



East Lothian Learning Partnership  
Community Learning and  
Development Strategy  
2011-2016





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\* some of our fabulous East Lothian Inspiring Volunteering Award winners, thank you!

East Lothian Learning Partnership (ELLP) agreed a shared vision for the previous Community Learning and Development Strategy. This vision still holds true and continues to reflect the aspirations of partners:

**“An East Lothian where, through learning together, everyone can fulfil their potential, enrich their personal lives and participate in and benefit from a healthy community and economy”.**

This strategy aims to outline the approach of East Lothian Learning Partnership (ELLP), in addressing the needs of Community Learning and Development (CLD) for its local community. This strategy is developed within the context of the National Performance Framework and Our Plan for the future of East Lothian: Single Outcome Agreement 2011. The document aims to demonstrate how CLD priorities can contribute to local planning outcomes.

## What is ELLP?



ELLP is concerned with the promotion of learning opportunities for everyone in the local community. It seeks to find ways for learning to lead to achievement, for young people, for adults, and for communities. It does this through partnership working, with partners from the further and higher education sectors, the voluntary sector, the business community and statutory bodies.

Establishing a learning culture in East Lothian, cuts across all communities, beginning at pre-school age and stretching beyond retirement age. An opportunity to be involved in a range of learning activity builds capacity within our communities and raises confidence within our communities of the benefits of all different kinds of education.

Learning is something we can all do, all the time. It can be fun, improve your social life, you can discover things about yourself, your home area, learn skills to get a first job, train or retrain for a different one, or improve pay and prospects in your existing career.

ELLP is equally concerned with the wider issues of community involvement, planning and development, active citizenship, inclusion and youth issues. ELLP has brought together providers of education and learning opportunities to set out the following partnership vision for the future of learning in East Lothian.

Our vision also reflects the aspirations articulated in the Single Outcome Agreement which promotes East Lothian as an area with a raised profile, increased status, community confidence and economic and social achievement, where disadvantage and discrimination are tackled in all their forms.

The ELLP Strategy provides a framework for the planning and delivery of

community learning and development work in East Lothian and seeks to build on the lessons and achievements of work undertaken through previous strategies.

The strategy aims to correlate closely to the East Lothian Community Planning Partnership our plan for the future of East Lothian; single outcome agreement 2011. It has as important contribution to make to achieving many of the targets and in particular to:

- Outcome 14: East Lothian has strong, vibrant communities where residents are responsible and empowered with a positive sense of wellbeing
- Community Engagement, one of five cross cutting themes
- Involving local communities through Local Area Forums

It has been created within the scope of guidance provided by the Scottish Executive to Community Planning Partnerships in

*“Working and Learning Together to Build Stronger Communities”.*

This places community learning and development at the heart of community planning and locates it clearly within a wider commitment to social justice and inclusion.

Community learning and development has an important contribution to make to the attainment of the Scottish Government’s national purpose of creating ‘a more successful country for all Scotland to flourish, through increasing sustainable economic growth’. Scottish Government has 5 key objectives in its vision for Scotland. They are that Scotland should be:

- wealthier and fairer
- smarter
- healthier
- safer and stronger
- greener

## National Policy Context for CLD

In November 2008 the Scottish Government and COSLA issued a joint statement on Community Learning and Development (CLD), which sets out a vision for an area of work both view as having growing importance. The statement builds on the guidance on CLD for Community Planning partnerships issued in 2004, *Working and Learning Together to Build Stronger Communities*.

In addition, Community Planning Partnerships were asked to produce a Community Learning and Development Strategy, developed through a partnership approach, allowing all organisations with an interest in CLD to participate.

The three national priorities remain at the heart of CLD and the joint statement is very clear that although local authorities are the major providers of CLD, they are by no means the only ones, referencing the work that colleges, third sector organisations, health providers and others contribute.

### The National Priorities

#### • Achievement through Learning for Adults

Raising standards of achievement in learning for adults, through community based lifelong learning opportunities, incorporating the core skills of literacy, numeracy, communication, working with others, problem solving and information communications technology (ICT).

#### • Achievement through Learning for Young People

Engaging with young people to facilitate their personal, social and educational development and engage them to gain a voice, influence and place in society.

#### • Achievement through Building Community Capacity

Building community capacity and influence by enabling people to develop the confidence, understanding and skills required to influence decision making and service delivery. This could include enabling communities to provide and manage services to meet community needs.

The three national priorities for Community Learning and Development apply equally to urban and rural areas and are intended to focus on the needs of disadvantaged individuals and communities.



“Community learning and development is learning and social development work with individuals and groups in their communities using a range of formal and informal methods. A common defining feature is that programmes and activities are developed in dialogue with communities and participants.” (Scottish Executive 2004)

CLD plays a vital role in relation to a range of national and local outcomes, identified through the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA).

- Through youth work it can support all our young people (and in particular those who need more choices and chances to achieve their full potential) to become confident individuals, effective contributors, responsible citizens and successful learners.
- Adult learning can offer routes into and through lifelong learning in communities, enabling the development of skills (including, for example, literacy and numeracy) that people can use in employment, their community, further learning or as parents and family members to support their children in their important early years.
- By building community capacity it can contribute to community empowerment through people working together to achieve lasting change in their communities, for example by further strengthening and improving local public services.



