We will achieve our vision and contribute to our community plan priorities through:

• Engaging with, listening to and responding to communities and individuals at all stages in the process.
• Targeting those most in need due to their personal, social, cultural or economic circumstances.
• Working in close partnership with each other and with communities.
• Promoting and sharing examples of best practice.
• Getting best value through sharing and pooling our resources.
• Publicising and marketing learning and development opportunities effectively.
• Creating a ‘learning culture’ which promotes the benefits of learning.
• Delivering high quality services which are evaluated regularly through ongoing self-evaluation and external inspection.
• Developing the CLD Partnership workforce
• Supporting individuals and communities to help them deal effectively with the challenges they face.
• Providing experiences for participants which will last a lifetime and lead them to become:
  • Successful learners
  • Confident individuals
  • Responsible citizens
  • Effective contributors

Strategic member organisations of the CLD Partnership include:

- North Lanarkshire Council
- Culture NL
- New College Lanarkshire
- Skills Development Scotland
- VANL
- JobCentre Plus
- Routes to Work
- NHS Lanarkshire

We also work with a number of local and national partners.
MEMBERS OF STAFF FROM COMMUNITY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT, CULTURE NL, NORTH LANARKSHIRE LEISURE, ACTIVE SCHOOLS AND PARTNER SUPPORT AGENCIES TEAMED UP TO DELIVER AN ACTION-PACKED SUMMER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE ACROSS NORTH LANARKSHIRE.

A team of local volunteers and young leaders were also on hand to help with the running of the hubs.

Nine summer hubs provided a range of daily activities for the children and young people of key workers and children who are referred via social work or other agencies. Over 1200 children and young people attended in total, with hubs being able to accommodate between 40-90 attendees per day, depending on the size of the venue.

The hubs successfully integrated young people from age 5-16 years from schools across the area including mainstream primary, secondary and the additional support needs sector.

Caroline, one of the hub co-ordinators said:

‘Young people had great fun together participating in all areas of the Hub and have worked hard to achieve Hi5 awards through drama, dance, volunteering, arts and crafts, multi-sports and football. Our partner agencies have done an outstanding job working together to support our young people across all areas and specialities to deliver Hi5 awards supporting each other with staff also learning new skills in delivering these awards.

For many of our young people this is the first opportunity they have had since lockdown began to to be creative, active and involved in a positive experience, and through the hub, we have been able to support both them and their parents, following the challenges they have faced during a lengthy stay at home. Our ASN young people had a wonderful time fully participating in all activities with parents absolutely delighted with their involvement and achievements.’

Nicky Laughlin, from NL Leisure Sports Development added: “We were delighted to be involved in such a brilliant project that gave us an opportunity to facilitate the sports development programme across our venues. A massive thanks to all participants, parents, guardians, staff and volunteers for a fantastic 6 weeks in the summer hubs. The enjoyment in the young people’s face each day and the progress they made throughout the summer made all the difference in an otherwise difficult time for our communities.”

Parents and carers rated the hub experience 4.8/5 stars for overall satisfaction. Here are just a few comments that are typical of the type of feedback received during the evaluation.

‘My child had an amazing time at the hub which has been a wonderful time, meeting old and new friends, where there was plenty to do, never bored! Staff were a fantastic support to my girl and the family as a whole. We couldn’t have managed without the hub. Thank you so much’

‘My son had a lovely time attending the summer hub. He made so many new friends and gained a lot of confidence’

‘Staff were fantastic. Well organised and adhered to safety and considered the welfare of children throughout. Children loved every session and made great memories a very difficult situation.’

Thank you to all participants, parents and carers and the staff and volunteers who made the hub experience so special throughout the summer!
NLC’s Community Learning and Development youth work team teamed up with colleagues from Shetland Council to deliver ‘First Steps to Youth Work’ training to 17 young people from across both authorities.

First Steps to Youth Work is North Lanarkshire’s key induction training for anyone interested in working with young people. It is a vital foundation for nurturing talent, allowing participants to understand the skills and behaviours required to flourish in youth work. This course is accredited at SCQF level 3.

More recently, staff have also delivered this training to young leaders who are volunteering in the Summer Hubs that are accessed by children of key workers. CLD staff have been leading on the hubs over the summer and used the opportunity to carry out face-to-face youth work training.

The young leaders are using their time in the hubs as placement for the Platinum Youth Achievement Award, they are in turn, running Hi5 Awards with participants.

Our Sports Development Team are delighted to announce that the majority of their classes have returned to the venues which have now opened. These include Football, Gymnastics, Dance, Musical Theatre, Tennis, Athletics, Badminton, BMX and Jog Scotland. In addition to this, our Street Soccer has started back up, which is free football programme to young people aged 9-16 and in 4 different locations each week. Staff members are ensuring that all sessions are being delivered safely and in line with National Governing Body Guidelines.

Further information on Sports Development Classes: www.nlleisure.co.uk

Further information on Street Soccer: www.nlleisure.co.uk/development-programmes/street-soccer

FIRST STEPS TO YOUTH WORK TRAINING

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Throughout the summer holidays this year, in the absence of our traditional summer provision, NLC youth work team have carried out a ‘virtual summer programme’ via Facebook.

Each day at 12pm a member of the Youth Work Team hosted a ‘Facebook Live’ event with a different activity that could easily be carried out at home.

The programme ran each Monday to Friday and was based on the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award format with activities that fall into the category of Physical, Skills, Volunteering/well-being and Environmental or Outdoor Activities. This was also beneficial for our Duke of Edinburgh’s Award participants who had not been able to continue with their activities as normal due to Lockdown restrictions.

