plan for Angus (2015-2018) and the priorities and improvement actions which it contains.

**1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) Approves the Community Learning and Development Plan for Angus (2015-2018);
- (ii) Requests an annual report on progress in implementing the plan.

**2. ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS COMMUNITY PLAN/SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT/COPORATE PLAN**

This report contributes to all of the outcomes within the Angus Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement 2013-2016.

**3. BACKGROUND**

3.1 In June 2012 the Scottish Government published "Community Learning and Development; Strategic Guidance for Community Planning Partnerships". This guidance outlined actions required to help maximise the impact of community learning and development (CLD) on the lives of individuals and communities. It identified two high level outcomes for CLD:

- Improved life chances for people of all ages, through learning, personal development and active citizenship;
- Stronger, more resilient, supportive, influential and inclusive communities.

While directed at Community Planning Partnerships ("CPPs") and recognising the vital role played by a wide range of organisations and services, the *CLD Strategic Guidance* clearly identifies a lead role for local authorities, stating that the Scottish Government expects local authorities "to provide clear leadership and direction, and to drive the action needed to ensure we maximise the contribution of CLD partners in the reform of public services."

3.2 This expectation has now been formalised by The Requirements for Community Learning and Development (Scotland) Regulations 2013 ("the CLD Regulations"), which place a legal requirement on local authorities to fulfil this role.

The broad purposes of the Regulations are to try and ensure that:

- Communities, particularly those which experience disadvantage, have access to CLD support and provision
- The coordination of CLD activity is strengthened
- Participants and communities are actively involved in the planning of CLD

A further purpose of the Regulations is to raise the profile of CLD as an activity which contributes to a range of broader policy outcomes and ambitions.

The CLD Regulations are subordinate legislation made under section 2 of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 ("the 1980 Act"). Section 2 allows the Scottish Ministers to prescribe requirements to which every education authority (synonymous with local authority in this context) must conform when discharging its obligations under the 1980 Act.

Section 1 of the 1980 Act requires each local authority to secure adequate and efficient provision in their area of both school education and further education, which in this context includes CLD and is not age limited.

While the CLD Regulations place requirements on local authorities, CLD is, in practice, delivered across Scotland through partnership activity by local authorities together with third sector organisations and other providers of public services as the best means of achieving positive outcomes for communities and learners.

- 3.3 The CLD Regulations place a duty on local authorities to produce CLD Plans for their area. The first of these has to be published by 1 September 2015 and cover a three year period.

The Regulations stipulate that:

- An assessment of community learning and development need be undertaken and that the outcomes of this process inform and direct the CLD Plan
- In producing their CLD Plans local authorities establish and maintain a process to secure CLD provision and support in the area
- Local authorities involve and consult key stakeholders in the process of preparing their CLD Plan and in the ongoing planning and delivery of CLD support and activity. Stakeholders in this context are seen to include participants, learners, community representatives and partners.

## 4. CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 A CLD Plan for Angus has been prepared through a process which has involved:

- Reference to background data, including the Strategic Assessment prepared by Angus Community Planning Partnership (ACPP)
- Reference to national and local policy, specifically the Angus Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement (2013-2016) (SOA)
- Engagement with stakeholders through a Citizen's Panel Surveys, focus groups with participants, learners and practitioners, 1:1 Meetings with key partner agencies and a major stakeholder event
- Evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of CLD activity and support in Angus

- 4.2 The Plan is explicitly connected to the Angus Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement and will contribute overtly to the ACPP's cross-cutting policy priorities:

- Sustainable economy and employment
- Poverty and disadvantage
- Shifting the balance of care

Because CLD is an approach to learning and development that can be applied across a range aspects of life and policy areas, the CLD Plan also incorporates actions that will contribute to all of the Local Outcomes in the SOA.

- 4.3 As required by the Regulations the CLD Plan identifies a number of target groups which are most likely to benefit from access to CLD activity and support and commits partners to ensuring that appropriate opportunities are available to these groups. The target groups are:

People experiencing poverty and disadvantage:

- People who are out of work or looking to improve their employment circumstances

- Older people
- People who are affected by substance misuse
- Young people at risk of not achieving/progressing or of dis-engagement
- People with additional support needs
- Communities at risk

While many of the current beneficiaries of CLD activity fall within these groups, partners recognise the need to become more strategic in targeting resources and a major priority for the next three years will be to achieve a shift in resources towards those who are likely to benefit most.

4.4 A number of CLD work streams have been identified which will drive both operational delivery and improvement activity. These work streams reflect both local need and policy drivers and are:

- Employability
- Literacies (literacy and numeracy)
- English for Speakers of Other Languages
- Parent and family learning
- Digital participation
- Health and well-being
- Information (and guidance)
- Volunteering
- Community engagement
- Asset based community capacity building and development
- Youth work and Curriculum for Excellence

These work streams will be operationalised through Locality Plans which integrate with and form part of broader locality planning.

4.5 A Work Stream lead will be identified for each of the work streams who will have a key responsibility for leading the work and reporting on progress within the context of the plan.

4.6 Progress in implementing the plan will be monitored on a regular basis and reported annually to both Angus Council and the ACPP Board.

4.7 A full copy of the Plan can be accessed at **(Appendix 1)**

## 5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are limited financial implications as a result of the recommendations of this report and these can be contained within existing budgets.

## 6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Effective implementation and progress of the CLD Plan is dependent on commitment from a range of Council Services and Community Planning Partners.

**NOTE:** No background papers, as detailed by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report.

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