

Agenda Item	13.
Report No	EDU/14/24

The Highland Council

Committee: Education

Date: 30 May 2024

Report Title: Community Learning and Development Year 2 Report October 2022 to September 2023

Report By: Assistant Chief Executive - People

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

1.1 The Highland Council has the statutory responsibility for Community Learning. This report provides Members with a summary of the progress made by the Highland CLD Partnership in year two of the Highland Community Learning and Development Plan 2021-2024.

2. Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to:

- i. Note the progress, including key achievements, made in year two of the Highland Community Learning and Development Plan;
- ii. Note the priorities and focus for year three of the Highland Community Learning and Development Plan, and;
- iii. Note that the annual inspection visit from His Majesty Inspectors of Education for CLD has been advised to Highland Council for Monday 3rd to Wednesday 5th June.

3. Implications

3.1 Resource - The requirements for the CLD Plan are delivered within the existing resources of the Community Planning Partnership.

3.2 Legal - There is a legal duty on the Highland Council (Education Department) to develop a three-year CLD plan.

3.3 Community (Equality, Poverty, Rural and Island) - The focus for CLD work is to reduce disadvantage and inequality.

3.4 Climate Change / Carbon Clever - There are no climate change/carbon clever and risk implications arising from this report.

3.5 Risk - There are no new risk implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

3.6 Health and Safety (risks arising from changes to plant, equipment, process, or people)
- There are no new implications arising from this report.

3.7 Gaelic - The Safeguarding and CLD team is connected with the Gaelic CLD officers to ensure Gaelic requirements are met.

4. Overview

4.1 **Legislation and Expectations** The Highland Council (Education Authority) has a statutory duty, as set-out in [The Requirements for Community Learning and Development \(Scotland\) Regulations 2013 \(education.gov.scot\)](https://www.education.gov.scot/legislation/the-requirements-for-community-learning-and-development-scotland-regulations-2013), to publish a Community Learning and Development (CLD) plan every three years describing how the Council will co-ordinate and secure adequate and efficient CLD provision with other sector partners. This report presents the progress made in year two of the 3-year plan and makes reference to the progress made on the rollout of Highland Cares and My Future My Success.

4.2 **CLD work in Scotland is guided by the [Strategic Guidance for Community Planning Partnerships: Community Learning and Development \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/strategic-guidance-for-community-planning-partnerships-community-learning-and-development-2012/pages/introduction.aspx)** document and underpinned in legislation through [The Requirements for Community Learning and Development \(Scotland\) Regulations 2013 \(education.gov.scot\)](https://www.education.gov.scot/legislation/the-requirements-for-community-learning-and-development-scotland-regulations-2013); and supports the achievement of the following national policy goals:

- to ensure communities across Scotland – particularly those which are disadvantaged – have access to the CLD support they need;
- to strengthen coordination between the full range of CLD providers and respond appropriately to the expectations set by the CLD Strategic Guidance for Community Planning Partnerships: Community Learning and Development 2012 (Scottish Government);
- to reinforce the role of communities and learners in assessment, planning and evaluation processes, enabling them to shape local CLD provision; and
- to articulate the important role and contribution of CLD and make it more visible.

4.3 The Scottish Government published guidance for the development of the 2021-2024 CLD plans. This emphasised the expectation that plans should be developed and reported through Community Planning Partnerships and that the first year of the new plans should be developmental, reflecting the learning from the Covid-19 pandemic and the second year should focus on recovery measures. In addition, The Scottish Government has also identified 5 key themes that should be addressed through CLD Planning:

1. Involvement
2. Shared CLD priorities
3. Planning
4. Governance monitoring
5. Workforce development

5. Development of the Highland CLD Plan

5.1 In October 2020 the then CLD Delivery Group undertook a review of all available Community Partnership-led locality plans and Covid response evaluations and from this summarised the following themes:

- Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Voice, Inclusion and Participation
- Digital Inclusion
- Employment, Volunteering and Training
- Community Development and Resilience

5.2 Following engagement with stakeholders and an analysis of a range of data, the priorities for year 2 were co-created. This work runs alongside the rollout of Highland Cares and MFMS. The data considered was as follows:

- Scottish index of multiple deprivation (SIMD)
- Socio Economic Performance (SEP) Index
- NHS Health Profiles
- Highland Youth Work Strategy Young People’s Survey 2019
- HOIP Health and Wellbeing Young People’s Mental Health Consultation 2020
- THC Community Conversations 2020
- HTSI exploring the impact of the pandemic on third sector staff and service users in Highland 2020

5.3 The Highland CLD Plan does not seek to outline all proposed CLD activity to be undertaken in Highland. The following priorities, arrived at with partners, are the focus of collaboration.

