



Notes on TEAMS Session 24– Friday 22nd January 2021

Present - Keith Anderson (AVA), Anne Kain (Foyer),Avril Nicol (LLA); Dawn Brown(Fed of Rural Partnerships Sarah Burton (LEAD Scotland),Nicola Graham (SDS); Sue Briggs (CLD), Philip Boath (CLD Service Manager) Kevin McDermott (CLD).

Apologies –George Howie (HSCP),Clare Harper (WEA).Vincent Docherty (Head of Education, Aberdeenshire Council) Janelle Clark (Area Manager), Wayne Gault (ADP), Duncan Abernethy (NESCoL)

1. **Notes of Session 23**– These were agreed – no matters arising.

2. **LLCP Feedback**

The summary report had been tabled in advance and was discussed. Thirteen partnerships met at least once this quarter with Alford being successfully relaunched. The three who didn't meet have dates in the diary for meetings.

Emerging themes from partnerships include.

- Understanding the data which has come back from the Community Impact Assessment (CIA) Process.
- Mental health and well-being – across the age ranges.
- Employability and impacts of furlough / unemployment.
- Poverty – food poverty a key concern.
- Digital access and upskilling

Partners were pleased to note that LLCP's remained active and were bringing partners together. A good example of this has been around the Connecting Scotland programme where partners have been involved in identifying people to receive computers and wi-fi routers. In round one partners helped identify shielded and Covid vulnerable individuals; in phase two families and looked after/care experiences young people; and most recently in the Winter Support strand vulnerable older and/or disabled people (e.g. Live Life Aberdeenshire identified adults with respiratory conditions who will now be able to access support groups and leisure activities).

All the feedback from the LLCP's has a focus on addressing inequality The CLD service produced a report to add to the CIA evidence data base with feedback from people/groups significantly affected by the pandemic – [Aberdeenshire Voices Report – Same Storm, Different Boats](#). The report included a focus group session which was facilitated on behalf of the Scottish Renewal Advisory Board who have produced their own report and recommendations based on lived experience testimony. [If Not Now - When](#)

3. National Updates

- **CLDMS** – After the AGM this week Avril is continuing in the role of Chair until summer. The executive reported back on a very productive year with increased recognition of the role of CLD and of the role of CLDMS. There has been involvement in developing the new guidance and support materials; contribution of [case studies](#) through COSLA and ministerial recognition of the important role of CLD in responding to the pandemic. The next major piece of work CLDMS are contributing to is around creating Key Performance Indicators for CLD services.
- **Northern Alliance** – The latest newsletter on CLD and the Northern Alliance will be coming out soon – as will the report on the recent Youth Conference. The NA has hosted several online seminars/events exploring the impact of poverty on attainment and learning. [Collaboration newsletter](#) has information and links to wider NA resources.
- **SDS** – There have been changes made to the SDC approach to redundancy support (PACE) – partly to respond to the end of the furlough period in April. People looking for support will now make contact through a helpline and then will be signposted to dedicated staff in their locality. The aim is to widen the support beyond redundancy/employability and to offer signposting support on a wider range of issues (e.g. housing).
 - [e-Sgoil](#) – This is the online learning resource for teachers, educators and learners developed by Education Scotland. There is a new [Developing the Young Workforce](#) resource available online for young people to access remotely. This adds to materials already available from Young Scot, Duke of Edinburgh, Social Enterprise Academy, and others.

4. CLD Plan Timeline

There was a discussion around the additional [CLD Guidance](#) which had been circulated. CLD Service have taken part in several workshop style discussions with Education Scotland who are expecting more 'direction of travel' outlines than fully-fledged three-year plans. Our mid-term review had already identified the need for wider learning involvement in developing the new plan and all partners were keen to support and facilitate that.

Anne noted the continued importance of workforce development in the new plan – particularly around online delivery and engagement. Nicola also saw an emerging need to support the workforce in responding to increased anxiety/trauma being disclosed by those we are supporting.

Action – Kevin to meet with Sue and Sarah to look at how we can use the new How Good is Our CLD 4 framework to come up with questions that...

- **partners and LLCPS can use with learners and communities in April/May**
- **to inform first draft of new plan (June).**

5. Dialogue – Mike Tuckwell – Social Security Scotland

Mike updated partners that Lisa Buchan has moved onto a new role in Scottish Government. Mike outlined the wide range of benefits available and emphasised the friendly and accessible culture that the organisation is striving to create. **Resources highlighted below** will be of relevance to partners.