In addition, the Virtual Programme was used to promote our youth accreditation avenues of Hi5, Dynamic Youth, Youth Achievement and the North Lanarkshire Challenge Award. Young Scot rewards points were also attached to each activity and the challenges are posted on or Young Scot North Lanarkshire mini-site for anyone who missed them. Links can be found here: https://young.scot/campaigns/north-lanarkshire/north-

Highlights from the programme were ‘Tattie Scone Baking’, virtual Gaelic lessons, Zumba and the ‘Cha Cha Slide Plank Challenge’ to name but a few! The activities reached around 8000 people, with almost 3000 actively engaging with our posts through views, comments, likes and sharing.

This programme helped to reach the young people in our groups who we are not able to work with right now due to restrictions.

The use of digital youth work has helped us maintain a presence on our communities and promote youth work in North Lanarkshire to a new audience. Importantly, staff members across our youth team have been given extra training and resources to support them in delivering youth work digitally. Many have taken part in Youthlink Scotland’s own training sessions and in-house support guides have been created and issued.

We now agree that even when things return to ‘normal’ we have the skills and creativity to engage young people digitally and we will continue to do so going forward.

A DIGITAL SUMMER

Digital John Muir Award Delivery

During summer 2020 the North Community Learning and Employability hub delivered our first ever digital John Muir Award. Given that lockdown restrictions were starting to ease, we felt it was important to encourage our young people to safely begin to integrate back into their community.

The John Muir Award consists of:

• Discover a new place
• Explore its wilderness
• Conserve it
• Share your experience

All of our group delivery happened online via video calls, however young people were then given tasks to do out and about in their local community.

This meant that the majority of the award consisted of the young people being outdoors exploring what they have in their local surroundings, keeping them physically and mentally active. The balance between online delivery and self-led tasks outdoors meant that the young people could use the online sessions to share ideas with each other and ask for any help/support necessary, but also meant they had to demonstrate self-led learning, personal commitment, use their initiative and time-keeping skills throughout.

The group then presented their findings back to each other sharing their research and lots of beautiful places that they had discovered in their local area as well talking about the mini conservation projects that they created.
DELIVERY DUKE OF EDINBURGH (DOFE) AWARDS UNDER COVID RESTRICTIONS

We recognise that this is a worrying time and you may be concerned about how the coronavirus outbreak will affect your participants’ DoE. The health of everyone involved with the DoE is the most important thing to us.

DoE is committed to use all the flexibility inherent in the programme so young people can continue doing their programmes and have the opportunity to achieve their Awards.

In order to support DoE participants to achieve their awards, DoE had implemented a few programme changes. The list below has the relevant information and link to further information.

CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

It’s clear that the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak is going to be long-lasting and that this is going to affect the ability of DoE centres to run expeditions over the coming months. Young people across the North Lanarkshire have worked hard to complete their Skills, Volunteering and Physical sections, and continue to do so in these unprecedented times.

DoE has extended the accolade that recognises the fantastic accomplishments of these young people - the ‘Certificate of Achievement’. For the next academic year, certificates will be available to all participants who have completed their Skills, Volunteering and Physical sections at Bronze, Silver or Gold level, but haven’t been able to do their expedition and/or residential because of the pandemic. Any young person who enrolls before 31 July 2021 will be eligible for a Certificate of Achievement.

The Certificate will be a formal recognition, by the DoE, of their dedication to their programmes and everything they’ve achieved through these three sections, as well as their resilience in coping with ongoing uncertainty.

In North Lanarkshire, there are 82 young people who have achieved the Certificate of Achievement since March 2020.

For further information on the certificates, please see link below:
www.dofe.org/dofewithadifference/certificate-qas

FLEXIBLE DOFE EXPEDITIONS

With social distancing restrictions likely to remain in place in one way or another for some time, DoE made a number of temporary rule changes to the Expedition section. These changes will help DoE centres to run expeditions to support 2020’s new cohort of participants and those young people whose expeditions have been delayed. This is likely to be outside the ‘usual’ expedition season.

DoE as part of the curriculum for many North Lanarkshire secondary schools is a vital component of the wider achievement learning offers. For planning expeditions during a school day, it is a valuable outdoor experience. Here are some change to the ‘normal’ DoE expedition which could facilitate the expeditions.

• No overnight camping - DoE has made it clear that whilst campsites remain closed and shared indoor accommodation may not be available (or your school/DoE centre may not allow their use), teams at all Award levels will be allowed to return home to sleep during their expedition. They should, however, still plan and cook their meals as a team, and of course meet the minimum hours of planned activity during each day.

• Stay local - DoE have relaxed the rules around recommended environments, so participants don’t have to leave their local area to complete an expedition. The North Lanarkshire DoE team has developed several local DoE expedition routes start and finish from the school. There will be no requirement to use shared transport.

• Expedition Assessors for all levels can temporarily be known to the group.

Community Learning and Development has published a robust COVID specific risk assessment for DoE expeditions and this has been shared with all DoE leaders. The risk assessment is being updated regularly to reflect on the Scottish Government and Mountain Training guidelines on outdoor activities and working with young people.

For further details on DoE flexible expeditions, please see link below:
www.dofe.org/dofewithadifference/expedition-flexibilities

For any DoE related business, please contact:
Hua Cui - Community Learning and Development Worker (DoE Awards)
Work Mobile: 07939280246
Email: cuih@northlan.gov.uk
THE YOUNG PARENTS GROUPS FROM THE CUMBERNAULD AREA HAVE CONTINUED TO COME TOGETHER ONLINE ON A WEEKLY BASIS DURING LOCKDOWN TO ENSURE THAT THE MUCH NEEDED SERVICE HAS REMAINED DESPITE ALL THE CHALLENGES COVID-19 HAS BROUGHT INTO THEIR LIVES.

