

FALKIRK COUNCIL

**Subject: FALKIRK COMMUNITY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT (CLD)
ACTION PLAN**
Meeting: EDUCATION EXECUTIVE
Date: 9 JUNE 2015
Author: DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

1. INTRODUCTION/PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this paper is to:

- Provide members with the initial 3 year CLD Action Plan (2015-2018) which sets out the proposals as to how CLD partners intend to meet the need for CLD within the Falkirk Council area as required by the new Community Learning and Development (CLD) (Scotland) Regulations 2013.

2. KEY POINTS FROM THE REGULATIONS AND NEW GUIDANCE

2.1 Members will recall from the papers presented at the Education Executive Meetings in November 2014 and April 2015 that the Regulations place two obligations on the Council.

- The first is to ensure that the need for CLD provision within the Council area is assessed.
- The second is to publish a 3 year plan by 1 September 2015 setting out what CLD provision the Council will make, how it will co-ordinate provision with other providers, what action the other providers intend to take during the period of the plan and what needs will be unmet.

2.2 The Regulations and Guidance set out the following 4 key policy goals for CLD:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To ensure communities across Scotland - particularly those that are disadvantaged - have access to the CLD support they need.• To strengthen co-ordination between the full range of CLD providers, ensuring that CPPs, local authorities and other providers of public services respond appropriately to the expectations set by the CLD Strategic Guidance.• To reinforce the role of communities and learners in the assessment, planning and evaluation processes, enabling them to shape CLD provision.• To make the role and contribution of CLD more visible. |
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3. FALKIRK'S CLD ACTION PLAN

3.1 Goal 1: To ensure communities across Scotland - particularly those that are disadvantaged - have access to the CLD support they need.

In developing Falkirk's CLD Action Plan (attached as Appendix 1), Education Services and CLD partners made clear links to the demographic and socio-economic data that exists. The data was collated to ensure that it clearly identifies the CLD needs of individuals, groups and communities. The data was then mapped against what CLD provision exists across the Falkirk Council area and gaps in provision identified. This exercise was then used to establish priority outcomes and activities for Falkirk's CLD Action Plan 2015-2018. Falkirk's CLD Action Plan priority outcomes and activities are detailed below:

Priority Outcome 1 - Improving individuals core and life skills

We will meet this outcome by undertaking the following activities:

- Deliver a range of literacies and core skill provision, including health literacy, supporting digital and financial inclusion and capability.
- Deliver English as Second or Other Language (ESOL) provision.
- Deliver family learning provision.
- Deliver employability support at Stages 1 and 2 of the Strategic Employability Pipeline to young people and adults.
- Provide opportunities for individuals to gain accreditation.
- Ensure that individuals have the opportunity to progress to other learning, training, volunteering and/or employment.

Priority Outcome 2 - Improving the capacity of communities

We will meet this outcome by undertaking the following activities:

- Provide capacity building support to local communities to encourage their involvement in local decision making and the development of their solutions to local issues.
- Deliver support to communities to enable them to develop and manage services to meet community needs.
- Deliver opportunities for communities to network together, share resources and deliver joint training.

Priority Outcome 3 - Ensure that the CLD workforce will make Falkirk's CLD Action Plan a reality

We will meet this outcome by undertaking the following activities:

- Deliver support to the CLD workforce within the Falkirk Council area so that they clearly understand the vision set out in Falkirk's CLD Action Plan.
- Deliver a range of CPD opportunities to ensure that the CLD workforce can demonstrate that they have CLD values, knowledge, skills and attitudes and that they can put these into practice.
- Deliver opportunities for the CLD workforce to network together, share resources and deliver joint training

3.2 **Falkirk CLD Partnership Commitments**

Falkirk's CLD Partnership is committed to supporting the provision of universal CLD services for all and this is reflected within the Action Plan. CLD partners are well aware of the financial pressures that are being faced by the CLD sector within the Falkirk Council area. In order, to achieve this aim communities will require capacity building support to ensure that they are confident and competent in the delivery of CLD opportunities for themselves. Falkirk's CLD Partnership wish to work with individuals and communities to harness and use their skills, capacities, knowledge, passions and interests to develop more innovative and effective CLD opportunities across the Council area.