Theme	CLD Priority
Mental Health & Wellbeing	The CLD community in Highland will prioritise working together to improve mental health and wellbeing experienced by people in our communities. This work will be targeted towards those at greater risk of poorer outcomes.
Voice, Inclusion & Participation	CLD will make it a priority to listen to those individuals and groups who want to but have little or no connection with decision makers and service budget holders; and support them to influence the positive changes that are required to improve the lives of under-represented and seldom heard people.
Digital Inclusion	CLD partners will support digital inclusion. This priority will focus on increasing skills, confidence, and access.
Employment, Volunteering & Training	CLD in Highland will provide visible, easy to access opportunities which support routes into Employment, volunteering, and training for those who need it most.
Community Development & Resilience	CLD in Highland will prioritise targeted support to the development of capacity in key areas and of groups to increase their resilience for the future. This priority will build on the experiences and outcomes of Highland communities during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Appendix 1 provides a summary of the progress made against the priorities in the second year of the plan.

5.4 **How the plan is delivered:** The ambitions set out in the plan are delivered through the 9 Community Planning Partnership CLD delivery partners. The Highland CLD network provides an opportunity for partners to come together to plan, deliver and evaluate CLD provision using the strategic priorities as a framework.

5.5 **Key Achievements in Year Two for the CLD Plan**

5.5.1 **CLD contribution to mitigate the effects of the Cost-of-Living Crisis**

The partnership worked together across the 9 Community Planning Partnerships to support communities with their response to the cost of living Crisis through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund; the Children and Young People's Communities Mental Health & Wellbeing Fund rolled out by Highland Cares; and the Adult Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund rolled out by the Highland Third Sector Interface (HTSI).

Examples of cost-of-living crisis case studies in **Appendix 1** include:

- **Here for Caithness** (formerly Caithness Cares)
- **Caithness Sway** ([8th September 2023 \(cloud.microsoft\)](#)) a weekly ebulletin factsheet that signposts to cost-of-living support, Citizens Advice Gambling Support Service and Mental Health Awareness Training Courses.
- **Sinclair's Bay Trust Cost-of-living Community Resilience Project** – warm space with light lunch to reduce isolation and loneliness, and to mitigate the impact of the cost-of-living for residents living in Sinclair Bay, Wick.

5.5.2 **Children and Young People's Mental Health**

The CLD community in Highland prioritises working together to improve the levels of mental health and wellbeing experienced by children and young people in our communities. This work is targeted towards those at greater risk of poorer outcomes. Case studies included in in appendix 1 include:

- [Growing2gether](#) – A youth social action mentoring programme for young people aged 14-16 to support them into positive destinations through learning and personal development within nursery schools (featured in CLD spotlight on Mental Health)
- [Young Grant Givers](#) – Youth Highland's participatory budgeting process for young people to tackle anti-social behaviour (drugs/alcohol/criminal behaviour), gender inequalities and support partnership working.
- [Healthy Minds](#) is a partnership with Inspiring Young Voices, Highland Council, the Youth Convener, Highlife Highland, Voluntary Youth Network and CALA to enable children and young people to be in dialogue with decision makers.
- Highland CHAMPS - participation and advocacy group for care experienced children and young people joined the Festival of Care and Connection *#TendingTheLight in the North* and HCPC conference *#HelpingHandHighland*.

5.5.3 **Support and Learning for Refugees**

The partnership worked together across agencies to support the development of family learning and adult learning provision for refugees and asylum seekers. Case studies in Appendix 1 include:

- The Highland Integration Network – support for refugees from Syria, Afghanistan, and Ukraine.

- Reducing isolation and issues around integration - Syrian refugees share learning around their cultural heritage.
- Inspiring Young Voices – A voice for young refugees and asylum seekers.
- HLH ESOL For Driving Course – driving theory and ESOL classes for refugees.
- Ukrainian Language Learning Platform [ODILO](#) with over 2,000 e-books in libraries
- Workers Educational Association (WEA) - Family learning for Ukrainian refugees
- HLH Swimming Lessons for Syrian ladies
- Education Aid in Brora created hundreds of handmade chalk boards from recycled materials with colouring pencils for children in Eastern Europe and Ukraine, along with sewing kits and reuseable sanitary towels to support teenage girls experiencing period poverty.

5.5.4 Delivering the Multiply Programme (UK Shared Prosperity Fund)

In 2022/23, the UKPF Challenge Fund has seen 12 organisations provide a range of innovative numeracy training and learning opportunities across Highland. The total allocation of £460,115 was shared among 12 partners to deliver the programme up to December 2023. The distinctive courses have improved access to employability, pre-employability support, specialist support and targeted employment support:

- Courses for parents wanting to increase numeracy skills.
- Courses for prisoners, those recently released or on temporary licence.
- Courses aimed at encouraging people to upskill to access jobs/careers.
- Innovative programmes delivered with employers.
- Courses designed to help people use numeracy to manage money.
- Provision developed in partnership with community organisations.

Examples of Multiply case studies for 2022/23 are contained in **Appendix 1** and include:

- New Start Highland – Learning through practical experience measuring for upholstery materials, pricing, and costing a project in their furniture workshops.
- Barnardo's Works – Employability skills for 16–19-year-olds in the construction industry.
- UHI – Building confidence with numbers; boosting parents' confidence with numbers and to help manage money.
- Enable Works – Supported employment for young people with additional support needs.
- High Life Highland Festival of Maths – Families have fun learning with numbers.

