

Strategic Framework & Action Plan for Community Development  
Update for Highland Public Sector Partnership  
Performance Board  
6 June 2013

The Board is asked to

- Note and comment on progress to date with this workstream
- Agree to invite Education Scotland to attend a future meeting of the HPSPPB to discuss the requirements of the Community Learning & Development SSI and Statutory Guidance

## 1. Background

1.1 At the meeting in August 2012, the Public Sector Partnership Performance Board (HPSPPB) agreed to the establishment of a short-life working group to develop a strategic framework and action plan to deliver a realigned approach and much stronger and more explicit co-operation and coordination of effort around community development, community learning and community capacity building activities.

1.2 These activities are core to the public sector reform agenda – their focus being on supporting improved life chances through learning and personal development, and on supporting the development and nurturance of strong, resilient and inclusive communities.

1.3 The main purpose of the framework is to promote and support improved leadership and to strengthen co-ordination, collaboration and co-operation, reduce duplication and make best use of the public £ by improved partnership approaches to investment in these areas of work. It also needs to incorporate our response to Government guidelines on Community Learning & Development and future guidelines on Community Empowerment

## 2. Update

2.1 The working group has representation from all CPP partners, and has met 4 times to date. It is recognised that our framework needs to be flexible enough to reflect the different types and levels of support required to meet the community learning, development, empowerment and capacity building needs and aspirations of all of our communities and should support an asset based approach.

2.2 The working group have agreed that a helpful way to tease out the issues and to begin to test out how we might better align and co-ordinate our resources is to take an action research approach. This will involve 3 strands of work:

- Testing out in practice how alignment and coordination can best work in the 4 areas of multiple deprivation already identified as the focus for developing our approach to addressing inequalities
- Testing this out in practice in 4 more sparsely populated fragile remote communities, not as yet identified

- The development of a suite of supportive resources both to help guide this practical work, and to reflect the learning from it in a way that can then be utilised in other areas.

2.4 The action research will involve someone in each of the 'test' areas taking on a facilitative role to bring together the wide range of individuals, agencies and groups undertaking community development activity with a view initially to co-ordination and alignment, and, in the longer term, where appropriate, to rationalisation.

### 3 National Developments

3.1 The Scottish Government has developed a draft Scottish Statutory Instrument (SSI) entitled The Requirements for Community Learning and Development (Scotland) Regulations, 2013, the purpose of which is to strengthen the legislative basis of CLD by building on the powers and duties conferred by the Education (Scotland) Act 1980. It will come into force in September 2013.

3.2 The draft instrument reflects the Government's desire to see Community Learning & Development delivered as a core part of public services across Scotland. In particular it is intended to achieve the following policy goals:

- Communities across Scotland, but particularly those who are disadvantaged, have access to the CLD support they need
- Communities across Scotland are enabled to express their needs for CLD provision
- Community Planning Partnerships, local authorities and providers of public services more generally, respond appropriately to the expectations set by the CLD Strategic Guidance.

3.3 It seeks to do this by setting requirements on education authorities in relation to the auditing of need for CLD, the co-ordination of provision, consultation with communities and other partners, and the development and publication of 3 year plans. The first such plan is to be prepared by September 2015.

3.5 Education Scotland will audit CLD planning, co-ordination and provision, based on the geography of Associated School Groups. The new audit process, linked to the inspection of secondary schools, involves a self evaluation followed by an audit visit and is already underway in Scotland. Highland can expect 4 or 5 such audits each year.

3.4 The scope and reach of the proposed statutory guidance is not fully clear, but it may have significant implications for how we plan and deliver CLD support across Highland and for Community Planning more broadly. There may also be issues in terms of the alignment of the new CLD auditing regime and other audit and inspection regimes.

3.5 It is suggested that the HPSPPB may wish to arrange for Education Scotland to attend a future meeting to share its thinking on the statutory guidance and to explore and clarify the implications for the Partnership and for Community Planning.

Moira Paton  
31 May 2013