



HM INSPECTORS – CLD PROGRESS VISIT APRIL 2024

Report by Chief Officer for Education and Children's Services

PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of the Report is to update members on the recent Progress Visit by His Majesty's Inspectors of Education of the Comhairle's Community Learning & Development service and its partners in the Western Isles.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 In December 2023, HMIE announced a series of CLD Progress Visits to each of the 32 Local authority areas between August 2023 and June 2024 to consider progress against the published three-year plan (2021-2024) for the local authority area.
- 2.2 The Inspection Team visited the Western Isles during week beginning 26-29 February and met with the CLD Steering Group, staff and partner organisations. They held a number of focus groups and reviewed evidence made available in support of delivery of the local plan.
- 2.3 The findings of the visit were contained in a report which was published in April 2024 and is attached as an appendix to this report.
- 2.4 The outcome of the visit was graded as satisfactory and inspectors confirmed that no return visit is required.
- 2.5 The CLD leadership team will continue to work to improve the service in line with national expectations and pursue delivery of the local service plan.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Comhairle note the report.

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Appendix:	HMIE Progress Report for Comhairle nan Eilean Siar April 2024
Background Papers:	

IMPLICATIONS

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

Resource Implications	Implications/None
Financial	n/a
Legal	n/a
Staffing	n/a
Assets and Property	n/a
Strategic Implications	Implications/None
Risk	
Equalities	
Corporate Strategy	
Environmental Impact	
Consultation	

BACKGROUND

- 5.1 A visit to CLD and its partners by HMIE inspectors took place in February 2024 with the report published in April 2024. A varied programme involving many steering group partners was created to demonstrate the wide range of opportunities delivered in the Western Isles.
- 5.2 The programme of Progress Visits is conducted nationally in line with the Requirements for Community Learning and Development (Scotland) Regulations 2013.

DETAIL

- 6.1 In reporting their findings, Inspectors noted the following strengths:
- CLD steering group, which has representation from a wide range of public services and community organisations, has a shared vision for improvement. This is helping to ensure that the significant contribution of local organisations to improving communities and increasing learning opportunities is considered in CLD planning.
 - CLD Team know their learners and communities well and are increasingly adapting their practice to respond to identified needs.
 - Adult learning staff use individual learning plans well, to regularly review with learners their progress and to address any barriers they face.
- 6.2 Areas for improvement were noted as:
- The CLD Plan does not fully reflect CLD partners joint efforts in delivering good CLD outcomes for learners and communities.
 - CLD partners do not yet have in place fully measurable targets across all areas of current work
 - CLD partners are not yet systematically providing feedback to learners, communities and other partners on the outcomes from community engagement and consultation.

- 6.3 At the end of the visit, the feedback concluded by the Inspection Team was that the local authority and their CLD partners are making sufficient progress with their CLD plan and have the capacity to continue to improve. As a result, HM Inspectors will take no further action in relation to this progress visit.

CONCLUSION

- 7.1 The progress visit noted a number of important strengths and improvements in the service and the team will continue to work now on addressing the further areas for improvement that the report identified.