

#### **Falkirk Council**

Title: Falkirk Community Learning and Development (CLD) Annual

Update on Action Plan 2018-2021

Meeting: Education, Children's and Young People Executive

Date: September 2019

Submitted By: Director of Children's Services

# 1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Education, Children's and Young People's Executive with the annual update on Falkirk's CLD Action Plan (2018-2021).

#### 2. Recommendations

#### 2.1 The Education Executive is asked to:

- note progress on the updated Action Plan and the progress made on the 3 year CLD Action Plan 2018-2021 (as per Appendix 1); and
- agree that an annual update report detailing the progress and impact of Falkirk's CLD Action Plan 2018-2021 is brought to the Education, Children's and Young People's Executive in September 2020.

# 3. Background

- 3.1 The Education Executive agreed Falkirk's CLD 3 year Action Plan (2018-2021) on 8 September 2018 and agreed to receive an annual report detailing progress and impact during 2018/19.
- 3.2 Falkirk's CLD Action Plan (2018-2021) sets out how Falkirk's CLD partners intend to deliver and meet the CLD needs within the Falkirk Council area as required by the Community Learning and Development (CLD) (Scotland) Regulations 2013.

# Key Points from the CLD Regulations and Guidance Notes

- 3.3 The Requirements for Community Learning and Development (Scotland) Regulations 2013 place two obligations on the Council:
  - The first is to ensure that the need for CLD provision within the Council area is assessed; and

- The second is to publish a 3 year plan 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.
- 3.4 In November 2017, the Scottish Government published revised guidance on Community Learning and Development Planning 2018-2021. The purpose of the revised guidance is to support local authorities and their partners to meet their statutory obligations.

#### Key Aims of the CLD Guidance

- 3.5 Some of the key aims of the guidance and legislation which related to Community Learning and Development (CLD) are:
  - to secure adequate and efficient provision of CLD in the area;
  - to ensure that the foundation of CLD delivery is a joint assessment, in partnership with learners and communities, of the needs, strengths and opportunities that exist; and
  - to ensure that CLD programmes with an explicit learning focus are designed with participants and promote their educational and social development.

# Falkirk's Partners Shared Understanding of CLD

- 3.6 Falkirk's CLD partners have a shared understanding of the purpose of community learning and development and this is detailed below:
  - Falkirk's CLD partners work with individuals to support them build their
    core skills, knowledge, understanding and confidence in order to be more
    effective in their personal, family, community and working lives. Central to
    this process is the voluntary engagement of the individual. Core skills are
    the ability to communicate, use numbers and ICT effectively in order to
    handle information, express ideas and opinions, make decisions and solve
    problems.
  - Falkirk's CLD partners offer community capacity building support to
    enable communities to understand, inform and influence the decision
    making processes that impact on their lives. Community capacity
    building can support communities to address the inequalities that act as
    barriers to participation in society to thereby effect sustainable change.

#### 4. Considerations

4.1 Progress Made On 2018/21 CLD Action Plan

Falkirk's CLD Action Plan 2018/21 contains **15** Priority Actions and progress is being made on all Priority Actions. During 2018/19, Falkirk's CLD partners

have focused their efforts on developing interventions and projects that particularly aim to mitigate the impact of poverty and reduce inequalities.

# 4.2 <u>Examples of Area Where Progress Has Been Made</u>

In order to give some examples of the progress made a number of the Priority Actions contained within Falkirk's CLD Action Plan have been detailed below:

# Falkirk's CLD Action Plan Theme: Improve Core Skills and Employability

(i) Priority Action 4: Falkirk's CLD Partners will reduce the number of 16-24 year olds who are not in education, employment and training

In 2018/19 Falkirk Council and its partners have secured further investment in employability projects. Partners have included Falkirk Council ETU Service, Falkirk Council CLD Service, Link Academy, Forth Valley Community Focus, Cyrenians, Salvation Army and Scottish Waterways.

The outcome/impact of this work has been that the partners have contributed to a rise in the percentage of young people moving into a positive destination from **94%** to **96%** and also an increase in the participation measure to **94.6%** from **92.4%**.