Before this, the group would meet on a weekly basis and allow those expectant parents or those with new babies to come together and receive support from not only CLD but also a number of NHS staff including health improvement officers, midwives, health visitors and first steps workers. A typical programme would include inputs from the health professionals, as well as activities aimed to increase parent’s confidence and self-esteem around parenting and interacting with their babies and children. It provided the participants with a safe space where they received peer support and access learning opportunities. Parents were able to access information and support from a range of providers and could be signposted if needs be.

We also provided a BookBug session each week which encourage positive interactions between parents and their children.

Since lockdown CLD have continued to provide a wide variety of learning opportunities to our young parents. We have a weekly group chat, sometimes via messenger, zoom or webex. Weekly activities have been posted on the Facebook group which are age appropriate and require minimal or no resources to ensure they are accessible by all. Livestreamed BookBug session are offered each week as well as support being provided in the way of referrals to both the local Food Bank and Baby Bank for those requiring this support. The parents continue to support each other out with group times which has been vital for their own health and wellbeing.

Recently via our Health Improvement Officer we were provided with Activity Packs for our parents. CLD decided to expand on this and offer all the craft materials needed to complete the activities suggested in the packs, resulting in 22 bags being put together and delivered. Verbal and written feedback has been extremely positive from parents, with some great pictures being posted.

Through a collaboration with Lanarkshire Community Food and Health Partnership we’ve provided a six week cooking course to our parents which included online video tutorials uploaded every Tuesday that parents can follow at a time that suits them. We also delivered any ingredients and utensils required to their door on a weekly basis making sure there are no barriers to participation.

Although lockdown has brought with it many challenges we have continued to provide comprehensive programme of activities and encouraged parents to focus on the positives and support them to make the most of their time at home with their children.
AS PART OF THE COMMUNITY HUBS CLD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO INCORPORATE VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE, OFFERING SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE FOR VOLUNTEERS TO PLAY AN ACTIVE AND POSITIVE ROLE IN THEIR COMMUNITIES.

Many of the youth leaders were actively involved in youth work and it has been vitally important to their own mental health and wellbeing to be part of the project. Some of the young people only began engaging with the Youth Work team in January but due to relationships formed around respect, understanding and good communication they have grown in confidence and became great role models and peer educators.

Over 40 young volunteers have played a vital role in stepping up to this unprecedented challenge, through commitment, hard work, flexibility and being able to have a laugh.

The volunteers have been an essential asset not only to the youth work service, but to the families and communities who have been reliant on the community hub.

Ava McLean, age 16 said: “One of the things that I have loved about being at the hub is being able to work in partnership with a range of organisations that have come together to deliver a successful programme for the young people, I’ve also really enjoyed supporting young people gain accreditation, For example NL Challenge, which has been fantastic, Having done awards and accreditation myself, I know the value for young people and it’s been a fantastic opportunity for me.”

Kiera Leckie, age 17 said: “I really enjoyed working with the CLD staff in the hubs, it’s been such a great experience, it has made me realise that I want to work with young people in the future.”

Many of the youth leaders have told us that they are now exploring their own further and higher learning opportunities as result of this particular experience and would love a career within CLD, showing that they are confident and optimistic for the future.

Emma said, ‘This has been a good opportunity to work with children and young people as I want to be a teacher. You get to work with all different kinds of people from different backgrounds’

Throughout covid-19 these young people have continued to work towards their Duke of Edinburgh’s Awards and have been community activists trying to keep people in their communities spirits high by joining in in several of the trends that came about due to lock down such as ‘Rainbows’ for hope, checking in on elderly neighbours and family and encouraging others to take up walking in the local areas as part of the daily exercise.

Staff member Susan said:
‘The young leaders have been very creative, responsive to the children’s needs and they have a dynamic approach when working with the children to meet the individual’s needs.’

All the youth volunteers have been offered accredited learning opportunities such as Saltire Awards, Platinum Youth Achievement Award and Duke of Edinburgh’s Awards. Using these awards frameworks, young people are able to demonstrate how they have applied their learning and skills and show their individual achievements. We are so proud of the young people, and are currently planning a very special celebration to recognise their contributions and achievements when it is safe to do so.

CELEBRATING YOUNG LEADERS
THE AIRDRIE INDEPENDENT GROUP

A partnership between the Airdrie Community Learning and Development Youth work team and Airdrie Locality Social work was set up in response to a number of young people with additional support needs who were struggling during lockdown. The group meets once a week at the Airdrie Community Hub.

The group have been working along with Deep Fried Films and using creative arts to look at the impacts of lockdown, using music and art as way to express their thoughts and ideas. Youth work staff have been innovative in creating a safe, socially distanced space to engage with young people. The group are currently working on creating a short film about their experience of lockdown.

This project has been a great way to help young people gain new experiences, learn new skills and gain new found confidence in overcoming barriers in preparation for getting out and about in their community.

The feedback from some of the young people so far has been really positive - getting the chance to engage in face-to-face activities after months of social isolation has been a big confidence boost.

Some examples of the activities that have taken place so far are games nights, karaoke nights and many more theme nights to help make the lockdown more manageable.

To help keep active, the children and young people have taken daily walks within their local area and many miles have been covered including a trip to the seaside for a coastal walk and paddle.

Young people were encouraged and supported to take part in the #NLBigCamp event, a virtual camp out and associated activities which saw over 800 people take part and really feel part of something special, when the rest of our daily activities had been necessarily curtailed.

Keeping in with a current trend, children in one setting have also developed their own fairy garden which the young people continue to build on and expand. Some others took part in other competitions such as scarecrow building and baking.

We will continue to develop this partnership with the children’s houses and look forward to working with the staff and residents going forward.

THE AIRDRIE INDEPENDENT GROUP

In response to the Covid-19 pandemic we had to think on our feet and this meant we had to adapt and change the way we work. Through a discussion between colleagues in CLD and social work via an online forum, a request to support looked-after young people from North Lanarkshire’s Children’s Houses to achieve accreditation came in, and a speedy solution was put in place.

