

CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCIL

Report to: Audit and Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 8 February 2024

Subject: Community Learning and Development Partnership Progress Report

Report by: Senior Manager

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To present the Community Learning and Development Partnership Progress Report.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1. It is recommended that the Audit and Scrutiny Committee note the contents of this report and provide challenge and comments as appropriate.

3.0 Background

- 3.1. This report provides an update on the progress of the 2021 - 2024 Community Learning and Development (CLD) Partnership Plan, which was approved by the former People Committee on 16 September 2021.
- 3.2. As a result of continuing improvement and evaluation of progress with stakeholder partners, leading to the identification of emerging needs, this report outlines progress made with the revised key actions of the 22/24 Partnership Plan, with a reporting period of August 2022 - December 2023.
- 3.3. This report also reflects the findings of a very positive Progress Visit by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) in November 2023 whilst taking cognisance of the Scottish Government's CLD Plans' Guidance Note 2021-2024 which recognises "that the Covid-19 crisis is likely to continue to present significant practical challenges to CLD planning" and acknowledges that work to achieve the objectives of the plan has continued against a backdrop of organisational redesign and the restructure of the CLD team itself.
- 3.4. An integral part of the Plan is a commitment to review and report on its impact to ensure the priorities remain relevant and responsive to new and emerging needs. It was agreed at development stage that the Plan would, therefore not be static. Based on evaluation and stakeholder engagement, the five revised key priorities of the 2021 – 2024 CLD Partnership Plan are as follows and inform the contents of this report.

1. *Develop support for staff/volunteers and service users to address Health, Wellbeing and Cost of Living.*
 2. *Develop clear pathways to support learner accreditation and progression from CLD service provision into volunteering, training, education and employment.*
 3. *Develop Adult and Family Learning opportunities to meet the needs of priority groups.*
 4. *Partners will work towards building the capacity of individuals and community groups to develop services to meet their needs.*
 5. *Partners will support the continued professional development of staff and volunteers to enhance skills and knowledge within the sector.*
- 3.5. The plan links with strategic and local community planning to ensure a coordinated approach and has evolved, based on recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic and reflective emerging needs, identified by stakeholders.
- 3.6. The Strategic Guidance for Community Planning Partnerships: Community Learning and Development (2012) underpins national CLD policy in Scotland. The Guidance sets out the core contribution that CLD activities can make to national outcomes, with specific reference to:
- *Improved life chances for people of all ages, including young people in particular, through learning, personal development and active citizenship.*
 - *Stronger, more resilient, supportive, influential and inclusive communities and includes clear guidance that CLD should support '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.'*
- 3.7. The partnership work of CLD aligns with the aims of Clackmannanshire Council's Corporate Plan and the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan and contributes to the Council's longer term transformation outlined in the 'Be the Future' programme, with a focus on sustainable inclusive growth, empowering families and communities and health and wellbeing.
- 3.8. Evidence in the CLD Partnership Progress Report demonstrates:
- CLD providers and their wider partners have a clear and consistent focus on meeting the needs of those facing additional challenges in their lives. As part of the Family Wellbeing Partnership, partners work well together to offer a wide range of person-centred 'Community Around the School' activities. These have enabled young people and families to feel included, make progress and achieve and participants are developing self-confidence, resilience, leadership and life skills.
 - **642** children and young people have accessed a range of digital mental health supports since they launched in April 2021, with an average of **56%** of logins occurring out- of -hours.