Best Start Grant/Foods Statistics	Best Start Grant/Foods to 31 August 2020
Child Winter Heating Assistance	Child Winter Heating Assistance Factsheet
Scottish Child Payment	https://www.gov.scot/policies/social-security/scottish-child-payment/
Job Start Payment	https://www.gov.scot/policies/social-security/job-start-payment/
Social Security Scotland News and Events	Social Security Scotland - News Events
Stakeholder Newsletter sign-up	https://us19.campaign-archive.com/home/?u=11fdff413e50ba7bc51890111&id=964b07d2b3
Stakeholder Resources	https://www.socialsecurity.gov.scot/what-we-do/stakeholder-resources
Social Security Scotland - Home Page	Social Security Scotland - Homepage
Social Security Scotland - Publications	Social Security Scotland - Publications
A Guide to our Benefits	Guide to Our Benefits

Action - Mike mentioned the Lived Experience Forum which involves over 2000 people nationally. He agreed to see if there is a way to involve Aberdeenshire Forum participants in shaping the new CLD Plan

6. Sub – Group Feedback

- **Literacy Strategy** – Has been on hold but is now being progressed again considering lessons from pandemic. Some LLCP's have already been involved in responding to a consultation being carried out by Caithleen Bell (CLD).
- **ESOL** - There are several meetings planned with CLD service and partners. The funding is still being routed through NESCoL and is still linked to the college 'credits' system. A paper had also been circulated prior to the meeting outlining discussions that there will no longer be a specific ESOL strategy but that it will be located within the wider Adult Learning Strategy.

COSLA are arguing the case that there should still be a separate ESOL strategy.

- **Workforce Development** - Sue was pleased to welcome Dawn who agreed to join the Workforce Development working group. The focus for the group is currently digital access and health and well-being – both of which will help to shape this part of the refreshed CLD Plan.
 - **I- Develop** – Sue noted the increase in use and access to i-develop of Aberdeenshire practitioners.
 - **STEM** – Aberdeenshire CLD Service has a member of staff from the Unlocking STEM in CLD partnership project on the national writing group for the creation of a CLD STEM Nation Award framework – this was previously for schools only.
 - **How Good is Our CLD 4** – Some CLD staff have been taking part in sessions with Education Scotland around the new framework which is designed to be used by both local authority and third sector partners.
 - **Dialogue and Deliberation** – Oliver Escobar from Edinburgh University is going to be delivering a session for CLD staff around online dialogue and deliberation drawing on international and more local lessons such as the on-going Climate Change in Scotland Citizens Assembly. Places will be offered to partners (session is on Friday 19th Feb 1-4pm)

7. Partner Updates

- **Foyer** – Programmes continue to be delivered – and online delivery has been enhanced by their ability to access kit and connectivity through Connecting Scotland.
 - REACH and Princes Trust** remain key and continue to evolve to meet learner needs. After feedback, the Princes Trust programme has reverted to a 12-week format even without the residential element.
 - Foyer Families** is a new programme starting in February and targeted at parents with children aged 12 years and younger.
 - National Transitions Training Fund** – this is proving difficult to deliver as lockdown makes it challenging to find training opportunities.
 - Kickstart** – three young people are being recruited through this and 5 young people have been recruited through Foundation Apprenticeships.
- **Rural Partnerships** - Funding from Aberdeenshire Council Economic Development has been reduced by a third with the focus now being solely on Community Economic Development. The new funding criteria means that there is no longer funding for community action plans; supporting community planning and involvement in wider partnerships – which may impact on ALCP and LLCP's. There will be a reduction in both staffing and capacity across all the partnerships.
- **AVA** – They have restructured support staff to match the council administrative geographic areas across Aberdeenshire. The range of work supported remains as diverse as ever – from supporting community heritage facilities to be COVID-19 compliant when allowed to open again through to supporting individuals with ideas for new community projects.

- **CLD** - The service have reverted back to level one in the CLD Step Plan with the bulk of activity being delivered online and some staff time relocated to support other council and partner priorities linked to Covid helplines, vaccination roll-out; support to care homes etc.
- **ADP** - Wayne had asked that partners note the recent announcement from the First Minister outlining significant additional funding to address the alarming increase in drugs deaths nationally. The ADP are looking for partners to identify ways that we can deliver new projects and services . ADP are collecting proposals using [this form](#).

Date of Future Meetings

Kevin to circulate poll with partners to identify suitable dates.