

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Education, Culture and Sport
DATE	20 September 2012
ACTING DIRECTOR	Charlie Penman
TITLE OF REPORT	Scottish Government: Strategic Guidance for Community Planning Partnerships, CLD
REPORT NUMBER:	ECS/12/036

1. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

The report brings to the attention of the Committee the Scottish Government's recent publication: "Strategic Guidance for Community Planning Partnerships: Community Learning and Development". This document places a number of requirements on Community Planning Partnerships.

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

It is recommended that the Committee:

- (a) Notes the Scottish Government's "Strategic Guidance for Community Planning Partnerships: Community Learning and Development", and the important role that CLD has to play in the future delivery of public service; its contribution to early intervention/ prevention; and its ability to empower people both individually and collectively to make positive changes to their lives and in their communities through learning.
- (b) Notes the requirements that this guidance places on Community Planning Partnerships, and the decision of the Community Planning Aberdeen Board that the Smarter Forum would take the lead role in ensuring that the duties placed on community planning partnerships by the strategic guidance are discharged.
- (c) Note the expectations that this guidance places on local authorities.

3. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There may be financial implications arising from the need to audit the need for CLD.

4. **OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 **Legal Implications**

This Scottish Government publication is a guidance document, however it is anticipated that some aspects of this guidance may be included within anticipated forthcoming legislation.

5. **BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES**

The Scottish Government published new CLD Strategic Guidance in June 2012. This guidance replaces Working and Learning Together (WALT), which was published by the then Scottish Executive in 2004. This guidance places a number of requirements on Community Planning Partnerships. (The full guidance is attached at Appendix A.)

The guidance document defines the purpose of CLD as “empowering people individually and collectively to make positive changes in their lives and in their communities through learning”, and identifies that CLD is essential for the delivery of Curriculum for Excellence, GIRFEC, Combating poverty, tackling health inequalities and delivering policies relating to prioritising early years.

The guidance defines that CLD outcomes are delivered through:

- Community development – building the capacity of communities to meet their own needs, engaging with and influencing decision makers
- Youth work, family learning and other early intervention work with children, young people and families
- Community Based Adult Learning, including adult literacies and ESOL
- Volunteer development
- Learning for vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in the community, i.e. people with disabilities, care leavers, offenders
- Learning support and guidance in the community

The implementation of the strategic guidance requires to be led by Community Planning Partnerships, and in Aberdeen, it has been identified that the appropriate place for this would be via the Smarter Forum. The guidance requires the Community Planning Partnership to:

- Ensure that CLD has a core role in delivering identified outcomes for communities through a joined up approach
- Ensure that systematic assessments of community needs and strengths provide the basis for SOAs and service strategies and plans
- Ensure this assessment is based on engagement and continued dialogue with communities, utilising CLD expertise, as well as an analysis of other data
- Ensure SOAs have a clear focus on prevention and community empowerment as the foundation of reformed public services and utilise CLD provision and methods for these purposes
- Review current partnership arrangements for planning, monitoring and evaluating CLD and ensure that they are fit for the purposes as set out in the Guidance.

The guidance places a strong emphasis on assessment of community needs, and identifies that “Local Authorities will be supported to audit the need for CLD in line with the proposed duty in forthcoming legislation.” (The legislation referred to is

expected to be the proposed Reform of Post 16 Education legislation.) The Strategic Guidance was considered by the Smarter Forum at its meeting on 14 August, during which the forum agreed to start to develop a Citywide lifelong learning strategy.

Work is currently being scoped within Aberdeen City Council to assess the current learning offering within learning communities against what is available within these communities. On the back of the new Strategic Guidance, officers have sought guidance from Education Scotland about what support for auditing the need for CLD will be provided, and an interest has been expressed in being part of any pilot that may be initiated in relation to this requirement to carry out an audit of the need for CLD.

The guidance also sets out an expectation that local authorities will provide clear leadership and direction for the delivery of CLD.

6. **IMPACT**

This report relates to the Combined Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement as follows:

- Protecting children and vulnerable adults
- People of all ages take an active part in their own learning to achieve their full potential Learning and training is appropriate and accessible to learner's needs
- Children and young people access positive learning environments and develop their skills, confidence and self esteem to the fullest potential
- Children, young people and their families/carers are involved in decisions that affect them. Their voices heard and they play an active and responsible role in their communities
- Educational attainment in Aberdeen is continuously sustained and improved
- School leavers enter positive destination of employment, training or further and higher education with a focus on and support for young people who require More Choices and More Chances
- Children and young people actively participate in their communities and have optimum involvement in decision making
- All children, young people and their families have access to high quality services when required and services provide timely, proportionate and appropriate response that meeting the needs of children and young people within Getting it Right for Every Child, (GIRFEC) requirements
- Improve the quality of life in our most deprived areas
- Citizens are increasingly more active in their communities regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, ethnic origin, where they live, disability or faith/religion/belief and contribute to 'active citizenship'
- Develop pathways to participation which enhance the diversity of local representation at and engagement with regional, national and international arts, heritage and sporting events
- Our public services are consistently high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people's needs

7. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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APPENDIX A: