

Agenda Item	3.i
Report No	COG 01/19

Highland Community Planning Partnership

Committee: Chief Officers Group

Date: 23 January 2019

Report Title: **Community Learning and Development Inspection – update report**

Report By: Interim Director of Care and Learning, Highland Council.

1. **Purpose/Executive Summary**

1.1 The Highland Council (as Education Authority) has the legal responsibility for Community Learning and Development (CLD) planning and delivery and for ensuring that this takes place within a Community Planning context. Statutory CLD inspections are carried out by Education Scotland and an inspection took place in Highland at the end of 2018. This report asks the Chief Officer's Group to consider the improvement actions from the inspection and agree to develop an action plan with Local Community Partnerships in a process led by the CLDE Strategic Group.

2. **Recommendations**

2.1 The Chief Officers Group is asked to:

- i. Consider the improvement priorities identified by Education Scotland as set out in **Appendix 1** and agree the next steps to develop an action plan with Local Community Partnerships in a process led by the CLDE Strategic Group which will be reported to the Highland Council's Care, Learning and Housing Committee at its meeting scheduled for 14 March and the CPP Board at its meeting scheduled for 21 March 2018.

3. Background

- 3.1 Community Learning and Development (CLD) is led by The Highland Council (THC) as required by legislation and delivered through the work of the Highland Community Planning Partnership (HCPP) and its nine Community Partnerships.
- 3.2 Education Scotland carried out an inspection of CLD in Highland in October and November 2018. This was the first inspection of CLD in the Highland Council area since a new inspection model which was introduced almost three years ago.
- 3.3 Inspections are undertaken using the quality framework "[How good is the learning and development in our community](#)" and take place within the context of the Requirements for Community Learning and Development (Scotland) Regulations 2013 and the Strategic Guidance for Community Planning Partnerships: Community Learning and Development (2012). The Scottish Government's National Performance Framework sets out the strategic objectives for all public services, including those delivering CLD. Within this, it sets out the following as the focus for CLD:
- improved life chances for people of all ages through learning, personal development and active citizenship; and
 - stronger, more resilient, supportive, influential and inclusive communities.
- 3.4 The inspection was carried out in three parts:
- i. a half-day pre-inspection visit;
 - ii. a strategic focussed inspection over two days; and
 - iii. a place-based inspection in the Mid Ross Community Partnership Area over five days.

4. Inspection Findings

- 4.1 During the inspection four quality indicators from the improvement framework were reviewed and subsequently graded. The table below highlights the quality indicators reviewed and scores:

Quality Indicator No.	Description	Score
1.1	Improvements in performance	satisfactory
3.1	Impact on staff and volunteers	not graded*
4.1	Impact on the local community	good
5.1	Delivering the learning offer with learners	good
9.2	Leadership and direction (including some themes from 9.3 and 9.4)	satisfactory

* In addition to the graded quality indicators, the inspectors also considered an additional theme: "impact on staff and volunteers". Evidence gathered for this highlighted that professional development opportunities in Highland are increasing the skills, confidence and capacity of staff and volunteers to take on leadership roles and that partners open training events to others.

- 4.2 The full inspection report can be found in **Appendix 2**. In summary the inspection found the following key strengths:
- Increased value placed on CLD and partnership working;
 - Community organisations improving local infrastructure and increasing learning opportunities;

- Rich landscape of vibrant, self-starting community groups increasing sense of place and reducing isolation; and
- Staff and volunteers are delivering quality services and learning opportunities which improve lives.

4.3 The following improvement priorities below have been identified by Education Scotland and a draft action plan is being developed which comprises the main actions, plus more detailed actions taken from the report findings in **Appendix 1**. The main actions identified by Education Scotland were as follows:

- Strengthen the alignment of local provision with strategic and area priorities and plans to ensure a clear shared sense of direction;
- Improve joint evaluation and performance monitoring to better capture and report CLD impact;
- Strengthen the role of communities in local planning and decision making; and
- Develop clear learning pathways for adults.

5. Next Steps

5.1 The inspection report and improvement priorities will be reported to the Highland Council's Care, Learning and Housing Committee on 14 March 2019 and following that, by the CPP Board at its 21 March 2019 meeting.

5.2 The CLDE Strategic Group will now engage with Local Community Partnerships and the Highland Adult Learning Partnership to develop specific actions to address the improvement priorities including the identification of leads for each action.

5.3 Education Scotland will revisit Highland within one year of publication of the report to check on progress. In order to build capacity for improvement Education Scotland will also maintain contact throughout the year and offer a package of support. A meeting is scheduled for 23 January to discuss an appropriate support package and it is envisaged that this will include workshops for Community Partnership reps and CLD partners.

6. Implications

6.1 Resource: the requirements for the CLD Plan will be delivered within the existing resources of the Community Planning Partnership.

6.2 Legal: there is a legal duty on the Highland Council to develop a three year CLD plan.

6.3 Community (Equality, Poverty and Rural): the focus for CLD work is on reducing disadvantage and inequality.

6.4 Climate Change/Carbon Clever: there are no climate change/carbon clever and risk implications arising from this report.

6.5 Risk: There are no new risk implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

6.6 Gaelic: There are no Gaelic implications arising from this report.

Designation: Interim Director of Care and Learning, Highland Council.

Date: 15 January 2019

Author: Ian Kyle, Children's Planning Manager

Background Papers:

Appendix 1 – Improvement Priorities

Education Scotland Improvement Priority	Education Scotland recommended action from report
Strengthen the alignment of local provision with strategic and area priorities and plans to ensure a clear shared sense of direction	Develop a robust process to enable community organisations to engage in area and locality planning as equal partners
	Improve the consistency and co-ordination of community development support Enable all community groups, activists and partners to be part of productive networks.
	Review how resources are allocated to best support progress against priorities
Improve joint evaluation and performance monitoring to better capture and report CLD impact	Work together to identify and use key data to efficiently build a collective picture of the impacts of CLD in Mid Ross
	Improve the use of performance information to benchmark and measure progress against shared priorities
	Improve the joint tracking of young people's wider achievement and skills
Strengthen the role of communities in local planning and decision making	Develop shared and ambitious targets for CLD in Mid Ross to drive improvement.
Develop clear learning pathways for adults	Together review the learning offer to ensure it meets the needs of learners and potential learners in line with planning priorities
	Strengthen the offer and progression pathways for adult learners