The approach detailed above will enable Falkirk's CLD Partnership to prioritise its staffing resources and CLD provision at the specific groups who have been identified as having the greatest needs:

- unemployed, not in work and/or on benefits
- Black and Minority Ethnic Groups (BME)/migrants
- offenders
- young people (including Looked After and Accommodated (LAC) by the local authority and young carers)
- vulnerable parents
- individuals who are Lesbian Gay Bisexual & Transgender (LGBT)
- those with a disability
- those with mental health problem.

Through the needs assessment undertaken to develop this Action Plan a number of barriers to participation within CLD provision were identified. These include:

- individual's awareness of CLD services
- language
- culturally non-sensitive publicity
- limited culturally sensitive CLD services
- childcare, transport, the times and the places that CLD provision was delivered at and within.

The needs assessment undertaken to develop Falkirk CLD Action Plan has indicated that there is high level of demand for employability support, including Work Clubs and IT provision such as FastTrack. CLD partners recognise that it will be very challenging to meet this level of demand within current and reducing resources. This is directly linked to the impact of the recession and welfare reform.

The needs assessment also highlighted demand for Literacy/Numeracy provision for individuals involved in the Criminal Justice System together with English as a Second or Other Language (ESOL) provision for ethnic minority groups. Both are cases where demand is outstripping supply.

Falkirk's CLD Partnership is committed to working together to, as far as possible, realign provision and to remove the barriers detailed above.

3.3 Goal 2: To strengthen co-ordination between the full range of CLD providers, ensuring that CPPs, local authorities and other providers of public services respond appropriately to the expectations set by the CLD Strategic Guidance.

Education Services will continue to support Falkirk CLD Partnership. The Partnership will meet 4 times per year to coordinate action and to monitor and evaluate progress in implementing Falkirk's CLD Action.

The primary outcomes and activities detailed above are aligned to Falkirk's Single Outcome Agreement and Falkirk Councils Corporate Plan. The Partnership will use Covalent to monitor, evaluate and report on the impact of the CLD Action Plan.

The framework provided by Falkirk's CLD Action Plan will be implemented locally within the seven CLD Learning Communities (secondary school clusters) across the Falkirk Council area. Falkirk's CLD Partnership recognises the importance of developing local focussed CLD outcomes that deliver real change at individual and community levels. Falkirk's CLD Action Plan framework will provide local providers with direction on what CLD should be delivering locally. This in turn, will enable clarity of reporting at a local level to Falkirk Council and Falkirk's Community Planning Partnership.

Falkirk CLD Partnership Commitments

As part of this approach, local CLD partnerships, involving local CLD delivery partners, have been established. These locality Partnerships will develop local CLD Plans for their respective learning communities. The local CLD Action Plans will in turn link to Local Community Plans. The local CLD Action Plans will be monitored regularly and progress reported to Falkirk CLD Partnership, who in turn will report to progress to the Council and Falkirk's Community Planning Partnership.

3.4 Goal 3: To reinforce the role of communities and learners in the assessment, planning and evaluation processes, enabling them to shape CLD provision.

The CLD Regulations places a requirement on Falkirk Council Education Services to initiate, maintain and facilitate a process which ensures the CLD within the Falkirk Council is secured in such a way that it:

- Identifies target individuals and groups.
- Considers the needs of those target individuals and groups for CLD.
- Assesses the degree to which those needs are already being met.
- Identifies barriers to the adequate and efficient provision of relevant CLD.

In meeting the Regulations, Falkirk Council Education Services has involved and consulted with a large number of individuals, groups and CLD providers within the Falkirk Council area. This has been undertaken as part of individual and groups participation within CLD provision and/or as part of the process being undertaken through local community planning. There has been over 10,000 young people and over 20,000 adults, including target individuals and groups, consulted in last 2 years and they have provided a rich data source on peoples "lived experience" and what their future CLD needs may be.

Falkirk CLD Partnership Commitment

The approach taken by Falkirk CLD Partnership has ensured that the development of the CLD Plan is clearly embedded within Falkirk's approach to strategic and local community planning. CLD partners see this approach as being of clear benefit as it clearly demonstrates the strengthened approach to the co-ordination of CLD provision across the Falkirk Council area. This approach also ensures that communities and learners can be involved in assessment, planning and evaluation of CLD provision within their local communities.