An example of this work are Link Academy's Step On and Step it Up courses which offer young people the opportunity to develop their confidence, self-esteem and employability skills as well as gaining valuable work experience and gaining an SQA accreditation.

(ii) Priority Action 6: Falkirk's CLD Partners will develop a range of diverse CLD interventions aimed at supporting vulnerable people into work

Falkirk Council Services in partnership with the Department of Work & Pensions, Skills Development Scotland, Forth Valley College, Forth Valley Community Focus, Cyrenians, Salvation Army, WEA, Scottish Waterways and NHS Forth Valley have further developed employability services with the Falkirk Council area. Some of the services include:

- Fair Start to Work
- Parental Employment Support
- Supported Employment
- CLD's/WEA's Employability Groups

The outcome/impact of this work has been that those participating in the above have increased their participation within the labour market, reduced their levels of economic inactivity, increased their skills levels and improved their financial position (better off in work).

For example, over 70% of participants in CLD's/WEA's Employability Groups achieve a positive destination (Volunteering, training, further education, employment), with 1 in 4 securing employment.

# **CLD Action Plan Theme: Improve Health and Wellbeing**

(iii) Priority Action 14: Falkirk's CLD Partners will ensure that, where possible, physical activity will be integrated within any CLD activity

In February 2019, Falkirk's CLD partners were involved in an event to develop actions to move forward 5 "tricky" health and wellbeing issues. The "tricky issues" were:

- Smoking and Pregnancy
- Physical Activity and Young People
- Physical Activity and Adults
- Breastfeeding
- Food Issues

Some of the outcomes/impacts that have already been demonstrated within these areas are highlighted below:

<u>Smoking and Pregnancy</u> – materials are being produced to provide targeted support to CLD and 3<sup>rd</sup> sector staff to raise the issue of smoking with women, their partners and those they live with. These will be focus tested and ready for use by mid September.

<u>Physical Activity and Young People</u> – A Physical Education, Physical Activity and Sport (PEPAS) Group has been established with the aim of developing a coordinated approach to promotion and development of physical education, physical activity and sport.

Physical Activity and Adults – Falkirk has been named as the UK's Best Neighbourhood for Walking by Ramblers UK (public vote). Active Forth and Community Walking Programmes have seen a 47% increase in referrals from 2017/18 to 2018/19. They have also seen a 51% increase in referrals in the 45 + age group. The Employer Physical Activity Exemplar Scheme has seen engagement from seven organisations from Falkirk Community Planning Partnership. A group has formed to work together on the challenges of implementation across organisations.

<u>Breastfeeding</u> – New Breastfeeding Welcome Scotland Scheme has been launched by Scottish Government but resources to sign-up local organisations and businesses are not yet in place. The "Global Big Latch On" took place on Saturday 4 August at The Kelpies Cafe and was a local celebration of World Breastfeeding Week.

<u>Food Issues</u> - Working towards a Community Food Pantry model in 3 Falkirk communities which provides a dignified approach to food. This further details are provided in Priority Action 15.

(iv) Priority Action 15: Falkirk's CLD Partners will increase food skills of vulnerable people and increase opportunities for them to access affordable food choices/activities within their local communities.

Falkirk Council Services, Falkirk Community Trust, Falkirk Foodbank, Forth Valley Community Focus, Salvation Army, Vineyard Church, St Andrews Church, Dennyloanhead Community Hall, Kersiebank Community Project, Denny Community Support Group, Corra Foundation, Roots Group, Westquarter Community Project and NHS Forth Valley have all been working to ensure that vulnerable people have increased food skills and opportunities for access affordable food choices/activities within their local communities.

The outcome/impact of this work has been that **13,651** meals were provided to **2641** children and **993** adults during the 2018 Summer Food initiative.

**91%** of the people who participated within activities that focused on the development of food skills reported that it had led to an increase in confidence in cooking, with 100% reporting a continued use their skills following the activity.

There has been an increase of 100% (6 to 12) in the number of food access points where vulnerable people can access food.