- Over **550** children and young people have been referred to our two face-to-face services, with **60%** of pupils referred to the Creative Therapeutic Interventions for Children (CTIfC) service showing an improvement on teacher-reported Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaires (SDQ).
- **88%** of pupils accessing the Counselling in Schools Service (CiSS) have shown improvements in their YP-CORE scores. Since the introduction of the MHWB Clacks Continuum of Support, the FK10 postcode has experienced a **39%** reduction in referrals to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services.
- CLD staff worked with partners from Skills Development Scotland, schools and the Virtual Headteacher to offer provision for young people who were on the cusp of disengagement. A focused programme of work was developed with Clackmannanshire School Support Service.
- The well-established Home-Start charity shop has provided a safe place for volunteers to develop employability skills and gain accreditation. Volunteers are supported well to take on leadership roles within the shop and they gain valuable retail skills, with some progressing to employment.
- As part of community empowerment, CLD staff are supporting the Family Wellbeing Partnership with free programmes at Alloa Academy, funded by the Lens, including
 - Sewing & Crafts
 - Singing Group
 - Walking Group
- CLD has continued to support the development of Youth Engagement/Youth Voice and Participation. Candidates to become Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament highly value the support and development opportunities youth work staff provide and presented to Elected Members and the HMIE team about their experiences as MSYP candidates. Their feedback highlights that they are more confident and aware of their own skills as a result of taking part in this process.
- Learners of all ages are supported well to gain skills for learning, life and work. Children who are taking part in Children's Parliament activities at primary school, with CLD support, are gaining confidence and communication skills and advise that they are proud to contribute to both their local communities and to national policy developments.

4.0 Sustainability Implications

4.1 None

5.0 Resource Implications

5.1 None

6.0 Exempt Reports

6.1 Is this report exempt? No

7.0 Declarations

The recommendations contained within this report support or implement our Corporate Priorities and Council Policies.

Our Priorities (Please double click on the check box)

Clackmannanshire will be attractive to businesses & people and ensure fair opportunities for all

Our families; children and young people will have the best possible start in life

Women and girls will be confident and aspirational, and achieve their full potential

Our communities will be resilient and empowered so that they can thrive and flourish

(2) **Council Policies** (Please detail)

None

8.0 Equalities Impact

8.1 Have you undertaken the required equalities impact assessment to ensure that no groups are adversely affected by the recommendations?
Yes No

9.0 Legality

9.1 It has been confirmed that in adopting the recommendations contained in this report, the Council is acting within its legal powers. Yes

10.0 Appendices

10.1 Appendix A: Clackmannanshire CLD Partners
Appendix B: The Clackmannanshire Community Learning and Development Partnership Plan 2021-2024 – Years 2 and 3 Plan
Appendix C: The Clackmannanshire Community Learning and Development Partnership Plan Progress Report


11.0 Background Papers

11.1 Have you used other documents to compile your report? (All documents must be kept available by the author for public inspection for four years from the date of meeting at which the report is considered)

None

NAME	DESIGNATION	TEL NO / EXTENSION
Catriona Scott	Senior Manager	2469

Approved by

NAME	DESIGNATION	SIGNATURE
Lorraine Sanda	Strategic Director (People)	

Appendix A

CLD Partners in Clackmannanshire

Family Wellbeing Partnership	Clacks council ECLD
Community House	Menstrie Community Action Group
Reachout With Arts In Mind	Wimpy Park Community Group
Volunteering Matters	Sauchie Active 8
Forth Valley Welcome	Stirling Council – social inclusion workers
Home-start Clackmannanshire	Ochil Youth Community Initiative
Hawkhill Community Association Ltd	Citizens Advice
The Conservation Volunteers	Cowden Garden
The Gate	The Makery
Forth Valley College	Clacks Works
Clackmannanshire Economic Regeneration Trust	Sports Development
Resilience Learning Partnership	Coalfields
Play Alloa	Tullibody Development Trust
Connect Alloa	Action for Children
Reasonate	Women’s Aid
CSSSS	Clackmannan Development Trust
Clacks Third Sector Interface	Education Scotland

Revised Community Learning and Development Partnership Action Plan for 2022-2023

Could you please pop your organisations name into the key actions that you will be contributing to, this will help us identify who is supporting each action and will help you with the KPI data at the end of the year for reporting purposes. If you wish to discuss please feel free to get in touch

Name of organisation:

