

Item: 6

Education, Leisure and Housing Committee: 3 April 2019.

Education Scotland – Continuing Engagement of Community Learning and Development in Orkney.

Report by Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing.

1. Purpose of Report

To advise of findings of Education Scotland's continuing engagement inspection of Community Learning and Development in Orkney.

2. Recommendations

The Committee is invited to note:

2.1.

That following a HM Inspection of Community Learning and Development in Orkney during November 2017, Education Scotland returned in October 2018 for a continued engagement visit of Community Learning and Development.

2.2.

That Education Scotland's continuing engagement visit focused on the following two areas of improvement as identified in the Community Learning and Development Inspection report published in January 2018:

- Improving governance of Community Learning and Development in line with legislation.
- Further developing joint self-evaluation and monitoring to include shared ownership of actions.

2.3.

That very good progress has been made in the areas identified for improvement and, as a result, HM inspectors will make no further evaluative visits.

2.4.

The Continuing Engagement Inspection Report by Education Scotland attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

3. Background

3.1.

Towards the end of 2017, Education Scotland carried out an inspection of Community Learning and Development with a particular focus on Stromness, the West Mainland, Sanday and Hoy.

3.2.

The outcome of the 2017 inspection gave a very positive picture of community learning and development in Orkney. A great number of strengths and areas of successful working and practice were noted alongside the two areas of improvement:

- Improving governance of Community Learning and Development in line with legislation.
- Further developing joint self-evaluation and monitoring to include shared ownership of actions.

3.3.

Leadership of Community Learning and Development is provided by the Education, Leisure and Housing service. Governance of the planning process is devolved to the Strategic Community Learning Group, which is made up of a wide range of partners. The Strategic Community Learning Group provides a forum for sharing information, resources and planning.

4. Continuing Engagement Visit

4.1.

During the continuing engagement visit in 2018, HM Inspectors noted that the Strategic Community Learning Group has been strengthened and improved since the initial inspection. Governance arrangements are much clearer with regularly reporting processes now in place and there is an improved use of improvement frameworks and joint self-evaluation.

4.2.

HM inspectors are confident the Council and partners have a clear sense of direction and are making good progress in the areas identified and, as such, no further areas of improvement were identified during the continuing engagement visit.

5. Links to Council Plan

5.1.

The proposals in this report support and contribute to improved outcomes for communities as outlined in the Council Plan strategic priority theme of Caring Communities, Thriving Communities and Quality of Life.

5.2.

The proposals in this report relate directly to:

- Priority 2.1: We will support the mental wellbeing of our children and young people by co-producing preventative approaches in consultation with young people as well as supporting early intervention and recovery/restorative services.
- Priority 2.14: We will work with partners to encourage increased physical activity. We will explore, with partners, an exercise referral scheme.
- Priority 3.1: Extend the Orkney Offer to learners of all ages.
- Priority 3.2: Working with individual communities, explore the management of the school estate, promoting community participation and (where applicable) joint ownership.
- Priority 3.5: We will develop Lifelong Learning opportunities through the Community Learning programme which will include a family learning programme.
- Priority 5.2: We will take Youth work approaches to promote and encourage social responsibility in young people for example, through volunteering opportunities.
- Priority 5.7: Continue to support Community Association and Community Schools.

6. Links to Local Outcomes Improvement Plan

The proposals in this report support and contribute to improved outcomes for communities as outlined in the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan priority of Strong Communities, Living Well and A Vibrant Economy.

7. Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising directly as a result of the recommendations of this report.

8. Legal Aspects

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

9. Contact Officers

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10. Appendix

Appendix 1: Continuing Engagement of Community Learning and Development in Orkney Islands Council.



Continuing engagement of community learning and development in Orkney Islands Council

17 December 2018

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In January 2018, HM Inspectors published [a report on community learning and development \(CLD\) in Orkney Islands Council and in the area of Stromness, West Mainland, Sanday and Hoy](#). This report is based on a further inspection which was carried out in October 2018. During this visit we met with a range of staff, volunteers and partners. We focused on the areas for improvement identified in the original inspection. As a result, we were able to find out how well partners across the authority are now working together to support learners and communities to improve life chances.

1. How good is the strategic leadership of community learning and development?

Leadership of CLD is provided by Education, Leisure and Housing. Governance of the CLD plan is devolved to an improved and strengthened Strategic Community Learning Group (SCLG), which is made of a wide range of partners. Senior leaders including the Chief Executive of the council have deeper understanding of the role of CLD and the contribution that it can make to addressing the key priorities of the council. CLD has representation on the councils three delivery groups, which are strong communities, living well and vibrant economy. Going forward it is important to ensure that CLD's contribution is formally reported and recognised within each of the three delivery groups. There is an improved alignment between overarching priorities set out in the Orkney Community Plan, the Local Outcome Improvement Plan and the newly approved CLD Plan 2018-2021. There is a clearer sense of direction, which is reflected in the CLD Plan. This is a significantly improved plan with greater focus and reduced number of clear priorities. There is potential to further strengthen the CLD Plan through the inclusion of Democratic Services priorities which align to supporting stronger, more resilient, supportive, influential and inclusive communities.

Governance arrangements for CLD are much clearer and expectations for regular reporting on progress against the CLD plan is now in place. This includes a yearly report against outcomes, to the Education Leisure and Housing Committee and Orkney Partnership, which will help to ensure that it continues to reflect the current context and needs across Orkney. The next stage is to ensure that shared performance measures and a mechanism to gather evidence of impact across partners is put in place. The governance role and added value of the SCLG is much clearer. This is reflected in the updated terms of reference. SCLG members articulate their role clearly and with confidence. There is an improved understanding across staff and partners of their contribution to CLD outcomes. This is supported by a sense of increased energy and enthusiasm across CLD partners. Partner engagement in helping to shape the CLD plan is improving their understanding of the shared priorities and their role within them.

There is improved use of improvement frameworks such as How Good is our public library service? and How good is the learning and development in our community? Peer review activities with other authorities is also taking place. This is informing improvement and the sharing of practice within and outside of the islands. As a result, libraries are responding to need through outreach intergenerational bookbug sessions. Dedicated events are increasing footfall and learner engagement in wider programmes. Voluntary Action Orkney continue to improve through the use of appropriate and relevant self-evaluation processes. They continue to have strong recording and reporting processes. The re-establishment of the Orkney Learning

and Guidance Forum has potential to further strengthen partnership working arrangements and opportunities for joint self-evaluation.

Partners continue to work well together in sharing information and on joint initiatives and training. This includes bespoke training to address the gap in suicide prevention training. There is strong alignment between CLD priorities and aspirations set out in the Orkney Islands Council equalities plan 2018-20. Going forward it is important that CLD demonstrates its contribution to these priorities. Identifying key performance measures and embedding a cycle of joint self-evaluation will help to support this.

2. How good is the learning and development in this community?

No improvement areas were identified during the original inspection.

3. Does the Orkney Islands Council have a clear sense of direction?

The Orkney Islands Council now has a clearer sense of direction. Partners are making very good progress in the areas for improvement identified during the original inspection. We are confident that the local authority's self-evaluation processes are leading to improvements.

4. What happens next?

Orkney Islands Council has made very good progress in the areas identified for improvement. As a result, HM Inspectors will make no further evaluative visits.

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17 December 2018

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