#### CLD Action Plan Theme: Increase Community Engagement

(v) Priority Action 8: Falkirk's CLD Partners will work with communities to co-design, co-produce and co-delivering services

Falkirk Council Services, Falkirk Community Trust, Falkirk CVS and other CLD partners have been working with communities to build community capacity in order that community organisation can fulfil their potential.

The outcome/impact of this work has been that Falkirk's CLD partners have had enquiries from/worked with **821** community organisations. **26** community groups have been assisted to explore the management of community assets. As result, community partnership have been developed linked to Woodlands Games Hall, the Sports Community Hubs in Camelon and Grangemouth and Dawson Sports Development Association.

**9** community organisations have been supported to address food insecurity/food poverty within their communities. This has led the establishment of a consortium that is focussed on developing a

Community Food Pantry model. The consortium has submitted an application to the Investing in Communities Fund-Scottish Government to further develop elements of community growing, food education activities, advice services, community food plans, volunteer pathways, taking a community response to food insecurity and community capacity building.

# 4.3 Other relevant issues

#### (i) Enabled Communities-Transform Lives

In November 2019, Falkirk's CLD partners are planning to hold a "Celebration of Learning and Development with Falkirk Communities titled "Enabled Communities-Transform Lives". The purpose of the event will be to provide CLD partners and community representatives with the opportunity to explore what progress is being with the delivery of Falkirk CLD Action Plan. The will involve partners and community representatives in:

- Celebrating Falkirk's CLD partners contribution to the CLD Action Plan
- Reviewing Falkirk's CLD Action Plan Priority Actions and identify areas for improvement/development.
- Considering ways in which the CLD approach can further contribute to Falkirk's CLD Action Plan.
- Agreeing Falkirk's CLD Action Plan Priority Actions for 2020/21.

# (ii) <u>Forth Valley and West Lothian CLD Regional Improvement</u> Collaborative

In November 2017, the Forth Valley and West Lothian CLD Regional Improvement Collaborative (CLD RIC) was established. The CLD RIC involves CLD practitioners from Falkirk Council, Stirling Council, Clackmannanshire Council and West Lothian Council areas.

The aim of the CLD RIC was agreed to be to improve literacy and numeracy, along with closing the attainment gap, improving the health and wellbeing of children, and making sure more school leavers go on to positive destinations (such as college, university, training or employment).

#### (iii) RIC Priority for 2018/19

Since November 2018, the priority for the CLD RIC has been to collaborate on a peer evaluation exercise. This has been a positive experience and as a result, each CLD Regional Collaborative partner is embedding peer evaluation within its Authorities approach to supporting continuous improvement.

### (iv) RIC Priority Areas in 2019/20

The priorities for 2018/19 are to focus on developing practice in the following areas;

- Family learning
- Peer Evaluation
- Tracking/monitoring of young people's participation in wider community activity

The work of the CLD RIC is now being included within Forth Valley and West Lothian CLD Regional Improvement Collaborative Plan.

# **Timescales**

4.4 None

# 5. Implications

#### **Financial**

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

Legal

5.2 None

Risk

5.3 None

# **Equalities**

5.4 Regulations and Guidance make specific reference to compliance with the Equality Act.

#### Sustainability/Environmental Impact

5.5 None

#### 6. Conclusion

Falkirk's CLD Action Plan 2018-2021 continues to offer partners, including communities, the opportunity to work together to deliver preventative and early intervention activities that will help address the inequalities arising from social-economic and other forms of disadvantage.

# **Director of Children's Services**

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8 August 2019 Date:

Appendix 1 – CLD Action Plan 2018/10 Update

List of Background Papers - None

Falkirk CLD Action Pla	n 2018/19 Progress Update - 08/08/19								
CLD Action Plan Theme	Priority Action Falkirk's CLD Partners will	Link to SOLD Priorities	Link to SOLD Outcomes	Who carried out the action	Resource allocation	Timescale for Action	Group(s) the action is targeted at	Evidence of Impact	Status
Improve Health and Wellbeing	Develop the capacity of the public, voluntary and community sectors to meet the potential demands for social prescribing.	Improving Mental Health & Wellbeing	People will live full, independent lives within supportive communities	Falkirk's Health and Social Care Partnership, Falkirk CVS and Falkirk Council CLD Service.	Resource allocation from Falkirk's Health and Social Care Partnership to employ 3 Community Link Workers.	Community Link Workers to be in post by 31 March 2020.	Individuals who would benefit from a social prescription.	None as yet.	
	2) Develop the capacity of the public, voluntary and community sectors to meet the potential demands for support to people with complex needs, people with disabilities and older people to have access to activities in their own communities	Improving Mental Health & Wellbeing	People will live full, independent lives within supportive communities	Falkirk's Health and Social Care Partnership, Falkirk CVS and Falkirk Council CLD Service.	Resource allocation from Falkirk's Health and Social Care Partnership to employ 3 CLD Workers	3 CLD Workers to be in post by 31 October 2019.	Public, voluntary and community organisation who wish to offer activities.	None as yet.	
	3) Develop evidence based practice with children, young people, adults and families that seeks to improve their mental health and wellbeing.	Improving Mental Health & Wellbeing	People will live full, independent lives within supportive communities	Falkirk Council CLD Service, Falkirk Council Employment and Training Unit, Link Academy and Cyrenians.	Resource allocation from Falkirk Council CLD Service, Falkirk Council Employment and Training Unit, Link Academy and Cyrenians.	31 July 2019. To be reviewed by 31 March 2020.	Children, young people, adults and families who would benefit from improved mental heath and well being.	The use of transformative evaluation methodology, SHANARI Evaluation Wheel and project evaluations with children, young people, adults and families has demonstrated the positive impact that CLD activities are having in terms of improving participants health and well being. Individuals report that they feel	
	7) Ensure that they have appropriate information, advice and guidance and referral routes in place support vulnerable people.	Improving Mental Health & Wellbeing	Our area will be a fairer & more equal place to live	Falkirk CVS and Falkirk Council CLD Service.	Resource allocation from Falkirk CVS and Falkirk Council CLD Service.	30 June 2019. To be reviewed by 31 March 2020.	Vulnerable individuals who would benefit from appropriate information, advice and guidance and referrals.	Through CPD delivery staff now have raised their awareness of appropriate information, advice, guidance and referral routes for participants and this has led to improvements in outcomes for individuals.	
	13) Ensure that people who participate within CLD activities have access to and are supported to use health services.	Improving Mental Health & Wellbeing	Our population will be healthier	Falkirk Council CLD Service and Employment and Training Unit.	Resource allocation from Falkirk Council CLD Service and Falkirk Council Employment and Training Unit.	30 June 2019. To be reviewed by 31 March 2020.	Participants who attend CLD activities.	Where appropriate, participants who wish to do so are supported to complete a health questionnaire and, if appropriate, they are referred to health professional. In some cases, access is provided to health professionals on site.	
	14) Ensure that, where possible, physical activity will be integrated within any CLD activity.	Improving Mental Health & Wellbeing	Our population will be healthier	Falkirk Council CLD Service and community based youth groups.	Resource allocation from Falkirk Council CLD Service.	30 June 2019. To be reviewed by 31 March 2020.	Participants who attend CLD activities.	Falkirk Council CLD Service reviewed all its youth work provision and identified that all provision now includes an element of physical activity. This impact/outcome is that 470 young people who participate with CLD's youth work services on a weekly basis will be involved in physical activity for at least 1 hour.	
	15) Increase food skills of vulnerable people and increase opportunities for them to access affordable food choices/activities within their local communities.	Addressing the Impact of poverty on children		Falkirk Council CLD Service, Falkirk Council Corporate and Housing Services, Falkirk CVS, Falkirk Community Trust, Falkirk Foodbank, NHS Forth Valley and community organisations.	Resource allocation from Falkirk Council CLD Service and Falkirk Corporate and Housing Services. This include grant allocations of £52,500 from Falkirk Council.	2018 - 2019	Individuals and families who are at risk of food insecurity/poverty.	The outcome/impact of this work has been that 13,651 meals were provided to 2641 children and 993 adults during the 2018 Summer Food Initiative. 91% of the people who participated within activities that focused on the development of food skills reported that it had led to an increase in confidence in cooking, with100% reporting a continued use their skills following the activity. There has been an increase of 100% (6 to 12) in the number of food access points where vulnerable people can access food.	