3.5 **Goal 4: To make the role and contribution of CLD more visible.**

With the support of Education Scotland, Education Services has developed an impact measurement tool for CLD provision titled "Progress Files". CLD partners have received training on how to utilise Progress Files and they have agreed that they will use Progress Files to evidence the impact of their CLD provision. Progress Files will also be used to aid public reporting purposes and celebrating the extensive work that community groups make to vibrancy of the Falkirk Council area.

Falkirk CLD Partnership Commitment

Falkirk CLD Partnership will produce an annual report detailing who it has implemented the CLD Action Plan and what impact CLD partners are making within the Falkirk Council area..

4. **TIMESCALES**

- 4.1 The Regulations and Guidance state that the Development Plan must be in place for **1 September 2015**.

5. **NEXT STEPS/WAY FORWARD**

- 5.1 To comply with the Regulations Education Services are required to publish the 3 year CLD Action Plan (as Appendix 1) on 1 September 2015.

6. **EQUALITY AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Equality: Regulations and Guidance make specific reference to compliance with the Equality Act.

Financial: No additional resources are provided by the Scottish Government to develop these plans. No additional staff costs would result from this proposal.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 That Education Executive agrees:

- (i) the initial 3 year (2015-2018) CLD Action Plan (as Appendix 1);**
- (ii) that Education Services publish the Action Plan by 1 September 2015; and**
- (iii) that an update report is prepared that measures the progress in implementing/achieving the outcomes listed within the Action Plan and brought to the Education Executive at a later date.**

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Director of Children's Services

Date:

Contact Officer: Mark Meechan, ext 6692

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL

Falkirk's Community Learning and Development Action Plan 2015-2018

A Introduction

The purpose of Community Learning and Development (CLD) is to support people to empower themselves, individually and collectively, to make positive changes in their lives and in their communities, through learning.

Within the National Performance Framework, the Scottish Government states that CLD should focus on:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved life chances for people; of all ages, through learning, personal development and active citizenship. • Stronger, more resilient, supportive, influential and inclusive communities. |
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B Background to the CLD Action Plan
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Falkirk Council is required to meet the Community Learning and Development (Scotland) Regulations 2013. These Regulations, and subsequent guidance supports the achievement of these policy goals:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure communities across Scotland - particularly those who are disadvantaged - have access to the CLD Support they need • To strengthen co-ordination between the full range of CLD providers, ensuring that community planning partnerships, local authorities and other providers of public services respond appropriately to the expectations set by the CLD Strategic Guidance • To reinforce the role of communities and learners in the assessment, planning and evaluation processes, enabling them to shape CLD provision • To make the role and contribution of CLD more visible |
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The CLD Regulations places a requirement on Falkirk Council Education Services to initiate, maintain and facilitate a process which ensures the CLD within the Falkirk Council is secured in such a way that it:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies target individuals and groups • Considers the needs of those target individuals and groups for CLD • Assesses the degree to which those needs are already being met • Identifies barriers to the adequate and efficient provision of relevant CLD |
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In meeting the Regulations, Falkirk Council Education Services has involved and consulted with a large number of individuals, groups and CLD providers within the Falkirk Council area. The development of Falkirk's CLD Action Plan has been undertaken with the context of a rigorous assessment of CLD needs drawing from a range of statistical data sources and engagement and consultation with individuals, communities and organisations. There has been over 10,000 young people and over 20,000 adults, including target individuals and groups, consulted in last 2 years and they have provided a rich data source on peoples "lived experience" and what their future CLD needs will be.

Falkirk's CLD Partnership in its present form came together in its present form in 2010. The Partnership has taken a lead in assessing what CLD provision is presently being delivered across the Falkirk Council area and whether or not this is meeting then identified CLD needs of target groups within the Falkirk Council area.

The approach taken has ensured that the development of the Falkirk CLD Action Plan is clearly embedded within Falkirk's approach to strategic and local community planning. This work is ongoing and will inform future narratives of Falkirk's CLD Action Plan.

C National and Local Policy Context

The key national and local policies and plans that guide the work of the CLD sector within the Falkirk Council area are detailed below.