Youth worker Jennifer linked in with the houses and met with the children and young people, safely and adhering to the social distancing guidelines and restrictions put in place of course!

Each house is as different as the young people who live there, so it was important to recognise the needs of the groups within the various settings.

Jennifer was able to explain the wide range of youth awards on offer, and encourage the young people to sign up. Many of them had already been finding different ways to keep busy during lockdown, so this was an ideal opportunity for them to gain recognition for their projects.

The total of awards submitted to date are:

- 5 North Lanarkshire Challenge Awards
- 2 Hi5 Awards
- 4 Blue Peter Sports Badges
- 10 Dynamic Youth Awards, with a total of over 250+ hours.

The project has proved that youth work can still have an impact on young people and that social distance doesn’t mean social isolation.

YOUTH ACCREDITATION IN CHILDREN’S HOUSES DURING LOCKDOWN
Before Covid, digital youth work was merely a thought in the back of a lot of our minds. Along came lockdown and suddenly we youth workers needed to know how to connect safely and well with young people in an online setting. Over the course of the digital youth work summit (which aptly took place entirely on Zoom) discussions were had with practitioners from across the country on how digital youth work was working for them and how we move forward working together.

Finding a balance for digital youth work seemed to be a recurring discussion over the course of the summit. Some young people love the digital setting and prefer it to face-to-face face groups, which they might be too shy to attend. We also realised that young people might not feel comfortable taking part in a video call but messaging over a group chat may be a better option for them.

For us as youth workers, it can be daunting if we’re not 100% confident using online digital platforms but we have to bear in mind this could also be the case for a lot of the young people we are working with. Not all young people understand digital technology as much as we may be led to believe meaning this is a huge learning journey for us all.

Regardless of whether it’s in digital or physical form, young people are always at the heart of what we do. That’s why it’s been more important than ever that we involve young people in the decision about which digital platforms we use. Before Covid19, many of us would have used Facebook to connect with young people and get information out there. But after discussions with practitioners from various organisations it’s clear to see that Facebook is no longer where young people are spending their time and instead it seems to be the preferred platform for their parents/grandparents generation.

One platform which was discussed at length throughout the course of the summit was Discord. This seems to be a great option and is popular for young people due to the fact you can talk over messages, video and audio meaning it gives them all an option to feel comfortable. Discord seems to be a more complex platform for us youth workers to get to grips with but Youthslink Scotland have offered lots of advice on using it to help us feel more comfortable using it with our young people.

A huge eye-opener for a lot of us was the massive digital divide that is present in Scotland. 30% of households currently do not have broadband. This means that many young people could be at home with no internet, no devices and no way of communicating with people outside their four walls. To combat this, youth workers have worked hard to make sure they were still able to stay in touch with young people. They shared the fact they were able to make phone calls to young people, knock on doors as well as being able to get devices to young people who needed them most. Youthslink have opened their £250k digital inclusion fund for applications - details can be found on their website.

A discussion occurred around the fact a lot of staff members taking part in the summit felt as if they had lost their identity as a youth worker whilst trying to adjust to the digital side of things. A good point made was whether in the real world or the digital world we are still youth workers and young people are still young people. The world may be a strange place right now but young people still need us and that hasn’t changed. Working together we can adapt the majority of the activity we do at our youth groups to a digital format and they will work just as well. Using VR was something that was touched on and seems to be getting more and more popular with organisations. No Knives Better Lives are currently working alongside a VR developer to create a game to help young people understand some of the realities of knife crime. This may all sound a bit surreal but it’s happening and sounds like something fantastic to get young people involved with.

There was a lot of uncertainty around safeguarding and consent regarding digital youth work! The discussion kept coming back to the fact youth workers need a lot more guidance but for now a great read is the digisafe toolkit: 
https://digisafe.thecatalyst.org.uk/

Throughout the summit there was a constant sense of everyone being in the same boat. It was extremely reassuring to know that for every emotion you were feeling about digital youth work there were another hundred people feeling the same way. There was a huge support from Youth Link Scotland in terms of all the all training they have offered and knowledge they have shared.

We were reminded that not everything has to be digital. Digital is a great part of the story but we all have to switch off and remember to breathe. We still have the outdoors and the opportunities are endless.

KATY DONALD, A YOUTH SUPPORT WORKER FROM NORTH LANARKSHIRE CLD RECENTLY ATTENDED THE NATIONAL DIGITAL YOUTH WORK SUMMIT. HERE ARE HER THOUGHTS ON THE EVENT AND THE PROS AND CONS OF DOING YOUTH WORK DIGITALLY.
Community Learning and Development Worker (Schools) - NLC North Area

To help parents & families manage the changes produced by lockdown, CLD Schools team in the North adapted the support they provide in a variety of ways. Due to the restrictions imposed by the Scottish Government, where and when support would normally be provided needed to change, but support was still needed.

As offices and community centres were closed, workers did not have anywhere to meet parents. Staying in touch via phone calls & video calls was okay, but the parents needed more than that so the workers quickly adapted and the new ways of meeting and providing support began. This started with doorstep & garden visits, then moved on to accompanying families on daily walks, which everyone was encouraged to take. These sessions often involved supporting parents with their mental health and with understanding their child’s behaviour. Other supports we were able to provide during lockdown and continue to offer are phone and email support, individualised family resources and working in partnership with other agencies for a holistic approach to supporting the whole family. We have now expanded this and incorporated it into this next Phase of COVID 19 including home visits.

The way forward is to support parents as part of their support plan and build back their confidence during these ever changing times.

All the Parents & Families that receive a service from The North Area CLD Schools Team come via Request for Assistance referrals From Schools and other Agencies.
ON THE 7TH OF AUGUST 2020 COMMUNITY LEARNING DEVELOPMENT AND NLC GAEIC WERE EXCITED TO HOST NLC’S BIG CEILIDH TO MARK THE END OF OUR SUMMER COMMUNITY HUBS.

