

Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson
Foghlaim agus Ionnsachadh Fad-
bheatha
Cabinet Secretary for Education
and Lifelong Learning
Michael Russell MSP/BPA

F/T: 0845 774 1741
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To: Council Chief
Executives
Community Planning
Chairs
Council CLD Managers
Council Community
Planning Officers
College Principals
Scotland's Colleges
Skills Development
Scotland
Third Sector

08 June 2012

Strategic Guidance for Community Planning Partnerships: Community Learning and Development

The attached strategic guidance has been prepared following discussion with a wide range of stakeholders, building on the Post 16 Education consultation, *Putting Learners at the Centre*. It sets out our expectations, within which Community Planning Partnerships can plan community learning and development (CLD) in a co-ordinated way. This, in turn, provides a basis on which community planning partners, including the Third Sector, should work together to make best use of available resources.

This guidance comes against the backdrop of the most ambitious set of reforms to post-16 learning ever undertaken in Scotland. We are pursuing those changes with three clear objectives in mind: to align the system more purposefully with our ambitions for jobs and growth; to improve people's life chances; and to ensure the sustainability of our system in a time of inescapable pressures on public spending.

There is an increasing body of evidence that building on individual and community strengths - an *assets approach*, enabling people to feel in control of their lives - is essential in tackling deep-rooted social problems and ultimately in achieving this Government's purpose: creating a more successful country with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish.

CLD must be one of an integrated set of services, assisting learners, families and communities at transition points, using learning as a tool to help people through periods of life which pose challenges - whether becoming a parent, getting into work or phasing into retirement.

In setting out our vision for the future direction of CLD, I urge community planning partners to maximise the benefit which CLD approaches and activities can bring to our communities, providing direction, based on an assessment of local need.

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