Falkirk CLD Action Pla	Falkirk CLD Action Plan 2018/19 Progress Update - 08/08/19									
CLD Action Plan Theme	Priority Action Falkirk's CLD Partners will	Link to SOLD Priorities	Link to SOLD Outcomes	Who carried out the action	Resource allocation	Timescale for Action	Group(s) the action is targeted at	33.56	Status	
Improve Core Skills and Employability	4) Reduce the number of 16-24 year olds who are not in education, employment and training.	Maximising job creation and employability	We will grow our local economy to y secure successful business, investment and employment	Falkirk Council CLD Service, Falkirk Council Employment and Training Unit, Skills Development Scotland, Forth Valley College, NHS Forth Valley, SERCO and third sector organisations.	Resource allocation from Pupil Equity Fund, Scottish Government, European Social Fund and the BIG Lottery.	2018 - 2019	Children, young people and families identified as vulnerable or who have Free School Meal Entitlement.	During 2018/19, Falkirk's CLD partners have developed and delivered the following programmes: Project Search, Second Chance Apprenticeships, Family Firm, Centre Forward, Activity Agreements and Mentoring Support. The outcome/impact of this work has been that the partners have contributed contribute to a rise in the percentage of young people moving into a positive destination from 94% to 96% and also an increase in the participation measure from 92.4%.to 94.6%.		
	5) Develop a range of diverse CLD interventions aimed at reducing the poverty related attainment gap	Addressing the Impact of poverty on children	We will grow our local economy to secure successful business, investment and employment	Falkirk Council CLD Service.	Resource allocation from schools via Pupil Equity Fund and Falkirk Council CLD Service.	l '	Children, young people and families identified as vulnerable or who have Free School Meal Entitlement.	Falkirk's CLD patterns are aware that effective engagement can empower young people through providing opportunities to develop leadership skills, take responsibility, make decisions and make a real and lasting contribution to society. The outcome/impact of this work has contributed to 86% of the young people achieving a positive destination. This work also led to an 84% increase in the young peoples school attendance. Also in 2018/19, CLD partners have developed Relationship First Project and Falkirk's Attainment Challenge Project.		
	6) Develop a range of diverse CLD interventions aimed at supporting vulnerable people into work	creation	We will grow our local economy to y secure successful business, investment and employment	Falkirk Council CLD Service, Falkirk Council Employment and Training Unit, Skills Development Scotland, Department of Work & Pensions, Forth Valley College, NHS Forth Valley SERCO and third sector organisations.	Equity Fund, Scottish Government Parental Employment Support and	2019 - 2021		During 2018/19, Falkirk's CLD partners have developed and delivered the following programmes: Fair Start to Work, Parental Employment Support, Supported Employment, Participation Support/Barrier Removal, Work Clubs and Digital Skills for Work. The outcome/impact of this work has been that those participating in the above have increased their participation within the labour market, reduced their levels of economic inactivity, increased their skills levels and improved their financial position (better off in work).		
	9) Develop services that promote digital inclusion and literacies.	Maximising job creation and employability	Our area will be a fairer & more equal place to live	Falkirk Council CLD Service, Falkirk Council Corporate Services and third sector organisations.	I	31 July 2019. To be reviewed by 31 March 2020.	Individuals who would benefit from digital learning, ESOL and literacies learning.	Falkirk CLD partners have developed and delivered the following courses/programmes: Digital Inclusion (Online Access), Digital Skills for Life, Dedicated literacies Provision, ESOL and ESOL for the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme. An impact/outcome of this work was that 3374 people engaged in Digital Skills for Life and they report that this has had significant positive impacts on their personal, family, community and working lives.		