The afternoon was filled with lots of fun activities such as Step Wee Ceilidh, football workshops, live weaving, piping and ceilidh dancing from the Ravenscraig hub, baking with Kathleen from the Adult learning team and lots of beautiful music from some of our young people and our Gaelic Tutor, Katie. We had a fantastic day engaging with everyone who took part throughout the day and we were so happy to be marking such a fantastic effort from everyone who went to and worked at the hubs all across North Lanarkshire!

If you already have some Gaelic and would like to use it in a conversational setting please get in touch with Chloe Jenkins on the email address on the flyer.

Air an 7mh latha den Lùnastal 2020 bha Leasachadh, Ionnasachaidh agus Coimhearsnachd is NLC Gàidhlig air bhioran gus Ceilidh Mòr NLC a chumail gus deireadh ar ionadan coimhearsnachd samhraidh a chomharrachadh. Bha am feasgar lân de ghníomhachd spòrsail mar Step Wee Ceilidh, bùthan-obrach ball-coise, fighe, pìobaireachd agus dannsa cèilidh bò bhon ionad aig Ravenscraig, bèecerachd le Ka bhon sgioba ionnsachaidh Inbheach again agus tòrr ceol òlainn bho chuid de na daoine òga againn agus an neach-teagaig Gàidhlig againn, Katie. Bha latha air leth againn a ’conaltradh leis a h-uile duine a ghabh pàirt tron latha agus bha sinn cho toilichte a bhith a’ comharrachadh an deagh oidhirp bhon a h-uile duine a choisidh gu agus a dh ’obraich aig na ionadan air feadh Siorrachd Lannraig a Tuath!

Ma tha beagan Ghàidhlig agad mu thràth agus tha thu ag’ iarraidh a chleachdadh i ann an suidheachadh cònmhraidh cuir fios gu Chloe Jenkins air an t-seòladh post-d air a ‘bhileig.

S6/S1 PEER MENTORING COATBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

THIS YEAR A TOTAL OF FORTY S6 PUPILS HAVE BEEN TRAINED AS PEER MENTORS, IN THIS ROLE THEY ARE LINKED TO S1 PUPILS WHO REQUEST HAVING A MENTOR THAT WILL BE A SUPPORT FOR THEM THROUGH THEIR FIRST YEAR IN HIGH SCHOOL.

At the start of September, all peer mentors met their S1s for the first time in a get together where they got the chance to chat with each other and take part in some suitable activities.

Everyone had a blast and many of the S1s felt happy they had an older pupil that they could speak to when they needed as well as the S6s feeling proud of the fact they are helping new S1s settle into the school.

Jamie Dungavell
Home School Partnership Officer
ART IN THE PARK IS THE FAMILY SUMMER PROJECT CREATED BY COMMUNITY LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT SCHOOLS NORTH TEAM. THE PROJECT RAN FOR FOUR WEEKS DURING JULY.

There were three sessions each week held at different venues in Cumbernauld, to allow as many families to take part while staying within the guidelines.

Each week there were different activities for the families to do. The activities had been planned prior to the project taking place in partnership with Cumbernauld Living Landscapes through discussion of the most suitable activities for the families taking part and those that could be done safely and meet the current restrictions.

Activities included: Bug and plant treasure hunt, finding a rainbow in nature hunt, making salt dough creatures, making an apple bird feeder and making things from what we could collect from nature including faces, pictures, and a vase of flowers.

The project was a big hit with the families that took part. All the feedback was overwhelmingly positive with families reporting that they have learned new activities, built confidence to meet with other families, improved their mental and physical health and increased confidence to engage with the outdoors and nature.

Our only regret was that due to the Covid-19 restrictions we had to restrict the number of families that could take part.

Some comments from families

- Great ideas and I done it at home with my children too very happy
- It was a great experience. Making art from things found out on walks has become the new norm for my family.
- It’s an amazing project, it made me more relaxed about being outdoors with my girls. It was very relaxed and a lot of fun
- Was a great project, a good way to get the kids engaged and outdoors and was something to look forward to throughout the summer. Thank you
- Val and Lesley were very enthusiastic and friendly. I am willing to be involved in future activities organised for the children.
- Thank u so much plz keep these project’s going .and as I say the workers made everyone feel happy to.
- It should be a regular thing when kids are off school/nursery, it gets them outdoors and interacting with other kids and having lots of fun.
LIKE EVERYONE ELSE IN THE WORLD, CL&D HAVE HAD TO EMBRACE ALTERNATIVE METHODS OF ENGAGING WITH PARENTS TO ENSURE ONGOING SUPPORT.

Many mums who have had a baby during this time have been unable to access the normal provision that has previously been available including Infant Massage. With this in mind WebEx has ensured that the opportunity has still been available to families and all from the comfort of their own homes.

The September programme of Infant Massage had 12 families registered to participate and all attended and completed the course. Babies ranged from 11 days old to 6 months. The programme itself ran for four weeks with new strokes being introduced each week and previous strokes being revisited to ensure familiarity and correct use and technique. Although not the normal way the course is delivered, positive feedback was received and all participants commented that they enjoyed the experience. Some of the feedback received includes:

- I’ve found the baby massage classes to be very relaxing and I think that the baby does too. In fact she enjoys a great sleep afterwards. The handouts also help a great deal to view whilst participating.
- My baby loves it and sits and babbles away to me. I miss the interaction with the other mums but this is a good alternative. It is good to add a bit of routine to the week by having an allocated time with my baby,
- I’ve really enjoyed the course and it’s nice to have that time just me and baby and something nice to add in before bath time. I think you’re doing a fab job with it being online I can imagine it’s harder to take the class like this but it’s been great.
- I found the sessions to be a really useful and I bet for some they were a real life line in what can be a really lonely time. The course gave me skills I use every day and the confidence to eventually go out and meet new mums.
- We have really enjoyed the course. Great to not only learn about baby massage but meet other mums. There isn’t really much we can do just now with the pandemic but this has been a brilliant thing to look forward to every week. Carolanne has been really good in keeping the chat going which must be really hard over a video call.
- I’ve loved being able to take part in baby massage. Having a baby during lockdown when all classes etc. are cancelled hasn’t been the best so to be able to do something online has been amazing. Carolanne has been great and so accommodating, when I couldn’t make a class she went out of her way to schedule me on another day so I didn’t miss out. Would highly recommend.

