

### **ECYE36. Falkirk Community Learning and Development (CLD) Annual Update on Action Plan 2018-2021**

The Education, Children and Young People Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services providing the annual progress update on Year 2 of Falkirk's CLD 3 Year Action Plan (2018-2021) which covered the period September 2019 – September 2020.

Based on the Regulations and Guidance, the expectation was for the Council to:-

- co-ordinate the provision of community learning and development with stakeholders;
- describe the actions that would be taken to provide and co-ordinate community learning and development between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2024;
- describe the actions of partners for the provision of community learning and development from 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2024; and
- describe any needs for providing community learning and development that would not be met between 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2024.

The Covid pandemic represented a significant challenge for Falkirk's CLD partners. The pandemic had presented challenges for Falkirk's more vulnerable learners - digital poverty and financial insecurity resulted in people being unable to access learning due to a lack of digital awareness, skills, devices or connectivity. CLD practitioners had been widely recognised as Key Workers during the pandemic. As such, CLD practitioners were involved in essential front-line responses through adapting the CLD offer to include:-

- contribution to food emergency work and medicine delivery;
- being a first point of contact for vulnerable communities;
- developing and supporting networks of volunteers;
- moving services online and addressing emerging issues around mental health and wellbeing;
- providing front line support for vulnerable children and families;
- supporting communities to develop local responses to the crisis, providing information and advice networks;
- continuing to be a front-line presence in the most deprived communities; and
- offering a blended learning model that provided young people and adults with more opportunities for learning.

Falkirk's CLD Action Plan 2018/21 highlighted 15 agreed Priority Actions. Progress had begun to be made against the actions until March 2020, when, due to Covid, priorities had to be changed and resources redirected. Since then, Falkirk's CLD partners had focused their efforts on developing services that aimed to mitigate the impact of the pandemic.

## **Decision**

**The Education, Children and Young People Executive agreed:-**

- (1) that the progress made against 6 of the Priority Areas outlined in appendix 1 to the report could be used to update the actions recorded on the current Plan, and**
- (2) to request that the Director of Children's Services brought forward the proposals for the new draft Falkirk CLD Action Plan covering 2021 – 2024 later in the year.**