Key Priority 1		Develop Support for staff/volunteers and service users to address Health, Wellbeing and Cost of Living		
Key Action	Outcomes	Group/programme to be included in the key action	Timescales / Measures	
1.1	Co-produce services for children young people and families to address health, wellbeing and Cost of living	Services are developed to meet the needs of children, young people and families at an early stage Fewer referrals to specialist services	Sauchie Active 8 Wimpy Park Community Group Clax 1400 café Bowmar Borrowers Bowmar Bookies The Gate Sport & Leisure OYCI FVW – (PAF) FVW – conversation café CLD - Youth Voice Play Alloa	ongoing engagement Number of volunteers involved in delivering services to local community that address health, wellbeing and cost of living Number of service users engaged in programmes
1.2	Develop opportunities for social interaction to combat isolation	Child, young people and adults' health and wellbeing is improved	Wimpy Park events Sauchie Active 8 programmes ECLD programmes OYCI FVW – Home visitor support Play Alloa	2022-2024 Number of adults attending community based groups Number of children 5–12 attending community groups Number of young people 13-16 attending community groups

Key Priority 2		Develop clear pathways to support learner accreditation and progression from CLD service provision into volunteering, training, education and employment		
Action	Outcome	Group/programme to be included in the key action	Timescales / Measures	
2.1	Develop supported volunteer programmes for young people aged 16+ and adults with additional support needs	Sustained volunteer placements for adults with additional support needs Participants feel valued and part of the community	CTSi - Forth Valley College Work Start OYCI Play Alloa	2022-2024 Number of adults aged 16+ engaged in volunteering
2.2	Develop links with secondary schools & college to enhance Developing Young Workforce offers within the sector	Increase awareness of employment opportunities within the sector Children and young people will have the best possible start in life	CTSi – volunteers week recruitment fayre Sport & Leisure ECLD Play Alloa	2022 – 2023 Number of organisations within the sector engaged in the DYW programmes
2.3	Develop Volunteer Passport programme which will enhance recruitment, management and support for volunteers across the sector	Increased capacity of local organisations in supporting volunteers Our communities will be resilient and empowered so that they can thrive and flourish	Sauchie Active 8 CTSi - ongoing	2022 - 2024 Progress on the implementation of this programme
2.4	Develop SQA centre at Bowmar and develop new partnership to deliver accredited programmes	Increase percentage of learners gaining SVQ qualifications	CERT ECLD	2022 – 2024 Number of awards developed and agreed
2.5	Provide opportunities for children, young people and adults to participate in award programmes	Increase percentage of learners gaining recognised qualifications	Sauchie Active 8 Sport & Leisure CERT OYCI ECLD	2022 – 2024 Number of awards delivered Number of learners gaining an award

Key Priority 3		Develop Adult and family Learning opportunities to meet the needs of priority groups		
Intervention		Outcome	Group/programme to be included in the key action	Timescales / Measures
3.1	Working in partnership with schools and across the sector to develop family learning and wellbeing programmes	Families, Children and young people will have the best possible start in life	ECLD	2022-2024 Number of adults involved in family learning programmes Number of children/young people engaged in family learning programmes
3.2	Enhance ESOL provision to support wider integration in communities for refugee families	Families, Children and young people will have the best possible start in life	ECLD Forth Valley College CERT Forth Valley Welcome – conversation café Forth Valley Welcome – 1:1 ESOL support Play Alloa (Ukraine Club)	2022-2024 Number of adults engaged in community based ESOL provision Number of adults engaged in College ESOL provision Number of families engaged and supported through Forth Valley Welcome
3.3	Continue to develop Adult Learning Forum to develop provisions and training for adults to meet local needs	Our communities will be resilient and empowered so that they can thrive and flourish	CTSi CERT ECLD	2022-2024 Number of adults involved in adult non formal learning programmes Number of adults involved in formal learning programmes

