

Work with communities - CLD

The CLD service will increase participation in groups and decision making processes to ensure that less powerful or less organised communities are able to participate as full and equal partners. We will take an asset based approach in recognition that Aberdeenshire communities are full of individuals and groups who want to make a positive contribution to improve the quality of life for all.

Our approach

The CLD service will adopt a community development approach and recognise that this approach is also used by a range of other partners. We will work in partnership to jointly plan and prioritise our work with partners through the mechanism of 17 Local Learning Community Partnerships and the overarching Aberdeenshire Learning Community Partnership

How we deliver our work with communities

When we talk about ‘communities’ we are referring to both geographical communities and communities of interest. Our community development approach encompasses a range of interventions around community engagement and community capacity building. The Aberdeenshire CLD Service divides this work into the themes – “Knowing Communities” and “Growing Communities”.

Knowing Communities

1. Community Profiling

We will work with partners to match statistical detail and local knowledge to produce network profiles that will guide our service delivery. Community profiles will tell us and partners what we need to know about our communities and help to identify any emerging issues or trends.

2. Community Needs Analysis

We will use tools such as the place standard tool “How Good Is Our Place” and network profiles to identify community needs; we will support community organisations to identify needs using the principles in the National Standards for Community Engagement

Growing Communities

3. Community Engagement

We will support targeted community engagement work to increase the participation and involvement of underrepresented groups in civic and community life

4. Partnerships

We will work in partnership with other organisations and agencies through Local Learning Community Partnerships (LCP's) to undertake learner engagement events and increase input to development of learning programmes. There are four improvement priorities in the Aberdeenshire CLD Plan which inform the work of LCP's. The CLD Plan is for all those involved in CLD delivery in both the public and third sectors.

Underpinning themes

There are some strands which will underpin our work with communities in both the Knowing and Growing themes.

<p>Partnerships and Networks</p>	<p>Our key partnership mechanism is the local Learning Communities Partnerships which are set up in each network across Aberdeenshire.</p> <p>CLD staff also contribute to a range of other local and strategic partnership groupings including GIRFEC, Local Community Planning; Regeneration Groups; Employability Partnership etc.</p> <p>We actively contribute to the delivery of other strategies such as the implementation of the Aberdeenshire Drug and Alcohol Partnership Strategy.</p>
<p>Building the organisational capacity of community groups</p>	<p>We work with partners to deliver appropriate support for the good governance of community groups.</p> <p>This can include inputs which help to strengthen community groups and the people involved in them - such as sessions on committee skills for new groups and help with planning, monitoring and evaluation their work.</p>
<p>Skills Development in community groups</p>	<p>We link in with local partners to deliver courses which support good practice and which meet the needs of local groups e.g. Child Protection training; community led action research; using social media and technology effectively.</p>
<p>Volunteering</p>	<p>We work to support the involvement of community members in voluntary activity which strengthen communities and promotes personal development outcomes of increased confidence, motivation and transferrable life skills.</p>