Two further courses are planned before the end of the year and dates and times are posted to Facebook (Bellshill Community Learning and Development) and Twitter (@ CLDBellshill). Alternatively your Health Visitor can provide information for any courses that are being planned.

If you are interested in attending the next course or would like any further information on courses that are available please contact.

Carolanne Waddell, Homelink Worker, Bellshill Community Learning and Development.
Email: waddellc@northlan.gov.uk
Telephone: 07812 501894
THE DIGITAL NL PROJECT COORDINATED THE CONNECTING SCOTLAND INITIATIVE IN NORTH LANARKSHIRE TO HELP SUPPORT VULNERABLE INDIVIDUALS STAY CONNECTED. NORTH LANARKSHIRE WHERE ALLOCATED 445 DEVICES UNDER THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT SCHEME AND OVER 25 ORGANISATIONS APPLIED ON BEHALF OF THE INDIVIDUALS THEY SUPPORT.

Digital NL Project Manager, Sandra Maguire said “This is an excellent and much needing initiative that will help reduce further digital & social isolation and mental health issues. These devices will help the people of North Lanarkshire connect with family & friends, apply for jobs and become part of the fast moving digital world.

Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Aileen Campbell said “I am delighted that the Connecting Scotland programme has been able to reach those in need in your community. Access to the internet is a real lifeline during these difficult times, so we want to support people to get online and stay connected. I am grateful to all those in local authorities and the third sector who have made this possible”.

Stuart Matson, the Community Programmes Manager at New College Lanarkshire, who manages the Prince’s Trust Team programmes said, “This is a fabulous resource for our learners. All the young people joining Team Programmes are unemployed and many do not have access to devices or internet at home.

Connecting Scotland has allowed us to support these learners in accessing online learning and hopefully secure a positive destination when they complete the team programmes”.

Connecting Scotland is funded by the Scottish Government and is being managed by the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations.

Digital NL is supported by a steering group made up of the following partners: New College Lanarkshire, CLD, North Lanarkshire Council, VANL, Routes to Work Ltd, CAB, NHS Lanarkshire, and Tenants Participation Team

One project who has been a recipient during phase one tells of the experience so far: The first device was allocated to Ann, so that Ann could attend her church services which are now broadcast online and reduce isolation. Volunteer Peggy first visited Ann at home in early September. Peggy is improving her IT skills too as she is an Apple user and is enjoying making herself familiar with the Chromebook’s Android operating system so she can help Ann more.

I took the Chromebook to Ann this afternoon and spent about an hour there. Ann has no experience whatsoever of IT. We did a bit of a tour around what can be done/seen, spent time playing with the touchpad, moving the pointer/moving the screen, operating the keyboard (using Google Docs where mistakes did no harm) with a view to being able to correctly input the password required to open the machine. She thinks an hour a week will be ok. I’ve offered to do it more often.

The second device was requested by a befriending project to give to another lady referred during the lockdown, who was stuck at home suffering acute anxiety & mental health concerns. Volunteer Tammy explains the arrangements they’re putting in place thanks to the Connecting Scotland device.

“I had planned on taking the Chromebook to M on Monday and set it up for her. Because of the new restrictions imposed in Lanarkshire this visit had to be cancelled but will be rescheduled. Having this device will help her access online support services from SAMH Well-informed, be more connected and help her cope with ingoing restrictions.”

Connecting Scotland - Phase 2 is now live and invites organisations to apply.

Phase 2 focuses on the following:

- households with children, or where a child is normally resident (this includes pregnant women with no child in the household)
- care leavers up to the age of twenty-six (in line with eligibility for aftercare support)

To apply follow the link: www.connecting.scot/about
For more information on the DigitalNL project visit: www.digitalnl.co.uk
WE KNOW THAT FAMILY LEARNING IS IMPORTANT AND WE ALSO KNOW THAT FAMILIES DID GREAT THINGS DURING LOCKDOWN TO CONTINUE LEARNING AS A FAMILY.

However, the Time for Us families have told us the benefit of them being able to get together and share experiences too. So as the lockdown restrictions began to relax we looked at different ways families could learn together. We thought of new ways of learning, as we knew the impact that coming along to Time for Us had on the children involved.

- Children who sustain Time for Us who do not sustain any other programmes.
- Children feel comfortable at Time for Us
- Children feel their needs are met and understood by staff experienced in supporting children with additional needs.
- Family Time is more relaxed

We based all activities on films as this was something all the family could take part in. Firstly we sent out activities that the families could do at home, where they thought about their favourite movie and characters. Next, each family was contacted by their CLD worker to see the best way to meet up with a few families together online. This gave them an opportunity to share ideas and help each other in the best Time for Us way.

It was great when each group got together in an outdoor space to share what they had been doing and take part in more movie themed activities. Lastly each family had a family movie night at home where they shared their fun photographs.

Helen McKay, Community Learning & Development Worker (Schools)
Telephone: 07583 671317

AALF know that #AdultLearnersMatter and are happy to tell anyone who will listen.

A number of members of AALF have worked alongside ‘The Scottish Learning Partnership’ over the last few months, sharing their opinions of the development of a new adult learning strategy.