Key Priority 4		Partners will work towards building the capacity of individuals and community groups to develop services to meet their needs		
Intervention		Outcome	Group/programme to be included in the key action	Timescales / Measures
4.1	Support the development of Alloa South East Forum to take forward the Area Action Plan	Our communities will be resilient and empowered so that they can thrive and flourish	ECLD Wimpy Park Community Group	2022-2024 Number of individuals engaged in Alloa South East community based programmes
4.2	Support the development of initiatives that address the cost of living which will include fuel and food poverty	Our communities will be resilient and empowered so that they can thrive and flourish	Sauchie Active 8 Sport & Leisure OYCI FVW – Crisis and Care Fund FVW - Advice and signposting ECLD	2022-2024 Number of food parcels distributed Number of members of food larder across local authority Number of adults gaining financial or fuel advice from services Number of adults / young people participating in cooking programmes
4.3	Support community based organisations to develop services that meet local needs including children and youth work programmes	Our communities will be resilient and empowered so that they can thrive and flourish	OYCI ECLD	2022-2024 Number of service users engaged in programmes
4.4	Implement Clacks Youth Voice Framework	Children and young people will have their opinion heard and acted upon	Sport & Leisure OYCI ECLD	2022-2024 Number of children and young people engaged in youth voice activities

Key Priority 5 Partners will support the continued professional develop of staff and volunteers to enhances skills and knowledge within the sector				
Intervention		Outcome	Group/programme to be included in the key action	Timescales / Measures
5.1	Networking events to share information and good practice	Staff and volunteers are up to date with local and national plans and priorities	Sauchie Active 8 CTSi – Community Breakfasts CTSi – Volunteer managers forum CERT – Clacks providers forum OYCI	Number of individuals attending networking events
5.2	Working within the wider RIC establish CPD opportunities to meet the needs of the wider sector	Staff are more confident and skilled in the areas of work that they are involved in		Number of individuals participating in sessions / training organised by the Forth Valley & West Lothian Regional Improvement Collaborative
5.3	Develop skills within the sector to support and develop programmes for children, young people and adults	Staff are more confident in developing awards within their work Service users have more opportunities to gain an award	CTSi – Training platform CTSi – Skills network OYCI FVW ECLD	Number of staff participating in training programmes Number of Volunteers participating in training programmes



**Clackmannanshire
Council**

www.clacks.gov.uk

Comhairle Siorrachd
Chlach Mhanann

Clackmannanshire Community Learning and Development Plan

Progress Report

August 2022 - December 2023

Introduction

This report provides an update on the progress of the 2021 - 2024 Community Learning and Development (CLD) Partnership Plan, which was approved by the former People Committee on 16 September 2021.

The previous annual CLD report was approved by Audit and Scrutiny Committee on 15 June 2023 and was based on the reporting period of August 2021 - July 2022, which took cognisance of the absence of the previous CLD Team Leader at that time.

As a result of continuing improvement and evaluation of progress with stakeholder partners, leading to the identification of emerging needs, this report outlines progress made with the revised key actions of the 22/24 Partnership Plan, with a reporting period of August 2022 - December 2023.

This report also reflects the findings of a very positive Progress Visit by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIe) in November 2023, takes cognisance of the Scottish Government's CLD Plans' Guidance Note 2021-2024 which recognises "that the Covid-19 crisis is likely to continue to present significant practical challenges to CLD planning" and acknowledges that work to achieve the objectives of the plan has continued against a backdrop of organisational redesign and the restructure of the CLD team itself.

Background

CLD is delivered by a broad range of partners (Appendix A) and covers youth work, community capacity building, adult learning, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), working with vulnerable and disadvantaged groups and supporting volunteers. CLD Partners (listed in Appendix A) are committed to supporting the provision of universal CLD services, which is reflected within the Partnership Plan and links with strategic and local community planning to ensure a co-ordinated approach to reflect emerging needs, identified by stakeholders.