The Scottish Government and COSLA recognise that Community Learning and Development (CLD) can play a vital role in relation to a range of national and local outcomes. They also recognise that delivering this role creates a challenging agenda for CLD and that as a result,

**“we must collectively make sure that those who deliver CLD... have the skills, attitudes and confidence to deliver the best outcomes to the highest standards”.**

In this context, the CLD workforce **“requires modern, appropriate training...to ensure the delivery of excellence”.**

A cornerstone of the programme is a National CLD Workforce Development Strategy.

In identifying resources for the programme, the Scottish Government also identified priority areas for attention, set within the context of **Skills for Scotland: a lifelong skills strategy.**

These priorities involve raising the skills of the CLD workforce to:

- Facilitate learner journeys through use of the SCQF and outcome-focussed recognition of learning.
- Target and work with the most disadvantaged learners.
- Lead and manage in collaborative contexts.

The role of CLD is articulated in a range of national strategies and guidance. Examples include:

Closing the Opportunity Gap (2004)
Curriculum for Excellence (2004)
Moving Forward: A Strategy for Improving Young People’s Chances through Youth Work (2007)
Adult ESOL Strategy (2007)
Building Community Capacity: resources for Community Learning and Development Practice (2007)
Skills for Scotland: A Lifelong Skills Strategy (2008)
Early Years and Early Intervention Framework (2008)
Equally Well and Equally Well Implementation Plan (2008)
Digital Britain 2009
Adult Literacies 2020: Strategic Guidance

## Monitoring and Evaluation



The work of all partners working in Community Learning and Development context now sits within the national Education Scotland framework. A new inspection framework was introduced in 2008 and focuses on all community learning and development activities taking place within a non-denominational secondary school catchment area which is known as a learning community. The principle behind this is that Education Scotland is interested in the impacts and outcomes for individuals and groups irrespective of who provides the learning opportunity given that the provider is supported by public funds. A learning community is inspected at the same time as the appropriate secondary school.

The implications for ELLP are clear. It requires to co-ordinate a robust self evaluation process, including training, and all partners must improve joint planning in response to local need and evaluation in local areas.

ELLP has around 30 partner organisations, including representatives from community groups, voluntary organisations, business, further and higher education, the local authority and statutory organisations. The partnership continues to evolve and is open to everyone who has an active interest in promoting learning opportunities in East Lothian.

All partners will work together to ensure that this vision becomes a reality, developing genuine partnership working at local and authority wide level which will result in dynamic new provision and promotion of learning throughout East Lothian. Through this process, the people of East Lothian will be supported, encouraged and enabled to participate in learning opportunities.

These changes can only be achieved through effective joint working and the partnership will strive to achieve:

- shared ownership of responsibility for community learning and development provision and outcomes
- accessible, affordable and needs driven community learning and development opportunities for all citizens
- increased quality of community learning and development provision

## Local Policy Context for CLD

Our Plan for the future of East Lothian: single outcome agreement 2011 sets out the key challenges to achieving a better East Lothian. It also highlights the wider pressures, challenges and threats faced by East Lothian:

- Balancing limited public finances with increasing demand for public services to support vulnerable people and meet growing expectations to improve health and wellbeing.
- The public sector is facing major reductions in Government funding that could be up to 20% over the next four years. This will restrict spending on both services and the building programme of public sector partners.
- The downturn in the global economy leading to:
  - rising unemployment
  - rising levels of indebtedness and fuel poverty
  - higher levels of personal stress and general decline in well-being
  - likely increase in crime
- We live in an interdependent world where climate change, globalisation and inequality are serious challenges to the ways we live our lives.
- Consumer focussed demands on resources and dependency on fossil fuels.
- Building the resilience of organisations and individuals to meet these challenges and work towards the well being of everyone in East Lothian.



East Lothian Community Planning Partnership (ELCPP) is a partnership of agencies from the public, voluntary, private and community sectors that have an interest in East Lothian. ELCPP is an over-arching partnership, which draws under its umbrella all other public based partnerships, networks and forums operating in East Lothian under the strapline of **'Working Together for a Better East Lothian'**. ELCPP is principally a vehicle to encourage joined-up approaches to make best use of agency resources and create outcomes for East Lothian.

Working in a community planning way means:

- Enabling organisations that provide services to improve the way they work together, for example, to provide care services, work with young people or the range of services provided in a ward area.
- Making sure that local people are at the heart of this work and that they have real opportunities for getting involved and influencing decision making on the services that are important to them.

This way of working should bring real improvements to the quality of people's lives.



### ELCPP's Statement of Intent for East Lothian:

*"We will work in partnership to build an East Lothian where everyone has the opportunity to lead a fulfilling life and which contributes to a fair and sustainable future for Scotland and the wider world."*

The East Lothian Learning Partnership, through community learning and development activity, has an important contribution to make to achieving Our Plan for the future of East Lothian: single outcome agreement 2011. Partners in East Lothian have been working together for a number of years to support achievement in East Lothian communities by developing a culture of co-operation and improving the range and quality of services on offer.

To view the document -

**'Our Plan for the Future of East Lothian, Single Outcome Agreement, 2011'**; please click on the link above.

**East Lothian Learning Partnership's shared vision -**

**"An East Lothian where, through learning together, everyone can fulfil their potential, enrich their personal lives and participate in and benefit from a healthy community and economy".**



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Community Learning and Development Strategy**

**2011 - 2016**

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