They have also been taking part in various discussions about what is required for adult learning in the future.

As adult learners themselves they have first-hand experience of feeling the benefit of participating in learning as an adult.

They have adapted to new ways of learning for themselves and their families during lockdown.

Recently they were asked to share their learners’ story with Richard Lochhead MSP, Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science. During Adult Learners Week they shared their own learning stories and took part in Scottish Learning Partnership Workshops.

Learners’ voice is something AALF feel passionate about, so they particularly enjoyed the grand finale ‘Coffee, Cake & Chat’ in the company of members of The National Adult Learners Forum, CLD practitioners and other learners.

While crafting, they discussed what adult learning will look like in the future and what is required to continue to deliver a quality adult learning service. One of the learners is happy to share their creations during the least session.
They planned the pack objectives and contents over Webex calls as everyone was working from home.

They put together three individual packs that were sent out during the school summer break with 2-3 weeks between the arrivals of each pack. Siobhan made three videos to introduce each of the packs—prior to them going out, highlighted the contents included, how to use them and the purpose behind each activity.

Parent/carers were encouraged to share participation on Twitter. The videos that went out on Wishaw/Shotts CLD Twitter pages were retweeted by the primary schools that the workers covered.

The packs included cress seeds to grow, emotional wellbeing activities around starting school, superheroes, preparing for starting school with morning routines, using zips, laces, pencils and some fun games to work on literacy and numeracy skills too.

Feedback from parents and pupils was very positive and some parents sent in photos of their children using the packs.

**Routes to Work Supporting North Lanarkshire Council and Our Communities**

During these exceptional times Routes to Work Staff volunteered their services to North Lanarkshire Council Community Assistance Helpline, working as part of a multi-agency approach.

The service supported over 11,000 North Lanarkshire residents who were shielding. The support consisted of organising food packages, prescriptions, referral to partner agencies and assisting those struggling with their wellbeing.

At Routes to Work we aim “To reduce poverty and improve the health and wellbeing of North Lanarkshire communities and businesses by enabling people to access, sustain and progress within employment” as well as our team of 12 staff supporting those shielding, we also had one staff member who took on a volunteering role as a Home Care Worker to support the most vulnerable in their homes.

RTW says “We are so proud to be able to assist our community during these difficult times and support our partner, North Lanarkshire Council with this vital service”

We are taking new referrals

Clients accessing our services will:

- Undertake an initial telephone assessment to establish the most appropriate support
- Allocated a dedicated case worker to support your journey into employment
- Assisted with advice and guidance, goal planning and job matching
- Access to online training
- Access to in-work support
- Are eligible for Travel and subsistence support upon entering employment

A short clip of our caseworker Jade explaining our referral process can be found via the link: [www.facebook.com/routestoworkltd/posts/1430742190445287](https://www.facebook.com/routestoworkltd/posts/1430742190445287)
The online training offer has been created due to the unusual circumstances that we are under as we want to ensure that all of our current and prospective clients have the opportunity to build their skill set and have access to courses whilst looking for work during lockdown.

We based our training offer on client survey feedback and our vision: ‘to reduce poverty and improve the health and wellbeing of North Lanarkshire’s communities and businesses by enabling people to access, sustain and progress within employment’

We will provide 6 x short workshops that can help clients in need of support in North Lanarkshire; get motivated, build confidence, support their wellbeing and build on their employability skills.

We are also delighted that we can now offer an accredited health & safety qualification, specific to Construction, through an online platform which will help gain employment within the construction sector.

The sessions and courses can be joined from the comfort of their own home - all that is needed is access to the internet on a tablet, laptop or phone.

If you do not have access to computer or internet, we can provide 1-1 support for our short workshops through telephone calls or WhatsApp - excluding the CSCS course.

For more information on our courses go to: www.routestowork.co.uk/training or to join our service call us on 0800 7834731 and ask about our training courses.
As Susan was unable to go to the shops she called on the skills she had gained at the group.

Susan used her new skills and the confidence she had gained by attending the craft group to make a baby dress as a gift. Susan knew that she was able to call on the help of her support worker Sheila and the other group members, if needed, via online support.

The group has kept in touch with each other during the summer which was a vital support especially for some members who were shielding. Whinhall Women’s Craft group has restarted using online sessions where they can continue to keep in touch, share experiences and learn new skills.

The lucky recipient loved this very personal original designed gift.

For further information contact Lorna Masson at: MassonL@northlan.gov.uk or on 07812 501820

Twitter: @NLCAdultLearn
Facebook: North Lanarkshire Adult Learning
Basic digital skills have never been more important than during the lockdown period and ongoing Coronavirus crisis. People are being asked to do more and more online - family chats, gym sessions, shopping, benefit applications and now, adult learning.

CLD adult learning staff spent time considering the needs of their learners and preparing for their return. Being unable to come together in usual ways or places at the moment, the challenge was to find alternative ways to meet, making use of technology where possible.

Using a variety of methods, depending on what best suits each learner’s needs and circumstances:

**BLENDED LEARNING** Online learning (internet-based) will be combined with learning packs for learners to use at home with tutor support by phone or e-mail.

**ONLINE VIDEO CLASSES** Groups of learners will meet using Webex; Microsoft Teams or a private Facebook group.

**FACE TO FACE** Initially for those with no access to online activities. The tutor will support learning along with additional teaching materials used at home.

CLD recognise that this is a very different way to learn and getting used to these methods will take time for both learners and staff!

The Motherwell adult learning team developed a Welcome Pack for every learner, containing information about the new ways of working, pad and pen plus a bookmark and postcard with tips for good mental health.

They also added learning materials specific to individual classes and then set off for “doorstep drop-offs” of the packs to learners at their homes.