Clackmannanshire Council has a statutory duty, as outlined in the Community Learning & Development (Scotland) Regulations 2013, to produce a plan with partners every three years to secure "adequate and sufficient provision of Community Learning & Development (CLD) in our area". The CLD Regulations (Scotland) 2013 aim to:

- Ensure communities across Scotland particularly those which are disadvantaged have access to the CLD support they need.
- Strengthen the coordination between the full range of CLD providers.
- Reinforce the role of communities and learners in assessment, planning, and evaluation processes.
- Make Community Learning & Development's role and contribution more visible.

An integral part of the Plan is a commitment to review and report on its impact to ensure the priorities in the Plan remain relevant and responsive to new and emerging needs. This will remain the focus, with ongoing monitoring and evaluation to assess continuing needs, as we develop our three year strategic plan 2025-2028, which will be taken to Council for approval towards the end of 2024.

The five revised key priorities of the 2021 – 2024 CLD Partnership Plan are as follows:

1. Develop Support for staff/volunteers and service users to address Health, Wellbeing and Cost of Living.
2. Develop clear pathways to support learner accreditation and progression from CLD service provision into volunteering, training, education and employment.
3. Develop Adult and Family Learning opportunities to meet the needs of priority groups.
4. Partners will work towards building the capacity of individuals and community groups to develop services to meet their needs.

- Partners will support the continued professional development of staff and volunteers to enhance skills and knowledge within the sector.

Progress Report

Key Priority 1 - Develop Support for staff/volunteers and service users to address Health, Wellbeing and Cost of Living

- The success of the Child Wellbeing Project resulted in wraparound childcare, including an increase in after school and holiday provision for families living in South East Alloa, breakfast clubs in our Academies, after school and holiday programmes, run in partnership with the Gate Charity, the establishment of a 'Walking Bus' and the provision of spaces in Play Alloa for children with ASN.
- Our 'Community around the School' approach enabled us to develop person-centred programmes to allow communities to flourish, including Environment Services Work Experience, Alloa Academy Engagement and Welfare programme, Planet Youth Icelandic Prevention model and mentoring and support programmes.
- The Clacks Mental Health and Wellbeing Transformation Project brings partners together to deliver a comprehensive package of support for children, young people and their families. This shared approach is resulting in positive impacts including a reduction in referrals to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services. The work of the Mental Health and Wellbeing (MHWB) in Clacks transformation project is continuing, with a well-developed Continuum of Support in place that offers both digital and face-to-face services for children and young people aged 5-26. New services include a Wellbeing Worker service for the Through Care After Care population, and animal-assisted therapy.
- 642** children and young people have accessed a range of digital supports since they launched in April 2021, with an average of **56%** of logins occurring out of hours. Over **550** children and young people have been referred to our two face-to-face services, with **60%** of pupils referred to the Creative Therapeutic Interventions for Children (CTIfC) service showing an improvement on teacher-reported Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaires (SDQ). **88%** of pupils accessing the Counselling in Schools Service (CiSS) have shown improvements in their YP-CORE scores. Since the introduction of the MHWB Clacks Continuum of Support, the FK10 postcode has experienced a **39%** reduction in referrals to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services.
- A total of £8957 from the Community Fund 2022 was awarded to groups and used to support young people from 3 to 18 years old, focusing on mental health support, reducing stigma, reducing poverty, improving confidence and opportunities and reducing loneliness or isolation.
- A consultation with and feedback from a small focus group of young people in Lornhill Academy was undertaken, to determine their knowledge of the mental health and wellbeing services and supports available. Consultation with parents and carers was carried out simultaneously, to enable exploring the co-design and feedback of the supports available.
- CLD staff attended the Alva Health Fair at Alva Academy in October 2022 and engaged with parents and carers. The Mental Health Showcase took place on 25 November 2022 which children, young people and families attended, alongside a range of professionals from the local authority, NHS, Police, Fire and Rescue, and the Third Sector.
- A group of young people from Alloa Academy took part in a tailored programme of work over a number of weeks in November 2023, to explore the Directory of Support website and provide

feedback on its contents, which were then implemented. Their lived experience has helped to inform the contents of the site and will contribute towards its re-fresh and re-launch in April 2024.

