Community Learning in Scotland

Steve McHardy

Community Learning Strategy Coordinator
Fife Council

The History of Community Learning

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November 1998

'Communities – Change Through Learning'

The History of Community Learning

New Scottish Executive's key policy priorities:

- Lifelong Learning

- Social Inclusion

- Active Citizenship

The History of Community Learning

April 1999

Scottish Executive Guidance to Local Authorities requiring publication of Community Learning Strategies by April 2000

The History of Community Learning

Insisted this be a PARTNERSHIP document which included local authorities, further education colleges, enterprise companies and the voluntary sector.

The History of Community Learning

January 2002

Acknowledged by the Scottish Executive as a METHODOLOGY which engages communities, and is therefore central to their vision for Community Planning. Should be used by a wide range of agencies.

The History of Community Learning

February 2003

The role of Community Learning embedded within the Local Government (Scotland) Act and in Executive guidance on Community Planning

The History of Community Learning

January 2004

Executive publishes new guidance on Community Learning and Development Strategies, requiring all local partnerships to publish revised Strategies by September 2004

The Principles of Community Learning

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The Principles of Community Learning

Adopts a multi agency, partnership approach to the planning and delivery of learning opportunities.

The Principles of Community Learning

Takes place outwith institutions such as schools, colleges

The Principles of Community Learning

Takes place in community based venues at times suitable to participants

The Principles of Community Learning

The participant is actively engaged in shaping the content, design and evaluation of the learning programme

The Principles of Community Learning

Personal and social issues facing learners may provide a starting point for learning

Childcare, Housing, Unemployment, Health, Crime etc.

The Principles of Community Learning

Learning can lead to qualifications, but this is not a requirement.

Learning is seen as valuable in its own right, as a enjoyable and fulfilling experience

Community Learning Strategy Priorities

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- Community Engagement
- Targeting Disadvantaged Communities
- Setting Robust Targets
- Widening Ownership

Community Learning in Practice

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UK

population

50 million

Community Learning in Practice

Scotland

population 5 million

Community Learning in Practice

The Learning Kingdom

Fife

population 350,000

The Partnership

Fife Council
(Community Services, Education, Social Work
& Development Services)
4 Further Education Colleges
Scottish Enterprise Fife
Careers Scotland
Workers Educational Association
Youth 1st
FRAE Fife

Capital Investment

Capital Modernisation Fund   • 1.2 million

The Peoples Network   • 0.9 million

Establishes a network of 45 large and small fully equipped learning suites

Capital Investment

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Revenue Funding

Literacy and and Numeracy (5years)	€ 3.3 million
Summer Schools and Out of School Hours Learning (3years)	• 0.4 million
Learning Homes (2 years)	• 0.4 million
Communities Online and Digital Inclusion Fife (3years)	• 0.45 million
Active Steps (3years)	• 1.4 million
Dialogue Youth (3years)	• 0.4 million

Revenue Funding

Additional funding for special projects aimed at social inclusion and narrowing the opportunity gap

Community Planning

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6 local Community Learning and Development Partnerships
Average population 60,000

Locality planning groups
Populations from 7,000 - 15,000

Community Planning

Focus on specialist work areas

- Adult Learning

- Children and Young People

- Community Capacity Building

Community Planning

Mirrored by Youth Forums, Community Forums and Adult Learners' Forums

At locality, Area and Fife levels

Community Planning

Supported by statistical data

Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics Project

Provides information on Income, Employment, Education and Training, Health, Housing, Geographic Access and Telecommunications

Community Planning

Provided in datazones of approximately 750 population

Ranked in Scotland and Fife order

Who Benefits?

Who Benefits?

Who Benefits?

Who Benefits?

Who Benefits?

Who Benefits?

Who Benefits?

Who Benefits?

What Makes It Successful?

What Makes It Successful?

What Makes It Successful?

- Legislation and Central Government Support
- Play to Partner Agency Strengths
- Start Up Funding
- Local Accountability
- Success Syndrome
- Coordinator

Fife Community Learning and Development Partnership
Strengthening Fife's Future

Lessons Learnt?

Lessons Learnt?

Fife Community Learning and Development Partnership
Strengthening Fife's Future

Lessons Learnt?

- Getting right people to meetings
- Allocate tasks / Partnership accountability
- Communications within organisations
- Understanding develops at different speeds
- New skills are required

The Learning Kingdom

Fife Community Learning and Development Partnership

The Learning Kingdom

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