It has been almost six months since learning groups met and learners were delighted to see their tutors again, receive their packs and know that their learning would be continuing. Similar activities have taken place across North Lanarkshire.

One of the biggest challenges facing learners and tutors is a lack of digital skills and access to equipment.

The blended learning approach allows flexibility around this issue - materials are delivered to learners, who can then receive tutor support by phone, email or video chat. Learners with online access can receive additional support to help them improve their digital skills now needed to take part in their learning. For example, ESOL learners have become experts in online learning platforms in order to continue English lessons and Gaelic Cultural group members have mastered Facetime so that they can keep up their weekly gatherings.

This new way of working has provided some unexpected benefits – one...
Not to mention tasting and giving suitable feedback! Nirmal and Joginder were also willing and able to provide a reassuring welcome for new learners.

Since lockdown the Café has been unable to meet and the pair have taken up another hobby to fill the gap! They are now walking regularly in Strathclyde Park where their paths sometimes cross with other ESOL Café learners.

They are looking forward eagerly to the day when they can catch up again with every ESOL Café member, but in the meantime they take consolation in knowing that they are improving their physical and mental wellbeing and enjoying the good weather (well sometimes!).
ESOL learners from across North Lanarkshire rounded off Adult Learners’ Week with an online coffee morning where we all shared our favourite way to drink coffee and the most popular coffee drinking traditions from our native countries.

Monika won the quiz with her impressive knowledge of coffee facts and entertained us with her coffee making demonstration on how to layer the milk and coffee. Amena got top points for presentation as we all loved her fancy tray complete with flowers.

The ESOL café will be on every Friday from 10.00-11.00am with a different theme each week. This week it’s ‘Breakfasts from around the world’.

Please join us on a Friday morning - Ask your tutor for the Webex link.

For further information on ESOL activities, please contact Michelle Ozturk on: OzturkM@northlan.gov.uk

AROUND THE WORLD ON A FRIDAY MORNING

This year’s event took place between the 5th and the 11th of September and although the programme was a bit different to previous years the adult learning team and adult learners across North Lanarkshire rose to the challenge to celebrate the week.

Staff and learners joined national events, including an online discussion with Jason Leitch, National Clinical Director, focusing on the theme of health.

Online activities such as crafting, cooking around the work and digital skills were organised and learners also took part in a socially distanced health walk and an online ESOL cafe. Learners also shared their learning journeys on Twitter and Facebook and explained how their lives have been changed due to adult learning.

It was a fantastic week reflecting on the impact of adult learning across both Scotland and North Lanarkshire. During the week the team in North Lanarkshire were delighted to receive the following message from Scotland’s Learning Partnership ‘Fab stuff folks, always good to see what you’re doing and your learners are great - they rave about your courses, classes and programmes - amazing work @NLCAdultLearn’

For more information contact Eleanor Rafferty, Assistant Community Partnership Manager (Adult Learning)
@NLCAdultLearn
Facebook: North Lanarkshire Adult Learning

ADULT LEARNERS’ WEEK 2020

ADULT LEARNERS’ WEEK IS AN ANNUAL EVENT TO CELEBRATE THE LIFE CHANGING IMPACT ADULT LEARNING MAKES TO THE LIVES OF THOUSANDS OF ADULTS ACROSS SCOTLAND. IT IS ORGANISED BY SCOTLAND’S LEARNING PARTNERSHIP AND THE NATIONAL LEARNERS’ FORUM.
TANNOCHSIDE COMMUNITY GARDEN PROJECT

WELCOMING FAMILIES BACK TO DEVELOP A RICH OUTDOOR LEARNING ENVIRONMENT FOR THE LOCAL COMMUNITY.

It has been a blessing to be able to take forward this grant funded project in the Community outdoor space attached to Tannochside Primary Community Rooms. We have all come to appreciate the value of being outdoors during this year and the positive benefits it provides.

Fortunately the CL&D Schools worker has been able to meet parents outside albeit only two at a time.

However, very enthusiastic parents they are and we have been able to order items, tidy up what we had already started pre lockdown and look forward to when the Community Garden will be able to be fully used by the school and local Community.

We will be developing Storytelling, Growing and Wildlife attracting areas which will be used to share skills between older and younger people, provide space for people to connect to help combat loneliness & isolation & facilitate themed gatherings and events throughout the year.

Connections have been made with other local Community groups and new P1 families were able to add their input to the garden at the Pre entrant workshops held in June by painting a minibeast stone.

The children were able to place these in the garden when they started in August and have a look at the exciting areas to come.

This is an ongoing project currently being worked on Tuesdays and Thursday mornings.

If you are interested in taking part or finding out more please contact: Anne Millmaker, CL&D Schools Worker.
HAVE YOUR SAY YOUR VIEWS ON COMMUNITY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

WE WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU THINK ABOUT COMMUNITY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES IN YOUR AREA

Please get in touch with your comments by emailing YourNLCommunity@northlan.gov.uk or by calling 01236 812598

You can also Tweet us: @YourNLCommunity
Or contact any of our locality offices:

AIRDRIE CLD AREA OFFICE
Chapelside Centre
Waddell Street
Airdrie ML6 6JU

BELLSHILL CLD AREA OFFICE
c/o Bellshill Academy
Bellshill Main Street
Bellshill ML4 1AR

COATBRIDGE AREA CLD AREA OFFICE
Coatbridge Community Centre
9 Old Monklands Road
Coatbridge ML5 5EA

CUMBERNAULD CLD AREA OFFICE
c/o Baird Memorial Primary School
6 Avonhead Road
Cumbernauld G67 4RA

MOTHERWELL CLD AREA OFFICE
c/o Our Lady’s High School
Dalzell Drive
Motherwell ML1 2DG

WISHAW CLD AREA OFFICE
c/o Calderhead High School
Dyfrig Road
Shotts ML7 4DH

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