- Clackmannanshire Youth Council secured funding for the Youth Bank to develop their own programmes/projects to address mental health and wellbeing. There were seven grants awarded, with a total of £5,515.68 awarded for Youth Voice with projects to support mental health, including sports and taster sessions, reaching:
 - 238 young people between the age of 10-12 years old
 - 840 young people between the age of 13-15 years old
 - 86 young people between the age of 16-18 years old
- Bowmar Junior Challenge continues to meet every Tuesday after the school day and consists of a variety of activities based around what young people are interested in, including arts and crafts, sports, music, cooking/ baking.
- Wimpy Park Community Group and CLD Service are working in partnership with The Gate charity to provide a local collection point for non perishable goods. The Food Larder is available Mondays 10am - 12pm and Fridays 1pm - 3pm in the Bowmar Community Centre.

Key Priority 2 - Develop clear pathways to support learner accreditation and progression from CLD service provision into volunteering, training, education and employment

- 96.5% of all young people in Clackmannanshire entered an initial positive destination in 2021/22; higher than the previous year & the Scotland-wide figure of 95.7%.
- We increased the provision of adult learning, leading to progression pathways. Increased the number of partnership awards to 139, demonstrating a three year positive trend. Wider Achievement: 42% increase in National 2 Awards; more than double the number of National 2s awarded in S4, compared to last year.
- 'Community around the School ' (Environment Services Work Experience, Alloa Academy Engagement and Welfare programme, Planet Youth Icelandic Prevention model and mentoring and support programmes) are increasing opportunities for young people moving into post school destinations.
- Pre-interview coaching is under development in partnership with CLD, Skills Development Scotland and the Virtual Headteacher to support those on the Care Leavers' Guaranteed Interview Scheme, as a scaffolded support as they move on.
- CLD staff worked with partners from Skills Development Scotland and schools to offer provision for young people who were on the cusp of disengagement. A focused programme of work was developed with Clackmannanshire School Support Service.
- The well-established Home-Start charity shop has provided a safe place for volunteers to develop employability skills and gain accreditation. Volunteers are supported well to take on leadership roles within the shop and they gain valuable retail skills, with some progressing to employment.
- Across community learning opportunities, partnership working is increasing the range of opportunities and supporting effective progression pathways for learners. CLD partners are using targeted

approaches to meet the needs of adult learners. As a result of participating in the adult literacy support and family learning activity in Alloa Academy, learners are gaining accreditation, developing their skills and they have larger social networks. Some of these learners are progressing to paid employment or voluntary work as a direct consequence of the collaborative work with CLD.

- There is an increasing use of youth awards to accredit learning, including the Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network (ASDAN), for young people who are struggling with attendance in mainstream school. These qualifications are being delivered with the support of CLD and partners including Connect Alloa and 'Coach My Sport' Leadership Academies, in collaboration with the Virtual Headteacher and CLD staff.
- CLD staff continue to offer outdoor learning opportunities with schools and establishments, which has been particularly successful with young people who are dysregulated and have attendance issues.
- CLD and partners promote the Clackmannanshire Economic Regeneration Charity (CERT) charity, which was established to improve the economic inclusion, development and regeneration of Clackmannanshire. This includes Positive Moves, a voluntary project offering assistance to local individuals in Clackmannanshire who are seeking work or thinking about taking the first steps towards employment. They also provide support for literacy and numeracy amongst other programmes. Positive Moves has offered a wide variety of support that is person-centred and tailored to meet each individual's circumstances, including work qualifications such as a construction work card, food hygiene and first aid certificates; confidence building; support with travel costs; money advice; IT skills; access to volunteering and work.

