



COMMUNITY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25

Report by Chief Officer, Education and Children's Services

PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of the Report is to share the content of the Community Learning and Development (CLD) Annual Report 2024/2025.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 The current Community Learning and Development Strategy 2024-2027 was published in September 2024 and sets out the key priorities for action by the CLD Team, Adult Learning Team and key partners for the next three years. Community Learning and Development comprises three strands, Youth Work, Adult Learning and Capacity Building. This Report reflects the work of the CLD Team who deliver Youth Work and Capacity Building opportunities.
- 2.2 The annual report highlights the work undertaken by the CLD Team and their partners to create resilient, influential and inclusive opportunities within communities. Young people and community groups are supported to participate in activities by actively removing barriers such as cost and accessibility.
- 2.3 This annual report reflects the work carried out in 2024/2025 and highlights key areas such as Youth and Community Voice opportunities, Youth Work in Schools, Area Forum Developments and Community Engagement.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 **It is recommended that the Comhairle note the Report**

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Appendix: CLD Annual Report 2024-25

Background Papers:



IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The following implications are applicable in terms of the Report.

Resource Implications	Implications/None
Financial	Included in CLD core budget
Legal	None
Staffing	None
Assets and Property	None
Strategic Implications	Implications/None
Risk	None
Equalities/Child Rights	Supports UNCRC/Youth Participation principles
Corporate Strategy	Supports Community Empowerment/Community Engagement
Environmental Impact	None
Consultation	None

BACKGROUND

- 5.1 The work of the Community Learning and Development (CLD) team is both diverse and challenging and is underlined by many of the principles of the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and the Community Empowerment Act (2015) and subsequent Democracy Matters updates.
- 5.2 All of the work contained in the Report directly relates to the targets contained in the current CLD Strategy under the five identified outcome areas, Building Stronger Communities; Health & Wellbeing; Improving Outcomes for Young People; Improving Outcomes for Adults and Workforce Development.

DETAIL

- 6.1 The Annual Report highlights the work undertaken by the CLD Team and their partners to create resilient, influential and inclusive opportunities and communities. Vulnerable groups are supported to participate in activities by removing barriers of cost and accessibility.
- 6.2 A key focus of the Report is on participation and engagement and the development of Area Forums in ward areas is a key contributor to this. Fostering the belief that active participation can lead to local influence on decision making, leading to growth and change, reflective of community aspirations.
- 6.3 Wider achievement opportunities are highlighted and continue to contribute to the expansion of young peoples' skillsets, ensuring progression onto positive pathways. Adults often begin their learning journey, through informal meet ups in the heart of their community before becoming involved in a plethora of other opportunities.
- 6.4 Partnership Groups across the island chain, supported by CLD, are encouraged to participate in the devolved management of decision-making, ensuring communities are key voices in any new developments. A key example of this is Crown Estate monies, (renamed Coastal Communities Fund) which have provided a welcome injection of funding to support community projects and infrastructure across the islands. Decisions on this funding are made jointly by community representatives and local councillors utilising the Area Forum mechanism, mentioned above.



CONCLUSION

7.1 It is recommended that the committee note the Report.

