

## **West Dunbartonshire Adult Learning Partnership**

### **Briefing: Update on Adult Learning Partnership (February 2014)**

#### **1. Background**

West Dunbartonshire Adult Learning Partnership (ALP) was established in May 2012, under the auspices of the CPP and chaired by Community Learning and Development (CL&D). The partnership consists of a representative from CL&D, Libraries, West College Scotland, Clydebank Campus, the CHCP and CPP. Other partners can be co-opted on as the need arises. Many of the partners had been on the Digital Inclusion Partnership, *Connecting Communities*, the work of which was subsumed to the wider ALP.

The work of the partnership contributes to the wider Jobs Growth initiative within West Dunbartonshire, with the ALP delivering as a key element of Working 4 U. This service offers a comprehensive and coordinated package of support around work, learning and money; with the ALP a key element of the learning strand of the service.

The Partnership completed a Terms of Reference in January 2013 and undertook planning sessions to create a Logic Model (both attached), which was finalised in March 2013. During the planning process, the Partnership identified the following key objectives:

- **Coordinate Adult Learning Provision**
- **Raise the profile of Adult Learning**
- **Improve Learner engagement**
- **Share Information/Practice**
- **Identify gaps in provision and develop more tailored opportunities**

Progress with the priorities and actions are reviewed at each meeting. The Logic Model and Terms of Reference were also reviewed at a joint planning session in January 2014 and have still to be finalised.

#### **2. Key achievements to Date**

The partnership has made some progress over the year. With reference to our objectives, they are as follows:

##### **Coordinate Adult Learning Provision**

The ALP was set up: Terms of Reference and shared planning, through the use of a Logic Model, were developed. The ALP meets regularly. As noted the Terms of Reference and Logic Model are currently being reviewed. An Action plan was developed and will also be reviewed.

## **Raise the Profile of Adult Learning**

Agreed activities include: branding the ALP; developing an internet presence; putting branding on to key partners' websites; sharing events; and celebrating learning. Progress is being made under all of these actions, e.g. our webpage will be hosted by the CPP website. It was agreed to use the Connecting Communities branding, as this was still relevant to the ALP.

The ALP was involved in very successful Learners' Voice event, which took place on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2013 in Clydebank Town Hall. (Please see below under Improve Learner Engagement for more detail).

CL&D also submitted a nomination to the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) for a Star Award as a Lifelong Learning Centre. This highlighted the good partnership working of ALP members in delivering accredited courses in the community. We were Highly Commended by the SQA and this has helped to raise the profile of Adult Learning in West Dunbartonshire on a national basis.

The chair of the partnership (Jane Logue) also attends Community Learning and Development Managers Scotland (CLDMS) Adult Learning subgroup and from this is part of the national Strategic Forum for Adult Learning, as an Adult Learning Practitioner representative. This Forum is chaired by Mike Russell, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning and has been working on a Statement of Ambition for Adult Learning. This will be launched at a conference in Newbattle Abbey College and during Adult Learners' Week (week beginning 19th May). This means there is a direct link to national developments and policy from West Dunbartonshire ALP.

## **Improve Learner Engagement**

In order to improve learner engagement ALP plans to: consult with existing learners and share existing learner feedback; consult with potential learners; develop an Adult Learners' forum; and involve learners in planning. To date CL&D have shared reports from their *What's Changed for You* system, which enables learners to feedback on the impacts of learning.

As mentioned above, we also organised a Learners' voice event, which aimed to consult with existing adult learners and involve them in shaping services and celebrating their achievements. We obtained good feedback from learners about how they access learning and how they would like to be consulted regarding learning provision. The feedback has also given the ALP pointers for the way forward to include in the

upcoming plan. Some learners also expressed an interest in getting more involved in some sort of Learners' Voice Group.

### **Share Information/Practice and Identify gaps in provision and develop more tailored opportunities**

Key tasks include: mapping of provision with reference to the Strategic Skills Pipeline/SCQF; having joint information/development sessions; and joint planning and coordination.

Suzanne Greer, the member from the CCP, gathered information regarding learning across West Dunbartonshire and where it fitted within the Strategic Skills Pipeline. This was then collated and Employability Services created a webpage. From this exercise, it would seem that partners work well together to reduce duplication. Although some further analysis is required.

Partners have taken part in joint training sessions in terms of creating Explaining the Difference Logic Models, on the Strategic guidance to CPPs for Community Learning and Development and on the new statutory requirements coming from that. We have also had information sessions on Work Connect and the Youth Alliance. The group shares information on developments, e.g. the College merger to create West College Scotland. We also invite external speakers as relevant e.g. Generations Working Together.

### **The Way Forward**

In terms of taking the partnership forwards, we undertook a review of our plans so far and identified the following:

- Finalise review and updating of Terms of Reference and Logic Model
- Look into perhaps widening the membership of the Partnership
- Follow up on Learners' Event to improve learner involvement
- Further develop website
- Work together to organise event(s) for Adult Learners' Week
- Review our provision mapping

### **West Dunbartonshire Adult Learning Partnership**

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