Key Priority 3 - Develop Adult and Family Learning opportunities to meet the needs of priority groups

- CLD staff increased ESOL provision to accommodate our refugee population and established a weekly drop-in, led by Play Alloa and a 'Staying Connected Women's Group', to address previous trauma.
- Funding from the Post Covid Community Based Adult Learning Recovery fund supported programmes, including improving mental health and wellbeing, celebration events, holiday programmes and ESOL and adult literacy programmes.
- CLD ESOL programmes have resulted in:
 - 10 adult learners are studying advanced ESOL courses at Forth Valley College.
 - 22 learners are in employment.
 - 13 learners are volunteering.
 - 18 learners have passed their driving tests
 - 2 young people have enrolled on higher education courses at university
 - 10 senior phase school aged pupils are attending ESOL school link course at Forth Valley College
- Feedback from participants highlight that English for speakers of other languages learners value the positive impact that the well-planned learning opportunities provided by CLD have on their lives. These opportunities have helped them to become part of their communities and progress to accredited learning which, for a few, is leading to employment.
- CLD are continuing to respond well to the emerging needs and challenges of communities in the aftermath of the pandemic and now the cost of living crisis, by designing services which are informed and led by the voices of families and young people e.g. Bowmar Bookies, Additional Support for Learning Group.

- The Bowmar Bookies are a group of local parents who originally came together with an idea of supporting their children and other families by introducing reading in a fun and engaging way. The group is supported through Strathclyde University and CLD and has continued to build upon its initial success. Although literacy is the focus, this has been implemented through various activities including creating podcasts around books and themed activities to align with annual celebratory events e.g. Burns Night, Christmas. They also took part in a 6 week block of Art and Craft sessions and held a community exhibition in the Bowmar Centre to showcase their work, which included clay work, wire sculptures and drawings.
- The Family Wellbeing Partnership supported local community groups which participated in the LENS programme and awarded funding to 'Bowmar Borrowers'; a group of parents/carers, who coordinated a programme of lending household items to families via a 'lending library'.
- CLD partners are using targeted approaches to meet the needs of adult learners. As a result of participating in the adult literacy support and family learning activity in Alloa Academy, learners are gaining accreditation, developing their skills and have larger social networks. Some of these learners are progressing to paid employment or voluntary work.
- Committed and ambitious volunteers run community groups and organisations that are meeting the needs of local people. They are supported effectively by partners, including the CLD service and Clackmannanshire Third Sector Interface.
- CLD providers and their wider partners have a clear and consistent focus on meeting the needs of those facing additional challenges in their lives. As part of the Family Wellbeing Partnership, partners work well together to offer a wide range of person-centred 'Community Around the School' activities. These have enabled young people and families to feel included, make progress and achieve and participants are developing self-confidence, resilience, leadership and life skills.
- As part of community empowerment, CLD staff are supporting the Family Wellbeing Partnership with free programmes at Alloa Academy, funded by the Lens, including
 - Sewing & Crafts
 - Singing Group
 - Walking Group
- The Literacy, Employability and Food Hygiene and Cooking Programme meets every Tuesday in Alloa Academy and has resulted in candidates gaining Level 4 and 5 qualifications.
- CLD staff have worked in collaboration with other agencies to deliver bespoke packages of educational provision for young people at risk of entering a negative destination. This includes outdoor learning, life skills exercises and programmes to enhance social skills.

Key Priority 4 – Partners will work towards building the capacity of individuals and community groups to develop services to meet their needs

- In collaboration with the Family Wellbeing Partnership, CLD has continued to support both voice and agency for Clackmannanshire communities, putting them at the heart of decision making. This work has been underpinned by our ongoing relationship with Columba 1400.

