

The Highland Community Planning Partnership
Community Planning Partnership Board – 5 June 2014

Agenda Item	7
Report No	

Community Learning & Development

Report by Moira Paton, Head of Community and Health Improvement Planning

Summary

Reminds the Board of the content of the strategic guidance on CLD, and the requirements of the inspection regime, and proposes a change of approach to ensure we are prepared to respond effectively to these requirements.

National Context

1. As the Board are aware, national strategic guidance for CPPs on Community Learning & Development was produced in 2012.
2. The National Performance framework indicates that the purpose of CLD is '*to empower people, individually & collectively, to make positive changes in their lives and in their communities, through learning*', and that CLD should focus on establishing:
 - Improved life chances for people of all ages, through learning, personal development and active citizenship
 - Stronger, more resilient, supportive, influential and inclusive communities.

These outcomes, and the underpinning principles reflected in the guidance, closely align to priorities and approaches agreed by the Highland CPP COG and Board.

3. New legislative regulations, designed to strengthen the position of CLD, place a duty on Education Authorities (i.e. Local Authorities) to publish a 3 year CLD plan by 1 September 2015 and 3 yearly thereafter. Although the legislative duty falls on the Local Authority, it is clear that partners are expected to work together to develop & implement the Plan, and the Strategic Guidance recommends that this is done through the vehicle of a CLD Partnership.
4. A new CLD Inspection regime has also been established. The geographical basis for inspection is Associated School Groups, of which there are 29 in Highland. The inspection looks to answer the following:

- How well are partners improving learning, increasing life-chances, promoting & securing wellbeing?
- How well are partners working together and improving the quality of services & provision?

The CPP CD Task Group

5. In 2012 the CPP established a Community Development Task Group to develop a strategic framework and action plan to make best use of the public £ by improving approaches to investment in CD, improving leadership and strengthening co-ordination, collaboration and co-operation, reducing duplication and sharing resources where possible. The group's approach was to identify 4 urban and 4 rural areas in which to test in practice approaches to alignment or integration of partnership resources and focus.
6. The work in the 4 urban communities is being led by the CPP Inequalities group and in the 4 rural areas by HIE. Whilst benefit at a strategic Highland wide level has accrued from the work of the group, the benefits at a local level will take more time to materialise. It should be noted however, that since CPP allocation of the task and establishment of the partnership group, there has continued to be single agency investment in and development of CD posts.
7. An event to bring together all CD and related postholders in Highland took place on 22 May. The event was well attended and lively and fulfilled its aim of providing an opportunity to begin to shape a more coherent and cohesive partnership approach to CD, by sharing information on strategic direction as well as sharing learning on practical tools and approaches.

Recommendations

8. In the absence of a CLD Partnership, the CPP CD Task group has considered the detail of the Regulation, the Strategic Guidance and the Inspection Regime. The following recommendations, endorsed by the CPP COG, are made:
 - That a CLD Strategic Partnership be formed.
 - Recognising the statutory duty falling on the Highland Council as Education Authority and the consequential duty on the Director of Care & Learning, this post as responsible officer should promote collaboration in CLD across the CPP, lead the CLD strategic partnership drawing on partner support and being accountable to the CPP Board (the Director may choose to discharge this role through other senior staff).
 - That the Partnership develop a CLD Plan, by the deadline of September 2015, and reflecting the strategic guidance, using a framework of the 9 District Partnership geographies.

- That the Partnership map current CD and related posts and accountabilities for CD work that nest within the 9 Districts.
- That a senior officer be identified from each district to be a member of the CLD Partnership, to be responsible for leading, promoting and supporting collaboration and partnership working in CLD activity in their District, and accountable to the CPP for this through the CLD Partnership. The officer could be from any partner agency or network, and a mix of agency backgrounds across the whole CPP area should be sought.
- In addition to the 9 District leads, that the CLD Partnership include a lead for CLD from each of the partner agencies, and identify dedicated resource to support the partnership and preparation for inspection.
- That agencies commit to ensuring that future CLD developments, including the creation or continuation of posts, take place within the context and agreed framework of the strategic CLD Plan.
- That the respective District Lead (as above) is responsible & accountable for preparing for Education Scotland inspections of CLD, with support and guidance given by the CLD Partnership.
- That the work of the CPP CD task group is subsumed into the CLD Partnership.

Moira Paton
27 May 2014