(i) National Policy Context:

- Adult Learning in Scotland Statement of Ambition (2014)
- Adult Literacies in Scotland 2020 (2010)
- Opportunities for All: Supporting all young people, to participate in post-16 learning, training or work (2012)
- Children and Young People (Scotland) Act (2014)
- Community Empowerment and Renewal Bill (2014)
- Curriculum for Excellence (2004 onwards)
- National Youth Work Strategy: Our Ambitions for Improving the Life Chances of Young People in Scotland (2014)
- Equally Well: Report of the Ministerial task force on Health Inequalities (2008)

(ii) Falkirk's Policy Context:

- Falkirk Single Outcome Agreement
- Falkirk Council Corporate Plan
- Falkirk Council Education Services Service Plan
- Falkirk Literacies Action Plan
- Falkirk's English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Action Plan
- Falkirk Council Employability Strategy
- Falkirk Council Poverty Strategy
- Falkirk Council Participation Strategy

This list is not exhaustive and further information on the strategies and plans that impact on CLD is detailed in Appendix 2.

D Universal and Targeted CLD Provision

Falkirk's CLD Partnership is committed to supporting the provision of universal CLD services for all and this is reflected within the Action Plan. However, CLD partners are well aware of the financial pressures that are being faced by the CLD sector within the Falkirk Council area and that in order to achieve this aim communities will require capacity building support to ensure that they are confident and competent in the delivery of CLD opportunities for themselves. Falkirk's CLD Partnership wish to work with individuals and communities to liberate their skills, capacities, knowledge passions and interests to develop more innovative and effective CLD opportunities across the Council area.

The approach detailed above will enable Falkirk's CLD Partnership to target CLD provision at specific groups who have the greatest need including unemployed people, BME/migrants, offenders, young people, including LAC and young carers, vulnerable parents, individuals who are LGBT and those with a disability or mental health problem.

E Barriers to Participation

Through the needs assessment undertaken to develop this Action Plan barriers to participation were identified. These include awareness of CLD services, language/culturally non-sensitive publicity, culturally sensitive CLD services, childcare, transport, the times and the places that CLD provision was delivered at and within. Falkirk's CLD Partnership is committed to working together to, as far as possible, remove the barriers detailed above.

F Falkirk CLD Action Plans Priority Outcomes and Activities

(i) Priority Outcome 1

Improving individuals core and life skills

Activities

- Deliver a range of literacies and core skill provision, including health literacy, supporting digital and financial inclusion.
- Deliver ESOL provision.
- Deliver family learning provision.
- Deliver employability support at Stages 1 and 2 of the Strategic Employability Pipeline to young people and adults.
- Provide opportunities for individuals to gain accreditation.
- Ensure that individuals have the opportunity to progress to other learning, training, volunteering and/or employment.

(ii) Priority Outcome 2

Improving the capacity of communities

Activities

- Provide capacity building support to local communities to encourage their involvement in local decision making and the development of their solutions to local issues.
- Deliver support to communities to enable them to develop and manage services to meet community needs.
- Deliver opportunities for communities to network together, share resources and deliver joint training.

(iii) Priority Outcome 3

Ensure that the CLD workforce will make Falkirk's CLD Action Plan a reality

Activities

- Deliver support to the CLD workforce within the Falkirk Council area so that they clearly understand the vision set out in Falkirk's CLD Action Plan.
- Deliver a range of CPD opportunities to ensure that the CLD workforce can demonstrate that they have CLD values, knowledge, skills and attitudes and that they can put these into practice.
- Deliver opportunities for the CLD workforce to network together, share resources and deliver joint training

G **Monitoring and Evaluating Falkirk's CLD Action Plan**

Falkirk's CLD Partnership is committed to joint monitoring and evaluation of the impact of Falkirk's CLD Action Plan. Falkirk Council Education Services will continue to support and lead Falkirk's CLD Partnership. The Partnership will meet 4 times per year to co-ordinate action and to monitor and evaluate progress in implementing Falkirk's CLD Action Plan.

The primary outcomes detailed within Falkirk's CLD Action Plan are aligned to Falkirk Single Outcome Agreement and Falkirk Councils Corporate Plan. Falkirk's CLD Partnership, through Education Services, will use Covalent to monitor, evaluate and report on the impact of the CLD Action Plan.