- CLD staff are a key part of the Family Wellbeing Partnership (FWP). The FWP approach is strengthening partnership collaboration and engagement with communities. The FWP has attracted significant additional funding into Clackmannanshire which is supporting increased support to children, young people and their families.
- The Alloa South and East Action Plan 2021-2026 supports partners to come together to coordinate action to reduce inequalities. A community Conversation took place in August 2023, which enabled the community to feed back on their experiences and to consider next steps for the Plan.
- The report to Council on the People Business Plan in August 2023 highlights progress in empowering staff to take forward ideas and plans to work more collaboratively with partners, other third sector organisations, at both national and local level. There has been an increased focus on early intervention and prevention and increasingly, the Directorate is using the Scottish Approach to Service Design, reflecting the views of individuals and communities in the decisions and services that impact them. Integrated workstreams have already shown progress, namely STRIVE, Mental Health Transformation, Child Wellbeing Project and Violence against Women and Girls.
- Partnership with Columba 1400 has enabled Values Based Leadership (VBL) experiences for over 100 key staff members and Elected Members, Council Leaders and partners and 207 young people.
- The pilot FWP Intrapreneurship Programme, supported by collaboration between Scottish Government Social Innovation Partnership and the Hunter Foundation, has invested £50k to support the initiative, where community members pitch ideas to improve the lives of residents.
- Continued support has been provided by CLD to the Wimpy Park Community Group in the development of their walled garden, following the Beechgrove Garden programme on the BBC. Some of the participants of 'Grow your Own' programmes that CLD ran in partnership with Sauchie Active 8 and Wimpy Park were interviewed for the project to show what they had learned. The group runs a popular programme of community activity throughout the year and the project is now embedded in and valued by the community. They have a clear focus on making the garden accessible and inclusive for all community members and continue to consult with the community to take forward further developments.
- CLD has continued to support the development of Youth Engagement/Youth Voice and Participation. Candidates to become Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament highly value the support and development opportunities youth work staff provide and presented to Elected Members and the HMIE team about their experiences as MSYP candidates. Their feedback highlights that they are more confident and aware of their own skills as a result of taking part in this process.
- Young people contribute to their communities well through activities such as Clackmannanshire Youth Forum, with CLD staff collaborating with Social Subjects Faculty at Alva Academy to take this forward. Each Academy has a designated Depute Head who is the 'Youth Voice' lead and who links in with key CLD staff at Education Scotland. The recently developed Youth Charter resource is used to capture young people's views.
- Learners of all ages are supported well to gain skills for learning, life and work. Children who are taking part in Children's Parliament activities at primary school, with CLD support, are gaining confidence and communication skills and advise that they are proud to contribute to both their local communities and to national policy developments.

- Clax 1400 café, supported by CLD, runs on a Friday in the Bowmar Community Centre and has continued to have great success, with an average of 50 community members in attendance every week. The café remains a safe space for people to come together and receive encouragement, advice and support in a relaxed environment with affordable food. Volunteers regularly invite visitors/speakers along to offer advice, including Clackmannanshire Council Energy Advice Team, Homestart, CAB, Clacks Works etc.
- Staff at Hawkhill Centre, supported by CLD, managed to secure funding to upgrade the park area and have installed an outdoor gym. For community use.

Key Priority 5 - Partners will support the continued professional development of staff and volunteers to enhance skills and knowledge within the sector.

- An audit of staff training undertaken across the CLD team has helped to shape priorities for professional learning, moving forward.
- Regular development weeks have now been embedded in the CLD calendar, under the leadership of the newly appointed CLD Coordinator, to allow staff time to collaborate, share good practice and focus on priorities, particularly with the newly established CLD team in place.
- A more holistic approach to working with partners from the Family Wellbeing Partnership has ensured there is consistency in community programmes to address health and wellbeing and improve outcomes for all.
- Refreshed safeguarding training has been arranged, so that every member of staff is fully cognisant of their responsibilities and statutory obligations.
- A self-evaluation workshop, facilitated by Education Scotland has been arranged, to enable a more strategic approach across members of the CLD team.
- Closer collaboration with CLD teams across Forth Valley has now been arranged, with all staff from Clacks attending the Forth Valley West Lothian CLD Collaborative.
- A renewed focus on staff health and wellbeing is being implemented, which includes Health and Wellbeing Walks, professional learning sessions and work/life balance.
- CLD staff were invited to present their work on ESOL at an event hosted by Education Scotland, where they collaborated with CLD teams across Forth Valley.