

Agenda Item	14.
Report No	CLH 24/19

Highland Council

Committee: Care, Learning and Housing

Date: 14 March 2019

Report Title: **Community Learning and Development Inspection – Update Report**

Report By: Interim Director of Care and Learning

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 Members to consider the improvement actions from the inspection and agree the action plan set out in **Appendix 1** which will be delivered through the Community Planning Partnership Board and Local Community Partnerships.

2. **Recommendations**

2.1 Members are asked to:

- i. Note the action plan which is based on the improvement priorities identified by Education Scotland as set out in **Appendix 1**; and
- ii. Agree the action plan set out in Appendix 1 which will be delivered through the CPP Board and Local Community Partnerships.

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 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
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
3.1	Impact on staff and volunteers	Not applicable*

* In addition to the graded quality indicators, the inspectors also considered an additional theme: “impact on staff and volunteers”. This was not considered for grading but provides additional information for the partnership on how they are operating. 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 which was published on 14 January 2019 can be found on the Education Scotland web site:
<https://education.gov.scot/assets/contactorganisationinspectionreports/cldhighlandcoun>

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 were identified by Education Scotland:

- 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. Action Plan

5.1 An action plan (found at **Appendix 1**) has been developed since the inspection. This has been developed based on the main findings identified by Education Scotland, plus more detailed actions based upon the general feedback from Inspectors. Highland's CLDE Plan which was agreed by the CPP Board and the Care, Learning and Housing Committee at their meetings in October, had already identified similar improvement priorities to those necessary as a result of the inspection. These priorities were identified through a process of self-evaluation and therefore this provides a good level of assurance that in Highland there is already good understanding amongst partners of the value and contributions which CLD can make to the overall community planning agenda and the improvements which are required to work with communities to tackle poverty and disadvantage.

5.2 The action plan has been developed:

- in discussion with the Mid Ross Community Partnership Chair and CLD lead (NB. the place based inspection was in mid-Ross);
- following consideration by the CPP Chief Officers Group at its meeting held on 23 January 2019; and
- consideration of the CLDE Group at its meeting held on 19 February 2019.

5.3 Education Scotland has offered to provide support/training workshops to support the local and Highland partners to implement the action plan. Representatives of the CLDE Strategic Group and the Mid Ross Community Partnership met with Education Scotland on 24 January 2019 where it was discussed how best Education Scotland support could best focus on improved joint evaluation and performance monitoring to better capture and report CLD impact. It was agreed that, support would focus on:

- best practice/current thinking in monitoring impact of CLD/leading onto discussion of how to measure impact against the CLDE strategic priorities/leading onto a discussion of how to measure impact of CLD at community partnership level
- facilitating and challenging a review of the performance information currently collected by the partners and discussion of how this enables impact to be

measured.

6. Next Steps

- 6.1 The inspection report and improvement priorities will be reported to the CPP Board at its 21 March 2019 meeting.
- 6.2 The CLDE Strategic Group will continue to 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. Progress will be reported regularly to the Chief Officer's Group of the CPP and be included within the annual report of CLD to Care, Learning and Housing Committee.
- 6.3 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.

7. Implications

- 7.1 Resource: the requirements for the CLD Plan will be delivered within the existing resources of the Community Planning Partnership.
- 7.2 Legal: there is a legal duty on the Highland Council to develop a three year CLD plan.
- 7.3 Community (Equality, Poverty and Rural): the focus for CLD work is on reducing disadvantage and inequality.
- 7.4 Climate Change/Carbon Clever: there are no climate change/carbon clever and risk implications arising from this report.
- 7.5 Risk: There are no new risk implications arising from the recommendations in this report.
- 7.6 Gaelic: There are no Gaelic implications arising from this report.

Designation: Interim Director of Care and Learning

Date: 13 February 2019

Author: Ian Kyle, Children's Planning Manager

Background Papers:

Appendix 1 – Improvement Priorities

Education Scotland Improvement Priority	Education Scotland recommended action from report	Lead
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	Community Learning, Development and Engagement Sub-Group
	Improve the consistency and co-ordination of community development support Enable all community groups, activists and partners to be part of productive networks.	All Community Partnerships
	Review how resources are allocated to best support progress against priorities	All Community Partnerships
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	Mid-Ross Community Partnership
	Improve the use of performance information to benchmark and measure progress against shared priorities	All Community Partnerships
	Improve the joint tracking of young people's wider achievement and skills	All Community Partnerships
Strengthen the role of communities in local planning and decision making	Develop shared and ambitious targets for CLD in Mid Ross to drive improvement.	Mid-Ross Community partnership

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	Community Learning, Development and Engagement Sub-Group /Highland Adult Learning Partnership
	Strengthen the offer and progression pathways for adult learners	Community Learning, Development and Engagement Sub-Group /Highland Adult Learning Partnership