Falkirk CLD Action Plan 2018/19 Progress Update - 08/08/19										
CLD Action Plan Theme	Priority Action Falkirk's CLD Partners will	Link to SOLD Priorities	Link to SOLD Outcomes	Who carried out the action	Resource allocation	Timescale for Action	Group(s) the action is targeted at	Evidence of Impact	Status	
Increase Community Engagement	8) Work with communities to co-design, co- produce and co-delivering services.	Addressing the Impact of poverty on children.	Our area will be a fairer & more equal place to live	Falkirk Council Corporate and Housing Services, Falkirk Council CLD Service, Falkirk Community Trust and Falkirk CVS.	Resource allocation from Falkirk Council Corporate and Housing Services, Falkirk Council CLD Service, Falkirk Council Childrens Services, Falkirk Community Trust and Falkirk CVS.	31 July 2019. To be reviewed by 31 March 2020.	Communities who wish to co-design, co-produce and co-deliver services.	The outcome/impact of this work has been that Falkirk's CLD partners have had over 1450 enquiries from community organisations who wished assistance with volunteer management, funding, governance, organisational development, socially enterprising activity, representation, succession and sustainability planning . 26 community groups have been assisted to explore the management of community assets. As a result, community partnership have been developed linked to Woodlands Games Hall, the Sports Community Hubs in Camelon and Grangemouth, Dawson Sports Development Association, together with 5 Community Hall Management Committees. Partners have also contributed to the Development of Falkirk Food Consortium. The Consortium developed a funding bid which has been submitted to Scottish Government 'Investing in Communities' Fund.		
	11) Prioritise engagement with communities who have protected characteristics to ensure that they have a voice within the locality planning and community action planning process.	Addressing the Impact of poverty on children.	Our area will be a fairer & more equal place to live	Falkirk Council Corporate and Housing Services, Falkirk Council CLD Service, Falkirk Council Childrens Services, Falkirk Community Trust, Central Scotland Regional Equality Council, Article 12 and Falkirk CVS.	Resource allocation from Falkirk Council Corporate and Housing Services, Falkirk Council CLD Service, Falkirk Council Childrens Services, Falkirk Community Trust and Falkirk CVS.	31 July 2019. To be reviewed by 31 March 2020.	Protected characteristics communities who wish to have a voice within the locality planning and community action planning process.	Falkirk's CLD partners have made a clear commitment to work in partnership with "seldom heard communities" to improve outcomes with and for local communities. Within the east and west localities, partners have supported the participation of protected characteristics communities within the locality planning process. The impact/outcome of this work has been that the voices of traveller and gypsy communities, elderly individuals, disabled people, people experiencing social/economic barriers and people from BME communities have been supported to become involved in community planning.		
Mitigate the impact of Poverty	10) Develop services that mitigate the impact of welfare reform.	Addressing the Impact of poverty on children	Our area will be a fairer & more equal place to live	Falkirk Council Corporate and Housing Services, Falkirk Council CLD Service, Falkirk Council Childrens Services, Falkirk Community Trust and Falkirk CVS.	Resource allocation from Falkirk Council Corporate and Housing Services, Falkirk Council CLD Service, Falkirk Council Childrens Services, Falkirk Community Trust and Falkirk CVS.	31 July 2019. To be reviewed by 31 March 2020.	Individuals and communities who are experiencing negative impacts of welfare reform.	in 2018/19, the impact/outcome of this work has been that community organisations have been supported to develop the community food pantry model, clothes "boutiques", community transport scheme and community growing projects. Falkirk and District Credit Union have further developed their services.		
Improve Equalities		Addressing the Impact of poverty on children	Our area will be a fairer & more equal place to live	Falkirk Council Children's Service's, Falkirk Community Trust, UNCRC, Quarries and LGBT Youth Scotland.	Council Children's Service's,	31 July 2019. To be reviewed by 31 March 2020.	Organisations wishing to achieve charter status with LGBT and UNCRC.	In 2018/19, the impact/outcome of this work has been that Denny High School has achieved bronze accreditation of the LGBT Youth Charter. Braes High School are working towards bronze accreditation of the LGBT Youth Charter, with Denny High School are working towards silver accreditation. Falkirk's CLD Service and Falkirk Community Trust have committed to commence the accreditation process for the LGBT Youth Charter starting in November 2019. Braes High School and St Margaret's Primary School have achieved Gold status of the Rights Respecting Schools status.		