5.5.5 Community development of voice, inclusion, and participation in place planning

CLD in Highland prioritises targeted support for the development of capacity in key areas and of community groups to increase their resilience for the future, while taking an inclusive approach to create opportunities for voice and participation of people from

all backgrounds to influence outcomes in Highland communities. Case studies included in the full report include:

- Big Blue Box - an anchor and safe space for young people in Kinlochbervie working with partners to improve mental health, opportunities to grow and develop, food growing and behaviour in class.
- Highland Third Sector Interface (HTSI) governance training for Dingwall Community Centre with an organisational health check to review policies, procedures, and processes.
- [Have your say | The Highland Council](#) – Highland wide community engagement to ask people's views on how they would like to see area-based funding being prioritised and developed through community projects in their local area. The example of [Community Funding Priorities - Have Your Say Easter Ross | Highland Place Planning \(engagehighland.co.uk\)](#) contains survey results.
- Kinlochleven Community Action Group (CAG) brings together community groups, public sector and other agencies to work collaboratively to tackle inequalities and prevent disadvantage in Lochaber with information held on a well-informed website called [Kinlochleven Futures](#) built for the Local Place Plan work.

5.6 Focus Year Three

- The CLD partnership will co-produce the new 3-year CLD Plan for 2024 to 2027 which will be underpinned by the emerging strategic priorities of the HOIP review (People, Place and Prosperity) and the Scottish Government framework for [Community learning and development: guidance for 2024 to 2027](#). Community participation and the learner's voice will be at the heart of the plan. The timeline for the development of the new plan is proposed below:
 - Period of engagement with existing and potential CLD stakeholders (May-Jun)
 - Highland CLD governance structures provide analysis of engagement data (Jun)
 - Production of draft plan by CLD governance groups (Jul)
 - Draft CLD plan presented for consideration by CPP board (prior to Sep 20th)
 - Presentation of Highland CLD plan 24/27 to education committee (Sep 12th)
- The CLD Strategic Partnership has reviewed its Terms of Reference (ToR) and are continuing to strengthen the Highland CLD partnership in 2023/24 with strategic partners demonstrating commitment by engaging with their partners on the CLD Operational group at their bi-monthly meetings.
- The Highland Community Planning Partnership Team continue to be ambassadors for community planning in 2024/25, supporting the alignment of strategic and local priorities, and connecting community partnerships to deliver a consistent approach to community planning across Highland. The team is represented at a strategic and operational level in Highland CLD.
- The Highland Adult Learning Development Group (HALDG) is embedding a more collaborative approach to partnership working for Highland Multiply with the aim of sharing cross-sector learning and identifying good practice among

partners. Their focus on reflective practice is contextualised against the National Adult Learning Strategy 2022/27, the Highland CLD Plan and the *How Good is Our CLD?* Delivery of Services challenge question. It will help to redefine and refine the learner offer by exploring the most successful elements of Multiply, the challenges and how the partners have overcome barriers to learning in Multiply.

- HLH will continue to support young people to run Youth Forums in all 29 ASGs.
- The HALDG will create an Adult Learner Forum.
- Representatives from the Highland CLD partnership (THC, HLH, HTSI & Youth Highland) will engage with the Independent National CLD Review process in 2024.
- Workforce development will continue to be a focus for the CLD partnership with the input from Learn North of a joint Training Needs Analysis for the new CLD plan.

5.7 Education Scotland Engagement of Highland CLD Partners.

Following a progress report submitted by the CLD Strategic Partnership in July 2022, a meeting took place with HM Inspectors in August 2022 where it was reported that work is progressing to strengthen the alignment of local provision with strategic priorities; there is a shared sense of direction in place and the governance has been strengthened. Joint evaluation and performance monitoring was also noted as an area of improvement. This continues to be a focus for the partnership as partners recognise there is still work to do to fully capture and report the impact of CLD across Highland.

Education Scotland has provided notice of the date for the Highland CLD inspection visit which will take place between Monday 3 and Wednesday 5 June 2024.

6. Next Steps

- 6.1
- The CLD partnership will continue to work together to deliver on the CLD priorities for Year 3 of the plan. The role of the partnership will be key to the successful Implementation of CLD across Highland communities and ongoing analysis.
 - The CLD partnership will co-produce the new 3-year CLD Plan for 2024 to 2027 which will be underpinned by the emerging strategic priorities of the HOIP review and include the learner's voice and community participation at the centre.
 - The CLD Strategic Group will continue to build a strong CLD partnership in Highland by providing strategic direction for the CLD Operational Group with support from the Highland Community Planning Partnership Team.

Designation: Assistant Chief Executive – People

Date: 16 May 2024

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Appendices: Appendix 1: CLD Action Plan Year 2 Progress Report