

ANGUS LIFELONG LEARNING PARTNERSHIP

NOTE OF THE ANGUS LIFELONG LEARNING EXECUTIVE GROUP MEETING HELD ON 18 DECEMBER 2008 IN ANGUS HOUSE

Present: Gary Malone, Vivien Smith, Tom Davidson, Helen Reid, Graham Hewitson,
Neil Logue (Chair)

1. NOTE OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Note of the previous meeting was agreed as an accurate record

2. Matters Arising

HMle Inspections - Graham Hewitson has met with Quality Improvement Officers to agree next steps in preparing CLD and secondary school colleagues for future inspections within the revised inspection model

Assessment in community learning and development - Julie-Ann Kinnear will shortly be engaged to take forward work within the frame of the CPD grant awarded to the Lifelong Learning Partnership. This work needs to capture both qualitative and quantitative data.

Adult Learning Action Planning Group – Angus Community Health Partnership has nominated Freda Stewart as their representative on this group. Freda has recently returned to work after a period of prolonged illness and has not yet been able to attend a meeting of the group.

Integrated Children's Services Plan – An early draft of the plan has now been prepared and is currently under review and edit. This will involve cross checking it against the Community Learning and Development Strategy and any other key strategic documents.

Ann Mollison is ensuring the appropriate linkage between the ICSP and the revised Single Outcome Agreement.

3. COSLA/SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT JOINT STATEMENT ON COMMUNITY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT INCLUDING ADULT LITERACY AND NUMERACY

The recently issued joint statement underscores the value of CLD and makes overt links to a number of indicators within the national performance framework.

The statement also makes important references to actions which are being taken at a national level to support the development of CLD, including the establishment of the Standards Council.

It was agreed that the joint statement be highlighted at the next meeting of the Lifelong Learning Collaborative Forum and that it be brought to the attention of the wider Community Planning Partnership at its meeting in April 2009.

The document will also be circulated to key partners in the meantime.

One of the national actions being taken forward to support the statement is the development and publication of case studies illustrating the contributions which CLD makes to national outcomes. Consideration will be given to developing similar local case studies.

4. PROPOSED SURVEY OF PARTNERS

Graham Hewitson circulated an early draft of the measures and indicators which could be gathered through a survey of community learning and development partners. These had emerged from careful consideration of the targets included in the Community Learning and Development Strategy.

There was general agreement on the need to gather this data. It was also agreed that every effort should be made to connect with existing survey activity being taken forward by partnership groups. Examples included:

- the community engagement impact study which had recently been completed and was currently the subject of analysis
- study of community perceptions being taken forward by the wider Community Planning Partnership
- community survey activity within the field of community safety as part of the process of strategic planning and assessment.

Gary Malone indicated that there was already significant data available in relation to volunteering.

The next steps in taking this work forward will be to:

- consult with a range of community learning and development partners to ascertain their willingness to contribute data
- detailed consideration of processes for analysing and using the information generated from this survey and other available sources

5. ARBROATH HMIE INSPECTION (ACTION PLAN)

5.1 Neil Logue noted that the very positive HMIE report on community learning and development provision in North Arbroath is now available on the HMIE website. All partners are to be congratulated on this report and Neil thanked Helen Reid for her efforts in co-ordinating the inspection process. Partners involved in the inspection have already had one meeting to discuss an action plan arising from the report and this will be finalised in the near future.

5.2 Partners in Arbroath have also been involved in a self evaluation exercise which will be finalised in the near future. Any actions arising from this process will be incorporated within the HMIE action plan referred to above.

This exercise has been useful in helping a number of partners to see aspects of their work as being part of the CLD sector.

Given HMle's focus on learning communities (school catchment areas) there is a strong case for repeating this exercise across Angus on a phased basis. However, consideration will have to be given to ways in which this can be done without making unduly onerous demands on partner organisations, particularly those who operate across Angus.

6. SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT

Vivien Smith reported on the work being done to report progress on the 2008/2009 Single Outcome Agreement and to prepare an agreement for 2009 – 2012. An initial draft of the 2009 – 2012 outcome agreement will be presented to the Community Planning Partnership in January 2009. It will subsequently be forwarded to the Scottish Government as a draft, with a view to it being finalised and signed off by the summer of 2009.

The thematic partnerships within the community planning structure will have a key role to play in managing and monitoring progress in relation to the high level indicators which will be included in the SOA. The Lifelong Learning Partnership will have a particular role in relation to:

- National outcome 3 – we are better educated, more skilled and more successful renowned for our research and innovation
- National outcome 4 – our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens
- National outcome 11 – we have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people are taking responsibility for their own actions and how they effect others.

It was noted that arrangements will need to be in place to agree and collate measures and indicators against each of these. It will also be necessary to establish base lines against which progress can be measured. Given that some of the indicators being used are new, base line positions are not yet available and significant work will be required in the early part of 2009 to put these in place.

7. FAIRER SCOTLAND ISSUES

Graham Hewitson provided a brief update on arrangements for allocating Fairer Scotland funds for the financial years 2009/2010 and 2010/11.

There is a sum of £55,000 available for youth work in 2009/10 and a further £50,000 for similar purposes in 2010/11. The process for agreeing the spend of this money will be to consult with the Youth Work Partnership Group, on the basis of submissions that have already been made to the Fairer Scotland Group. This consultation will take place on the 19 January 2009.

8. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AUDIT

The recently conducted community engagement audit has been compiled and initial analysis undertaken. The audit will now be passed to the Community Capacity Building Sub Group to:

- Identify what the audit tells us
- Identify year on year progress

- Identify follow up actions required

The conclusions of the community capacity sub group will be incorporated in the Lifelong Learning Partnership report to the community planning partners at their April meeting.

9. FUTURE FUNDING FOR VOLUNTARY SECTOR INTERMEDIATE BODIES

Gary Malone provided an update on recent meetings with the Scottish Government on future funding arrangements. In the past, central Government funding has been channelled via Volunteer Development Scotland to local volunteer centres and through SCVO to local councils of voluntary service. This will change as of 2010/11. Initially it was understood that all monies for such bodies would come within the local Community Planning Partnership as part of the Single Outcome Agreement process. It is now expected that monies will be distributed annually by a national body, using a formula yet to be finalised. Monies will be distributed to bodies which have a plan to:

- fulfil some or all of the function of an 'interface between the Community Planning Partnership and the voluntary sector'
- and where this plan has been endorsed by the local Community Planning Partnership

It is not yet clear if the money to be made available is to be used solely for this community planning interface function, or whether it will also be available to support the existing range of services provided by VCA and AAVO to the general public and voluntary and community groups. The two local organisations will continue discussions with the Scottish Government's Third Sector Unit and will keep other colleagues advised as issues are clarified. They will begin a local process of dialogue between the organisations with a view to identifying sustainable long term local solutions.

10. LIFELONG LEARNING COLLABORATIVE FORUM

The next meeting of the forum will take place on 4 March from 1.30 – 4.30pm with lunch available from 1pm. Possible workshop topics include:

- mental health issues (led by Social Work and Health)
- adult literacies
- parental education/ early years framework

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 26 February 2009 at 3.30 pm, Education Meeting Room, Angus House, Forfar.