The framework provided by Falkirk's CLD Action Plan will be implemented locally within the seven CLD Learning Communities across the Falkirk Council area. Falkirk's CLD Partnership recognises the importance of developing locally focussed CLD outcomes that deliver real change at individual and community levels. Falkirk's CLD Action Plan framework will provide local providers with direction on what CLD should be delivering locally. This in turn, will enable clarity of reporting at a local level to Falkirk Council and Falkirk's Community Planning Partnership.

As part of this approach, local CLD partnerships, involving a wide range of local CLD delivery partners, have been established and they will be developing local CLD Plans for their respective learning community. The local CLD Plans will link directly to Local Community Plans. The local CLD Action Plans will be monitored regularly and progress reported to Falkirk CLD Partnership, who in turn will report to Falkirk Council Education Executive and to Falkirk's Community Planning Partnership.

Further CLD Action Plan for the Falkirk Council area will be published at three yearly intervals from the **1 September 2015**.

For more information please contact:

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Appendices to Falkirk's CLD Action Plan

Appendix 1-Partners Involved in the Development of the CLD Action Plan

- Skills Development Scotland
- Forth Valley NHS
- Forth Valley College
- Workers Education Association
- Youth Scotland
- Forth Valley Carers Project
- Falkirk Council Employment and Training Unit
- Scottish Health Council
- Royal National Institute for the Blind
- Paragon Housing Association
- Link Housing Association
- Salvation Army
- Falkirk Council Education Services
- Falkirk Community Trust
- Falkirk Council Corporate and Neighbourhood Services
- Falkirk Council Development Services
- Falkirk Council Social Work Services
- Communities along the Carron
- Age Scotland
- CVS Falkirk
- Falkirk Credit Union
- Falkirk Food Bank
- Falkirk and District Mental Health Association
- LGBT Scotland
- Fire Scotland
- Police Scotland
- Home Start
- Forth Valley Independent Living
- Forth Valley Migrant Network
- Central Scotland Green Network
- Forth Valley Advocacy Network
- Scottish Natural Heritage
- Alzheimer Scotland
- Falkirk Football Community Foundation
- Department of Work and Pensions
- British Red Cross
- Forth Environment Link
- Sports Scotland
- Coalfields Regeneration Trust
- Youth Link Scotland

Appendix 2-Policy Context: Relevant National and Local Strategies and Plans

National Strategies

- Achieving a Sustainable Future: Regeneration Strategy (2011)
- Achieving Our Potential: A Framework to Tackle Poverty and Income Inequality in Scotland (2008)
- Adult ESOL Strategy for Scotland (2007)
- Adult Literacy and Numeracy in Scotland (2001)
- Career Information, Advice and Guidance in Scotland: Framework for Service Redesign and Improvement (2011)
- Delivering a Healthy Future (2007)
- Digital Britain (2009)
- Early Years Framework (2008)
- Education Working For All! Commission for Developing Scotland's Young Workforce (2014)
- Equality Act (2010)
- Equally Well: Report of the Ministerial Task Force on Health Inequalities (2008)
- Getting it Right for Every Child (2010 onwards) Human Rights Act (1998) Let's Make Scotland More Active: A Strategy for Physical Activity (2003)
- More Choices More Chances: A Strategy to Reduce the Proportion of Young People not in Education, Employment or Training in Scotland (2006)
- National Parenting Strategy: Making a positive difference to children and young people through parenting (2012)
- Offender Learning: Options for Improvement (2010)
- Opportunities for All: Supporting all young people to participate in post-16 learning, training or work (2012)
- Putting Learnings at the Centre: Delivering our Ambitious for Post-16 Education (2011)
- Reaching Higher: Building on the Success of Sport 21 (2007)
- Renewing Scotland's Public Services: Priorities for Reform in Response to the Christie Commission (2011)
- Reshaping Care for Older People: A Programme for Change 2011-2021 (2011)
- Children and Young People (Scotland) Act (2014)
- Community Empowerment and Renewal Bill (2014)
- National Youth Work Strategy: Our Ambitions for Improving the Life Changes of Young People in Scotland (2014)

Local Strategies and Plans

- Falkirk Single Outcome Agreement
- Falkirk Council Corporate Plan
- Falkirk Council Education Services Service Plan
- Falkirk Literacies Action Plan
- Falkirk's English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Action Plan
- Falkirk Council Employability Strategy
- Falkirk Council Poverty Strategy
- Falkirk Council Participation Strategy
- Falkirk Council Education Services Learning to Achieve Strategy