**Briefing Paper on CLD CPD Networks - for Education Regional Improvement Collaboratives**

**1. Purpose of Paper**

This briefing paper outlines the role and responsibilities of regional Community Learning and Development (CLD) networks which currently operate across Scotland. It is intended to help Education Regional Improvement Collaborative lead officers to understand the role of these networks and to consider how collaboration with CLD networks in their areas can contribute to empower teachers, parents, partners and communities and improve outcomes for children and young people in their area.

**2. Context: Community Learning and Development (CLD) and closing the attainment gap**

* Community Learning and Development (CLD) describes the range of distinctive processes of engagement and support which supports primarily disadvantaged or vulnerable groups and individuals of all ages to engage in learning, with a focus on bringing about change in their lives and communities. CLD methods include: youth work; adult and family learning; and community development.
* The [CLD workforce](https://education.gov.scot/improvement/Pages/cld16wwsc.aspx) is very diverse and CLD practitioners work in both public and voluntary sector organisations.
* Since 2013, local authorities have had a statutory duty to work with their partners to secure adequate and efficient CLD in their area and develop [CLD plans](https://education.gov.scot/improvement/Pages/cld22-planning-with-cld-partners.aspx) which include a focus on developing the CLD workforce.
* CLD makes important contributions to closing the poverty related education attainment gap. For example:
  + Family Learning which helps parents to access learning opportunities for themselves and their families, promoting parental involvement and enhancing the home learning environment.
  + Youth work which supports disadvantaged or vulnerable young people to engage in learning outwith the classroom through a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities.
  + CLD also offers opportunities for learners and their families to become active in their communities through volunteering and social action.
* The National Improvement Framework and the Pupil Equity Fund Guidance both highlight CLD and youth work organisations as key partners for schools.

**Context: The role of CLD in Regional Improvement Collaboratives (ICs)**

The proposed role and responsibilities of ICs set out by the Joint Steering Group In September 2017 highlighted that:

* *Activity should not be restricted to schools alone, but encompass the range of learning environments that are experienced by children and young people*’
* *ICs should ‘consider educational improvement within the context of local Children’s Services and the range of work led by multi-agency partners to improve outcomes for children, including Community Planning Partnerships, Social Work, Community Learning and Development and the Third Sector*.

**3. About the CLD Regional Networks**

The main purpose of the CLD regional networks is to improve opportunities and access to professional learning for the CLD workforce in their areas.

The current CLD regional networks are:

1. **The North Alliance** is well established and has been delivering professional learning opportunities for many years. It has equal representation from local authority and third sector officers on its executive. It covers: Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, Highland, Moray, Orkney, Shetland, and Western Isles.
2. **The Tayside & Fife Consortium** is also well established and covers: Angus, Dundee, Fife, and Perth & Kinross.
3. **The South East & Central Consortium** is the third of the well-established networks, covering: Edinburgh, East Lothian, West Lothian, Midlothian, Clackmannanshire, Falkirk, Stirling, Scottish Borders
4. **The West CLD Alliance** is a newer network, established about two years ago, but building on previous networking between CLD partners in the area. It covers North Lanarkshire, South Lanarkshire, Glasgow, Inverclyde, East Dunbartonshire, West Dunbartonshire, East Renfrewshire, Renfrewshire and Argyle & Bute.
5. There is currently no formal CLD network in the **South West** (South, East & North Ayrshires, Dumfries & Galloway), however there is regular communication between CLD leads in those areas and links to the other networks.

The core outcomes for all of the CLD regional networks are to;

1. Sustain CLD professional standards and practitioner wellbeing
2. Improve CLD practice through sharing skills, knowledge and interesting practice across local authority, partnership and regional boundaries.
3. Improve the access of CLD practitioners to CPD opportunities.
4. Identify priorities of CLD CPD priorities and work with local and national partners to meet them.

* The CLD networks are independent networks providing a range of professional learning and facilitate networking between Local Authorities and, to varying degrees, third sector CLD practitioners in their regions. The make-up and focus of each network is decided at a regional level. Networks base their work on priorities identified through the local [CLD plans](https://education.gov.scot/improvement/Pages/cld22-planning-with-cld-partners.aspx), national policy priorities, training needs analyses and feedback from members.
* The networks have a long history of working together with national agencies. Lead representatives from each network meet together three times per year with Education Scotland and the [CLD Standards Council.](http://cldstandardscouncil.org.uk/)
* Each network has a dedicated online group space on [i-Develop](http://www.i-develop-cld.org.uk/)
* The CLD network areas do not currently correspond to the six Regional Improvement Collaboratives, however there is a great deal of shared geography in many parts of the country.

**4. South East & Central CLD Workforce Development Consortium**

**Aims**

* Jointly plan and deliver together to provide creative, cost effective learning and upskilling for CLD sector
* Use workforce development evidence and data from local authorities and third sector and as identified through CLD plans to shape future learning opportunities
* Provide learning and development opportunities in a range of contexts
* Develop and support networking opportunities and resource sharing for CLD sector
* Develop and support the sharing of CPD opportunities
* Strengthen the consortium steering group by identify internal strengths and skills, having administrative and financial systems in place
* Continue to encourage representation on steering group by engaging with partners from 3rd Sector, Health, Police, Colleges and Universities.
* Continue to promote the work of the Consortium at a national level e.g. CLDMS, Education Scotland

**National Performance Framework**

* Improved life chances for people of all ages, through learning, personal development and active citizenship
* Stronger, more resilient, supportive, influential and inclusive communities

**Priorities 2017-18**

1. Jointly plan and deliver learning and upskilling opportunities for CLD Sector

2. Maintain and develop an online platform

3. Continue to promote the consortium at a national level

4. Strengthen consortium steering group and organisational practices, ensure representation from all LA areas

5. Promote and encourage creative use of the Community Activist pack

6. Continue to work in partnership with Education Scotland, CLDSC and CLDMS

7. Identify opportunities or author training opportunities to highlight CLD Sector priorities

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